Clarion Review

Religion

Stark Realities of Spiritual Rebirth: The Final Testaments, Volume 3

Uche Ephraim Chuku
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Four Stars (out of Five)

Proposing a provocative and radical approach to Christianity, *The Final Testaments, Volume 3*, argues that human beings are captive spirits who must reject the God of Genesis if they are ever to find their way back home to their true Heavenly Father.

Readers approaching *The Final Testaments* from a traditional Christian background may at first find Chuku's central argument difficult to grasp. Chuku is a devout follower of the Heavenly Father and his human emissary, Jesus Christ. But if one is to find true spiritual salvation, Chuku insists the link between Christ and the God of Genesis, Jehovah, must be completely severed. According to Chuku, Jehovah is an imposter, a superman mortal who differs little in character from the rest of mankind. A vain, angry, bumbling entity, Jehovah created human beings in his own image, fashioning mortal bodies from clay and trapping fallen spirits within those earthen vessels. To enslave his human subjects and keep them enthralled to himself as the one true God, Jehovah created the Garden of Eden as a beautified prison and attempted to deny Adam and Eve (his first human creations) the knowledge of good and evil, which Chuku asserts is the one sure path to spiritual liberation. In Chuku's telling of the Genesis story, the serpent is none other than Jesus Christ. He comes not to tempt Adam and Eve with knowledge, but to lead them directly to it as their only means of reconnecting with the Heavenly Father.

Chuku is no fan of organized religion. Referring to all major world faiths (Islam, Catholicism, Buddhism, Hinduism) as "customary religions," Chuku perceives them all as a vast conspiracy designed by Jehovah to blind human beings to their true state of enslavement and to keep them from finding their way, through Christ, back to the Heavenly Father. For Chuku, Jehovah and the Heavenly Father are two diametrically opposite entities. Jehovah is the devil himself, a false god directly responsible for all the evils in the world. The Heavenly Father is

perfect love and perfect peace, a purely spiritual being who has nothing to do with the sorry state of the material world and the corrupt human bodies trapped within it. According to Chuku, to attend a Catholic service or pray to Allah is to remain a slave to Jehovah, forever removed from the realm of spiritual perfection found with the Heavenly Father. It is only through a personal dedication to Jesus Christ—not through any organized religion—says Chuku, that one can find spiritual salvation.

To be sure, *The Final Testaments, Volume 3*, offers an unusual brand of Christianity, and it's not a perfect book, steeped as it is in the language of conspiracy and subterfuge. But for readers open to alternative interpretations of Bible, it's something to consider.

Diane Taylor