

We have been looking at **Rom. 13:11** "... for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed", our last lesson last week, we saw that salvation is spoken of in scripture as a past (finished) salvation, a present process (continuous) salvation and a future salvation. For us to further understand this, let's look at the creation and fall of man and **how** redemption in its full scope is attained.

Gen. 1:1 *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"*

1. This is the very place where Moses began and this opening sentence in all of scripture provides us with a particularly significant piece of information;
 - i. God = Elohim - El = God / Him = 3 or more
 - ii. We know from comparing scripture with scripture that God is a trinity - in three persons – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

1Joh.5:7 *"For there are three that bear witness ^[b]in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one."*

2. Now 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"*

a) Notice the first two things God says in respect of Man;

i) '...in our image according to our likeness....'

ii) 'Let them have dominion...'

b) 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.

c) The 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 the 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..."*

The truth of Man having been created as a 1 tripartite – that is three part being – body, soul and spirit has to be firmly set and established in our foundation if we have to fully understand salvation and the purpose for man's creation.

3. To establish this truth let us look at

a) Christ who is Elohim manifested in the flesh;

Joh. 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;"*

i) 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"*

ii) 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

b) 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.

i) First, let's deal with **His spirit**;

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

ii) **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."

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 –

Luk. 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.

iii) 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
- ✓ Three parts in three separate locations.
- ✓ This separation continued until the soul and the spirit reentered 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. **Why all believers??**
- ✓ 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.

Study 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 has this lesson helped us to understand the full scope of salvation?