

In 1969 a signature song topped the charts. **“Is that all there is”** a song about disillusionment was thought by some to be the artist’s greatest work. It may have epitomized more accurately the singer’s life than any other work remaining after an illustrious productive career threatened by personal health problems related to addictive lifestyle choices that spanned 7 decades. The spiritual journey of this singer contains little to no information about the problem of Sin or the confession of moral failings but rather seeks to find peace and comfort from her angst in positive thinking. Just before the last chorus she asks that we not be concerned for her or the hopeless thoughts expressed. She planned to still be singing this song on her death bed. **A self-proclaimed Swan Song**. She may never have found the peace which she so desperately sought. Her talented musical expressions give description to the many difficulties of life which she faced during her 81 years. Her expression of pain and loss strike a familiar chord with us.

The song starts off with memories of **childhood** when her Father picked her up in the night to carry her out of a burning house. She remembers standing outside in her pajamas as her **“world went up in flames”**. She first asks the question “Is that all there is”.... the chorus of the song replies.... Is that all there is? If that’s all there is my friend, then let’s keep dancing, lets break out the booze and have a ball.... if that’s all..... there is.

She grows to pre adolescence and her Father takes her to **the circus, the greatest show on earth**. There are clowns, elephants, dancing bears and a trapeze artist in pink tights high above the crowd. When it’s over she asks “Is that all there is”..... “Is that all there is”.... the chorus of the song replies.... Is that all there is? If that’s all there is my friend, then let’s keep dancing, lets break out the booze and have a ball.... if that’s all..... there is.

As a young lady she **falls in love with the most wonderful boy in the world**. Time passes and he leaves and she thinks she will die, but she doesn’t and she asks “Is that all there is (to love).... the chorus of the song replies.... Is that all there is? If that’s all there is my friend, then let’s keep dancing, lets break out the booze and have a ball.... if that’s all..... there is.

Peggy Lee (**Norma Deloris Egstrom**) survived the classic traumatic childhood, went through 4 marriages, alcoholism, drug addiction, lung disease, liver disease, diabetes but survived till age 81 and died with an estimated net worth of 5 million dollars. By the worlds standards she was a raving success with Glory, Glamor and Glitz galore, but it seems she may never have really personally experienced peace from the positive thinking she embraced. Her success on stage may have belied her struggle in life.

The Existentialist Angst expressed in her hit song struck a chord with millions of listeners. It seems we all relate to stories of tragedy, and loss and hopelessness and the hurts of life especially when it comes to a failure of those things that give us hope.

This idea of Free will and moral accountability, the Existentialist Angst of the human condition is ours to ponder. It has been examined by countless works of philosophers and artisans playwrights, actors, painters, sculptors, professors, and even theologians and preachers. Does scripture really have an answer that satisfies? How many Christians do you know, who really have a process of restoring peace and security to their lives after tragic loss or intolerable defeat? Do those resources really bring new life? What does their swan song sound like?

It seems the missing thread common to the unravelling of the existentialist angst may be the **failure to deal with the notion of moral failures**. In fact most existentialist writings suggest that life is meaningless and strategies to change that are hopeless and useless because "that's all there is".....and so the deceptive hope of escaping our moral accountability while maintaining our freedom of choice is promulgated. This deception may be worse than the weight of insight. This old nature we were born with is not easily managed and may, if left unbridled, lead us to a hopeless eternity without a saviour, and with ultimate accountability still upon us. That very accountability we hoped to escape through denial, including positive thinking, reveals the moral fallibility we all must admit. Will that admission come sooner or later?

If you are coming through a shakeup that has left you breathless and you thought you would die... or maybe wished you could die, but you didn't, then this passage is for you. If you have struggled with the existentialist angst to no avail or have succumbed to the hopelessness proposed, then these next few minutes are for you. If you desire peace and security and you want to validate where your true hope lies then align your values with this Kingdom. It is relationally based and those relationships will help you not only in the journey of this life but also in the one to come.

First the bad news. The author describes **Mount Sinai** and the circumstances surrounding God's chosen people. No land, and no law but they had been delivered from slavery and were just beginning to understand that with freedom comes responsibility. The measure of that responsibility left Moses trembling in fear as leader. This was the man who spoke to God face to face as friend to friend. This was the man who interceded for them when they deserved punishment for disobedience under the covenant they had accepted. The Mosaic Law, a **conditional covenant, required the obedience** of the people to ensure blessing. Disobedience would bring death. The mountain was cloaked in darkness, gloom and storm. The quaking of the ground did not speak of any sense of security and the soul piercing trumpet blasts that startled the observers all added to the atmosphere of fear and dread. The specter of punishment and annihilation loomed larger than life. In fact if an animal even touched the base of the mountain it was to be destroyed. As if the 10 commandments were difficult enough to keep, there followed dozens of rules about various matters of social, societal, religious, moral, health, property and legal management edicts. The people go on chapter after chapter through the Old Testament

with their stiff necked rebellion that has a repetitive rhythm to it and leaves the reader wondering why they never seem to learn. It quickly becomes apparent to the reader that no human in themselves is able to connect with a Holy God who requires moral accountability and live to tell about it. Sin brings death. The children of Israel are often referred to as “stiff necked people”.... and that by God himself when he talks with Moses who time and again speaks on their behalf. **Moses was no wimp so when scripture describes (12:21) that he was trembling with fear we get the idea** that this was a scary scene. **Mount Sinai represents Judgement and Death. The blood of Abel cried out for revenge.** The good news is that this is NOT the mountain we have come to. This is NOT the unshakeable Kingdom he is speaking about. This scene reminds us we need help!

Contrast this with **Mount Zion**. Here the Heavenly Jerusalem the city of the living God is described. What do you think it will be like? Have you ever had a glimpse of heaven, even for a Nano second? If you had do you think you would ever be the same? Inexpressible joy is here. It's like the anticipatory joy of a happy time with friends and family, a party, which goes on forever and has no down side. It has been prepared for us. No cleanup is required it was done beforehand. All that is needed is that your name is on the guest list. The celebration of the joyful assembly of angels. Imagine several million angels engaged in the activities of “joyful assembly”. What do you imagine they are doing? What do they always do? Worship the LORD and the lamb and comfort those in fear..... **Here there is hope and love, acceptance and nearness.** Mount Zion the place of the gospel is a place of redemption by the blood of Christ that leads to Hope and Joy and denotes connection with a Holy God through unmerited redemption. This is an unconditional covenant that requires acceptance of a mediator on our behalf. **The blood of Christ reaches out in redeeming love.** This is the city of God, the church of the first born (Jesus Christ) himself the mediator, the high priest, the King is the LORD of Lords, the Lion of Judah, the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world. What Joy and Peace and Love and Freedom will be ours!!!

See to it that you **DO NOT REFUSE him who speaks from Heaven.** Our Priest and King in the order of Malchizedek, absolutely unique, one of a kind in the Universe. If “they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth” Moses, David, the Prophets... spirits of righteous men made perfect, how much less will we if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? God in the giving of the law (we could not keep) at Mount Sinai prepares us for **Jesus the mediator of a new covenant received only by Faith** and in response to our cry for help. It may be priceless and unmerited but it does require a response on our parts. The gift of free will, though it be predisposed to choose wrong prior to conversion and thereafter requiring constant schooling and training (we heard about God's discipline the last two Sundays) by the help of God, means that **we must accept the informed consent as it were.** This consent is clearly laid out in the pages of Scripture. **John** the great apostle of love describes it well in **3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.”** Have you consented to his rule in your life? Is he your LORD? Are you secure and at peace in the hope of your reconciliation with him by the great ransom Jesus paid?

Haggai 2:2-9 contains the promise of the Shakeup referred to by the writer of Hebrews.

The temple was broken down, neglected, in need of restoration and Haggai was giving instructions from God to the Leaders. The picture of the restoration of that temple contains within it the prophesy of future state. References to a little while... in God's timing that is between a day and several thousand years.... **Once more shaking the heavens and the earth seems to indicate it happened before it can happen again.** The writer of Hebrews specifically interprets for us "**once more indicate the removal of what can be shaken... that is created things.** That would include the physical temple about to be rebuilt, but not the eternal, spiritual, unshakeable city where GOD dwells. Shaking all nations seems to suggest that the rise and fall of nations is expected and we can see in Hebrews the reference to only one, absolutely unique, unshakeable Kingdom. **That Kingdom is Spiritual, Eternal and Unshakeable.** After the Shakeup of all nations, Jesus Christ "the desired of all nations" will come. The church of the first born contains men and women of every nation and Jesus becomes the greatest desire of their souls as they begin to understand the enormity of the love and forgiveness available in the new covenant relationship with Jesus. God will fill this house with glory.... not only the rebuild of the physical temple of that day (itself physical and shakeable) but where ever God is present. The silver and gold are his, he has the Divine Ownership and right to do whatever he pleases with the best of our gifts. The glory of "this present house" both the one to be built, and the future one to come, the place where he dwells, "will be greater than the glory of the former house. Says the LORD ALMIGHTY".... this will certainly happen, it is his word.... **and listen now to the answer to the existentialist angst..... "and in this place I will grant peace... declares the LORD ALMIGHTY.**

Do you have peace in your soul? Do you walk in the Joy and Hope of the forgiven and restored child of the King? Have you comfort in the presence of the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you? Is your name written in heaven? **Will you be meeting God as the Judge as revealed at Mount Sinai or as the Redeemer described at Mount Zion?**

SEE TO IT.... that means NOW, priority 1. If you want to have this peace granted by GOD kneel down wherever you are in a posture of submission to his authority. Tell him you are helpless to save yourself. Believe in the name of the Lord, crying out to him for his help and you will be saved. Joel 2:32 describes it well.... **And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved;** for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance as the LORD has said, among the survivors whom the LORD calls. **Dear Friend No one can respond unless the LORD calls them, but when that opportunity presents itself and you hear the message as if you were the only one in the room, then bow down in submission and reverent awe before the lover of your soul.** Place yourself under his new management and begin the process of training that will place your old nature in rightful place, no longer a tyrant to control your life. **Receive the PEACE granted by the LORD ALMIGHTY....** and never look back! Eyes forward to the hope and joy to come! If you made that commitment just now, please contact us on line or by phone to connect with someone to disciple you and pray for you and support you as you begin your new journey in Christ.

The Kingdom we are receiving as believers is....

- **Spiritual**
- **Eternal**
- **Unshakeable**

What remains after the removal of shakeable (created physical) things?

- **God**
- **His Word**
- **Our Soul**
- **Eternity**
- **The residue of refinement** by the consuming fire of GOD himself

So how shall we respond to receiving a Kingdom That Cannot Be Shaken?

- **Gratitude** for the security and hope in HIS name.
- **Worship** with reverence and Awe
- **Enter the Place of Divine Presence and Power for refinement and purification.**
The consuming fire both expose our Sin and Incinerates it. When we bring our Sin into the light of God's word and the presence of our LORD, its consumption removes its power over us. Draw near to GOD through Christ our mediator and redeemer for his purifying and refining work.
- **Live in hope** of your future and remember the struggles of this life are temporary discomforts. Beyond there is infinite Joy and Hope and Love through Faith in Him who knew no Sin. The Kingdom we have entered through Faith, the one we are receiving, is unshakeable.

Our GOD is a consuming fire. This is symbolic of His divine presence and power. He exposes sin, Incinerates it too and tests and refines us. There is a purification process that follows our redemption just like children whose parents train and teach them as they grow. Refiner's fire removes the dross from our lives.

After the shakeup in your life what's going to last? Choose obedience to his call, be reverent of his person, but approach with confidence near to the heart of GOD. Don't ignore this issue **See to it!** There's more here than you first think! **There is GREAT HOPE IN HIS NAME!**