

Full Scope of Scripture – Part 3d

- ✓ In our last lesson, we saw that God restored His ruined creation over a period of 6 days followed by the 7th Day, the Day of Rest. By so doing, He established a perfect unchangeable foundational pattern for the restoration of His fallen creation – 6 days of work leading to a 7th day of Rest.
- ✓ In this lesson, we will focus on the fall of man and how this pattern set in the foundation applies as far as the restoration of the fallen man is concerned. The process of restoration we see in Genesis Chapter 1 is exactly the process of our own salvation. The work of each day in Genesis represents a stage that we must go through if we are to find ourselves in the 7th day.

✓

To begin and for us to properly understand this process as it applies to man, it is important to understand how God created man.

- ✓ God is a triune being or a three part being in that we have **God the father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit** (***1John 5:7** For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one*). This is significant because of what God says concerning the creation of man;

***Gen. 1:26** “Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” **27** So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. **28** Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

- ✓ After restoring the destroyed earth in the beginning, on the sixth day, God created man in His own image and likeness for the purpose of ruling the restored earth.
- ✓ Notice the first two things God says in respect of Man’s creation;
 - i) ‘...in our image according to our likeness...’
 - ii) ‘Let them have dominion...’So being made in the image and likeness of God, man is made a three part being - spirit, soul and body - 3 is the number of Divine perfection. It is the perfect number for the expression of who God is and God’s perfect design for His new creation – Man.
 - Was man created a perfect being and what happened? (Let us discuss this and please provide any scripture references). Do we see a pattern here with what happened to the perfectly created heavens and the earth?

- ✓ It’s important to note that soul and the spirit are not one and the same thing as many people tend to believe and by comparing scripture with scripture, we can firmly establish this truth;
***1Thes. 5:23** “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*
***Heb. 4:12** “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit...”*

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- ✓ The truth of Man having been created as a tripartite – that is three part being – spirit, soul and body has to be firmly set and established in our foundation if we have to fully understand salvation and the purpose for man's creation.

- ✓ To establish this truth let us look at;

a) Christ who is Elohim manifested in the flesh;

John. 1:1 *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...**14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us..."*

Col. 2:9 *"For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;"*

b) Jesus, being the only begotten Son of God, was born in the likeness of all other human beings, except, of course, without a sin nature.

2Cor. 5:21 *"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him"*

c) His being in the likeness of Man is confirmed for us.

Phil. 2:5 *"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, **7** but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."*

Appearance = Greek word – schema = patterned after

So not only is Jesus, Elohim – the three parts of the Godhead bodily, but He must also be patterned after Man, a three part being, body, soul and spirit. He is patterned after Man, and Man was made by Him a three part being after His own image.

- Man has a spirit – that part of man that is God conscious (**John 4:24**)
- Man has a soul – the part that is man conscious"
- Man has a body – that which hosts the spirit and the soul.

- ✓ First, let's deal with **His spirit**;

Luke 23:46 *"And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'" Having said this, He breathed His last"*

So, what did He commit into His Father's hands? – **His spirit**.

We see this again with respect to the martyr Stephen in –

Acts. 7:59 *"And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."*

- ✓ **His soul**: Now see what the Holy Spirit says through Peter on the Day of Pentecost with regards to the Lord's resurrection;

Act. 2:23 *"...**31** he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. **32**"This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses."*

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Hades = the place of departed souls or the place of the dead.

So, according to our scripture where was the Lord's soul? – **Hades**

And throughout the OT the location of Hades is given as 'down' – that is somewhere towards the earth's centre –

Luke.10:15 *"And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades."*

Hades is the Greek equivalent of the OT Sheol.

Isa. 14:15 *"Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit"*

Where was His spirit? – **with the Father**.

Was the Father in Hades? – **No**, His location is the third heaven, or the farthest recesses of the north:

Geographically, entirely in the opposite direction.

So with the Father in one location and Hades in another – with the Lord's spirit with the Father and His soul in Hades – **could the soul and the spirit be one and the same thing?** – this would be clearly impossible.

✓ And the **Lord's body**?

Mat. 27:57 *"Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. 58 This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him. 59 When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 60 and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed. 61 And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the tomb."*

His body was wrapped and laid in the tomb.

❖ So, let's review for a moment (Visualize this);

- the Lord's spirit is with the Father
- His soul is in Hades
- His body is in Joseph of Arimathea's tomb

Eccles.12:7 *"Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it."*

✓ Three parts in three separate locations.

✓ This separation continued until the soul and the spirit re-entered His body at the time of the Lord's resurrection.

✓ What do we learn from this? People always ask of what happens when someone dies. This would tell us much about the experience of **all believers** and our own if we should die before the rapture

✓ So then, Elohim is a trinity; Jesus, who is Elohim manifested in the flesh is also a trinity, and Man, created in the 'image' and 'likeness' of Elohim must of necessity also be a trinity.

✓ And the full scope of salvation provided by the triune God for fallen Man must pertain to Man as a complete being and must therefore encompass all three parts of Man's being – spirit, soul and body.

❖ Something else we can know from the scriptures about God's image and likeness;

Psalms 104:1-2 *"O LORD my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty, 2 Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain."*

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We note that God is ‘clothed with splendor and majesty, covering Himself with light as with a cloak’. This displays another aspect of God’s image and likeness – Glory and rulership!

Grasping this, makes it easy for us to understand the different types of nakedness (different Hebrew words translated ‘naked’) with respect to Adam and the woman - before sinning (**Gen 2:25**) and after sinning (**Gen 3:7**).

- The first chapter of Genesis reveals that God created man to rule over the earth (**Gen. 1:26-28**), and the second chapter reveals that He tested man for obedience (**Gen. 2:16, 17**). The test for obedience was given to the man in his un-fallen state; the specific test given to Adam had to do with choosing between one of the two trees, the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God told Adam that he should not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for in the day that he ate from that tree he would die (Since God cannot lie and we also know that Adam did not physically die that day, but died at 930 years, what died?) The bible tells us that man ate from the forbidden tree and failed the test of obedience, he died and we should know that this **death affected all the three parts of his being i.e. the spirit, the soul and the body.**
- **In the next lesson, we will see how man as a tripartite being was affected when man sinned and how that impacted the purpose for man’s creation.**

Questions:

1). Please give 3 scriptural references that support the Trinity

2). In Gen. 1:26, God stated that He was going to create man in His own image and likeness. What was going to be the composition of man?

a). What scriptures did we look at?

3). How can we establish the truth in Question 2?

a). How can this help us to understand what happens when one dies and how can this help us to understand the resurrection/rapture of the believers?

4. How do we understand Psalms 104:1-2?

5. Why is it important for us to understand this tripartite nature of man?

May the Lord bless you as you remain diligent!!