

Resurrection and Quantum Physics

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“Behold, I show you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye...for this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.” (1 Cor. 15: 51-53) I want to draw your attention to the word “moment”. “Moment” is a poor translation of the Greek word ATOMOS, meaning that which is uncuttable or indivisible, from which the English word “atom” is used. The Greek word for moment is *Parautika*, which means instant or momentary. If Paul wanted to refer to a very small unit of time he would have used *Parautika*, but he didn’t.

“Twinkling” is translated from the Greek word *Rhipe*, which means a jerk of the eyes, from the root *Rhipto*, a word that means sudden motion. The meaning Paul is trying to convey here is a sudden change in direction, a sudden refocusing or looking away. It is a sudden change in perception and understanding. This change in perception will transform us into the image of Christ --- a transformation that is total, down to the quantum state (subatomic structure) of our bodies.

In the strange world of Quantum Physics perception is reality. The act of observing the motion of a particle affects the momentum and position of the particle. So, the observer’s act of observation or perception changes reality. Recall that Jesus was relentless in his efforts to awaken faith in the “kingdom” (the coming new reality of God). This faith is a straightforward decision in favor of the kingdom of God. The *metanoia* (repentance) or change was a change of direction in a person’s life, and way of relating to others, that was based on the hope for the coming of the New Creation of the compassionate and humane Abba, Father.

Jesus perceived and embodied the truth of reality as no one else had done before. The power of faith is the power of truth. When Jesus encountered people, he awoke their faith in them to see the truth of reality. Jesus could only heal if the recipient of the healing had faith (Mark 6:5-6). “Faith was an attitude that people caught from Jesus through their contact with him, almost as if it were a kind of infection.” (Nolan) The underlying truth of reality was the God Jesus called Abba, Father; the God who was coming in grace to transform all reality. Jesus was the very act or Word of God through which this new reality was breaking into the present and bringing in something utterly new and unprecedented.

Whether or not God creates through “special creation” or evolution is not of primary importance. The hope of the biblical writers was not a return to a lost golden age of perfection (Eden). “And no one puts new wine into old skins; otherwise the wine bursts the skins, and the wine is poured out, and the skins will be destroyed; but new wine is to be put into new skins.” (Mark 2:22). The hope of the Hebrew prophets, Jesus and Paul was directed toward the future --- the future of the coming of God, of His New Creation. Not the restoration of the old, but the transformation of the old into a radically new reality.

There is no basis for hope in evolution. Even if humans evolve to an advanced state and become virtually immortal the universe will finally die a heat death through entropy, and no life will be possible. Furthermore, evolution can not bring justice to all the poor, lost victims of history and evolution. The victims of evolution would remain mute victims forever.

Only universal resurrection can bring justice to all the dead victims of evolution and history. The biblical writers did not see reality divided between natural and supernatural realms. For them the physical universe is God's good creation and the hope of all things is for the coming of God, who will make His home in His creation and dwell among us. **YHWH** (I Shall Be What I Shall Be) is the coming of the full presence of the Spirit (*Ruach*: life giving and transforming energy of God's love) that will transform the universe through universal resurrection.

The quantum states (subatomic structure) of an individual includes the total person: DNA, neural structure, memory, personality --- the very self. Think of the quantum state as the information or bit pattern that defines us. The molecules that presently make up our bodies are all recycled. Each of us consists of molecules (H₂O for instance) that have been in countless living creatures before us. So, you may have molecules in you that once were in a Woolly Mammoth or in Alexander the Great. The atoms or molecules that you presently consist of is not significant, rather your quantum state (pattern of information) is what defines you. When we die all of the molecules that were in our body return to the environment and are recycled into other creatures, but our individual states (spirit), I believe, are retained in the "memory" (*Ruach*, Spirit) of God. So, in that sense we are with God when we die, but our next conscious moment will be at the eschaton, or the moment of universal resurrection.

It is very important to recognize that resurrection is universal in the fullest sense of the word. All people, creatures, and the very structure of the universe must be included and transformed by universal resurrection, or there will be no resurrection at all. This is because of "quantum non-locality" which states that once complex quantum systems (the universe) have interacted they are forever entwined, no matter how far apart they are in space. This illuminates all the more profoundly the cosmic dimensions and significance of God becoming All in All.

