



"These Examples and More"

Adapted from TonyHarrimanBlogspot.com: "What's It All About?"

A menu is a list of food items that are available to eat from this or that eatery. It seems the classier the place, the less likely there are to be pictures in the menu, so the palette is tempted by the vivid descriptions: juicy fruits; zesty sauces; tangy spices; melt-in-your-mouth pastries, and so on. Until your order arrives, all of the food on the menu is given lines, curves and texture by your imagination alone. But notice that the menu is not the food; it only tells you about the food. You can't eat the menu.

Regarding the assembly of the wilderness Sanctuary, "Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount." (Hebrews 8:5). Moses conveyed the instructions for the making of a Sanctuary, which was to be built "So that I may dwell among them;" this was the message from the Lord in the mount. The instructions were incredibly complex, and special people were given artisan gifts from God which prepared these workmen for the construction job. Moses followed the pattern carefully; but notice that the pattern wasn't the product. And notice this also ... that the product (the finished Sanctuary) wasn't the point of the pattern. The Sanctuary was itself also a snapshot of a much larger truth which was beyond our comprehension. Look at the Feasts surrounding the Sanctuary. These Feasts appear to have marvelous significance, but they too were not the object; the Feasts also point to a much larger truth.

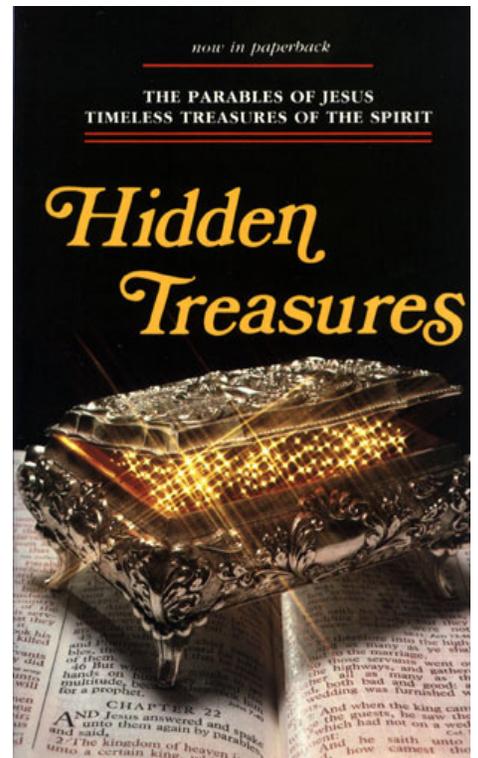
This world appears to offer many "objects"—"things"—that are designed to teach us about their Maker and the

world in which He lives. The objects are not the thing; they are just the vehicle carrying the map ... to the "thing."

Everything we have a sense to behold is part of an elaborate multi-dimensional mapping system telling us something about God and the world He lives in. The **hymnbook** is not a ticket to get us through the Gates of Heaven, any more than the sewing or knitting pattern is an article of clothing. The **Bible** is not a Passport granting us access to the Kingdom of God any more than the menu is the meal. The **Entire Creation** is not the Person of God any more than the manual is the mower. The Firmament and the Heavens declare the glory of God; but these things are not God, any more than a phone book is the people whose names are printed in it.

All these things, and many, many more, point to something with much more substance. They are designed—yes, designed—to teach us something about God. The Hymnbook, the Bible, the Creation—above and below—are maps leading us to a knowledge of the Father, the Son and the Spirit. So while we enjoy the beauty of the Creation—and it truly is beautiful—perhaps we should keep a lookout for Spiritual signposts along the way that will teach us something about the world for which we are headed.

There is a verse which asserts that Man has no concept of the world which lies beyond the present borders of eternity. In fact, if you were to take a little time to study out the many images we have in our minds of what we call Heaven, you would quickly see that these pictures we



have painted for ourselves are really referring to snapshots of the re-created New Earth, not the Heavenly Realm. God seems to realize that we are unequipped between the ears to understand the things that have been prepared for us on the other side of the veil, so He paints spiritual pictures for us using an earthly palette and paint in the hope that we shall not meet Him as a stranger.

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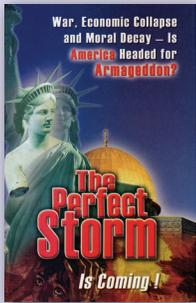
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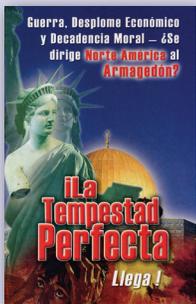
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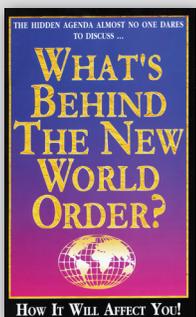


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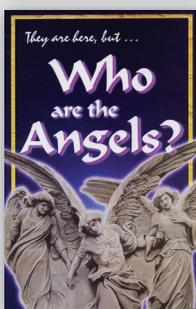
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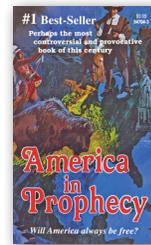
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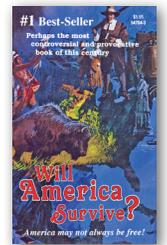


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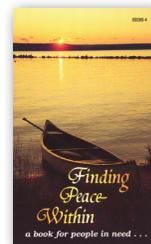
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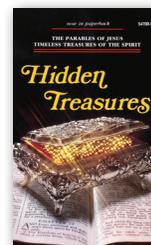
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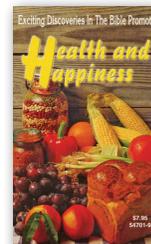


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