

## The Word of God – 13

*Ge 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. 2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.*

Last time we had looked at the ‘tree of life’ found in the midst of the Garden, and we had seen how this tree is directly related to rulership and not the provision of eternal life. We had seen this tree featured in one of the overcomers’ promises in the Revelation, again in connection with those who will rule in the Millennial Kingdom.

We will begin to try to put some of this together by remembering that God had established the Divinely perfect way to restore a ruined creation. There would be 6 days of work, to be followed by a 7<sup>th</sup> Day of Rest.

We had seen that Man, created by God to rule, had also been ruined through sin and needed to be restored. And in conjunction with the days seen in Genesis Chapter 1, God through Peter, revealed that with respect to restoring ruined Man there would be 6, 1000-year days of work, to be followed by a 7<sup>th</sup> 1000-year day of Rest – 2 Pe 3:8 *But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

Now, it is clear from this that a specific timeframe has been set during which God will work on the restoration of Mankind. And this has been unalterably set as 6000 years.

Within those 6000 years, individuals from the human race are dealt with by God with a view to their individual restoration. And the way in which individual restoration is to be accomplished is also seen in the original 6 days of work found in Genesis Chapter 1.

There is an initial beginning point in this restoration, pictured in day 1 in Genesis – Ge 1:3 *Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. 4*

*And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.*

That seen on day 1 continued to exist but never need to be repeated. However, to bring complete restoration there had to be a further 5 days of work – Ge 1:31 *Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*

It is not until the completion of the 6<sup>th</sup> day that God used the descriptive phrase, ‘it was very good’. And at the end of this 6<sup>th</sup> day a Man and a Woman in a marriage relationship were to have dominion, to rule.

The light that came to divide the darkness, pictures our eternal salvation, but this is just an initial work. It is the beginning point for God’s restoration process, not the end of it.

Eternal salvation provides the redemption of our spirit but as a three part being, redemption is also needed for our soul and for our body – 1 Pe 1:9 *receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.*

The end result of faith in the present time by the person who is already eternally saved, is the salvation of the soul at a future time. Let’s remember that the spirit and the soul ARE NOT the same thing. The spirit has been saved and the soul will be saved – Ro 8:23 *Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?*

We will deal with this in more detail later, but for now, the salvation of the soul is essential if we are to be adopted as a firstborn son of God, and with that adoption comes the redemption of the body. This is NOT eternal salvation, nor is it getting a new body, but a body that is redeemed by receiving the glory that was lost by Adam and the Woman in the Garden.

And we have seen in a previous study that any human being who is to rule with Christ in His Millennial Kingdom must again be in the image and likeness of God – a redeemed spirit, a redeemed soul, and a redeemed body. We all have one of these, a redeemed spirit, but none of us as yet has a redeemed soul, and a redeemed body.

*Isa 46:9 Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'*

The verses here from Isaiah are particularly significant for us as we begin to consider the full extent of salvation, as God has made it perfectly clear that He has declared the end of His plans and purposes for Man, which will of necessity include salvation, from the beginning of His revelation to Man.

With this in mind we will realize that the term we know as salvation does not exist in a vacuum, nor is it some afterthought or means of damage control, but rather an integral part of God's ultimate purpose. If we would understand the purpose of God we would be able to place salvation within that context and this should remove any confusion we would have surrounding it.

Placed within its context, the full scope of salvation and the purpose for that salvation are plain to see. Remove it from context and the whole doctrine of salvation becomes at best nebulous and at worse distorted.

Next time – if the Lord is willing.