

DIATHEKĒ

by

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Thesis: The purpose of this study is to view the relationship of man and God through the past and present, and to develop a hypothesis for the future.

- I. Purpose of the study
- II. Origin of ideas
- III. Reason for a mosaic
- IV. Explanation of mosaic symbolism
- V. Conclusion of works

DIATHĒKĒ

Throughout the development of civilization, man has acknowledged the existence of a supernatural being. This acknowledgement provides the premise upon which the conclusion of this supernatural being's existence is drawn. For the intent of this study, this being will be referred to as God. The purpose of this study is to view the relationship of man and God through the past and present, and to develop a hypothesis for the future. This study is expressed by means of a mosaic entitled Diathēkē. Diathēkē is the Greek word which represents a complete view of the relationship between man and God.¹

My interest in the subject of study was initiated when I came upon the story of a vision when reading the second book of Esdras in the Apocrypha.² In this vision a man by the name of Ezra questions God. Ezra searches for the source of sin, and the justification of God's tolerance toward affliction upon the righteous people. In answer to Ezra's questions, an angelic being is sent with a message. If Ezra is able to solve one

¹William Barclay, New Testament Words (Philadelphia, 1974), p.64.

²Herbert G. May and Bruce M. Metzger, eds., The Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha (New York, 1965), p.28.

of three problems put forth by the angel, then the angel will be authorized by God to answer Ezra's questions. The three problems consisted of weighing the weight of fire, measuring a measure of wind, and bringing back the day that is past. When Ezra is unable to solve one of the three problems, the angel explains man's inability to understand Godly ways when he cannot yet understand the things which are common to him. After reading about this vision, I began to consider the consequences of this same vision in our present time period and that of the future. These thoughts furthered my interest in the relationship between man and God.

Once I was able to decide upon the subject of my study, I was faced with the alternatives of how to express these ideas. I decided on using a mosaic art form. The art form would give me more room to illustrate my ideas. Since the picture was to be a mosaic, there were many possibilities as to the variety of elements that could be used for different effects.* The main reason for choosing a mosaic was so that I could freely express my ideas.

The mosaic was made to express a variety of ideas-

*Details of the construction of the mosaic are found following the bibliography.

some through symbolism and others through illustration. With the exception of a space of three feet by two feet in the middle, the rest of the board or mosaic is covered by different ideas about the stages of man's past in relation to God. The border along the outside edge of the mosaic represents the origin or creation of man. The major part of this past represents a time of harmony between man and God. The swirl design made of blue and green represents the harmony of man, while the gold represents God. In the upper corner on the left side there is a jagged edge with swirls falling. This illustrates the break and separation between man and God. Once the swirl reaches the bottom of the mosaic, it becomes a seed, which is representative of life as the covenant between man and God. The seed grows and becomes a tree which displays the growth in the covenant. Pestilence, floods, and fire represent the evil which effects the covenant between man and God. God's influence upon man is shown through the balance of the sun and rain. The upward branches along with those extending out illustrate man's attempt to regain his original place with God. The blossoms represent the flowering of man's efforts to unite with God, while the fruit represents the results of these efforts. A rectangle

toward the center made up of four zones is representative of the past and present. This area is slightly raised from the rest of the mosaic. In this area there is a graft in the tree. This graft represents the beginning of technology. Man was not satisfied with his fruits of the past, and technology offered the possibility of better fruits. The grafted branch represents life. Fertilizer was used to help the new plant, but it was not distributed properly, therefore it brought more harm than good. This fertilizer represents the ill distribution of wealth. Too many leaves weigh down the branch. This is representative of overpopulation. The branches hinder each other in their struggle to be on top. This crossing of branches illustrates the arms race. The fruit which comes from the graft is the most perfect that man has made, however it is much too big and plentiful for the single branch which sustains it. Unless man does something to help the situation, the branch will break. In the middle of the mosaic there is an area that is approximately fourteen inches by ten inches. This place divides to represent two future stages. The first consists of a stained glass section. This section consists of four stained glass paintings which are slightly lower than the

present level. These paintings represent a hypothesis. In the first picture, the branch breaks. It breaks in the area before the graft. Therefore, it represents a break in the covenant between man and God. As a result of this, the branch of life is left for man to salvage. The white bird represents God rescuing one small group of mankind, which is represented by the twig with seeds. In the second picture, life is dwindling and God rescues one more group of mankind. The third and fourth pictures illustrate an absence of God, and thus the balance of the sun and rain is gone. First the seeds are rained upon until they begin to rot. Then the remains are dried and burned by the sun's scorching rays. Behind the stained glass pictures, another stage is expressed. This future is lower than the first and represents a later stage of the future. This stage of the future displays a circular design of gold, which represents a regained harmony in the relationship between man and God.

Through this study it is important to generate thoughts involving the relationship between man and God. This is a relationship which has existed throughout man's history and therefore has influenced his development. Since this relationship has

influenced man's past and present, it may also have some impact on his future. Because of the problems man is facing and the possible pitfalls of the future, it is imperative that man gain a clear perspective on the future. In this study the importance does not lie in trying to make someone believe these specific thoughts, but rather in initiating an interest in the subject to the point that they develop thoughts and ideas of their own.

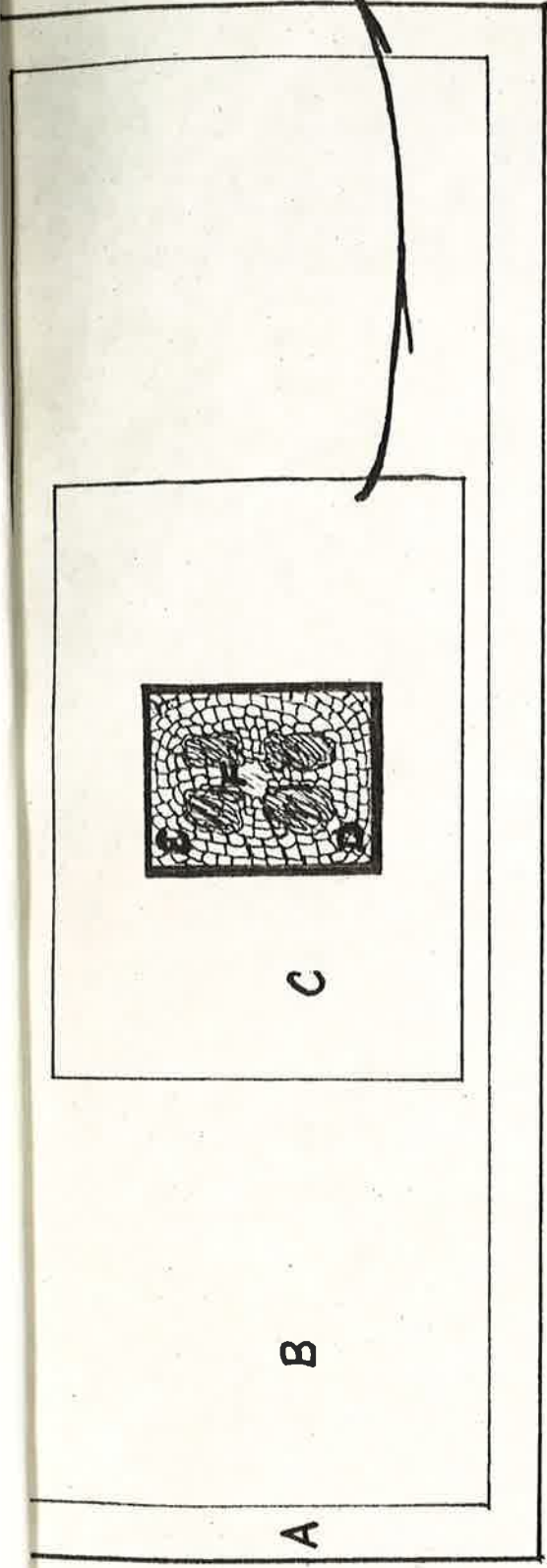
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*In choosing the type of mosaic that I wanted, I had several decisions to make. It was necessary to choose a base, the adhesive, and other materials to be used. For the base, I decided on a sheet of plywood that is eight feet by three feet and approximately 3/4 inch wide. Mastic was used for the adhesive along with at least two types of glue. The materials used for the mosaic picture consists mostly of ceramic tiles along with pieces of glass, rock, and metal. These materials combined in various combinations, along with a stained glass painting in the center illustrated the ideas to be expressed in the relationship of man and God. (Illustration on next page)

ceramic
tiles, rocks
glass,
metal
pieces,
etc.



- A- Gold background with swirl design (harmony)
- B- Past - mosaic mural
- C- Past → Present - mosaic mural
- D- Plastic - plain
- E- Gold (metallic) pieces, (light in center)
- F- Stained glass pictures

