

The Word of God – 9

Ge 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion

There are very simple, yet very profound truths, that are contained in this foundational verse that we had begun to look at last time.

Foundational truth that cannot ever change, truth that if not received will cause shipwreck in the understanding of Scripture that won't be recovered from.

Jesus said in – Lk 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

The place Jesus began in showing Himself to His disciples was Moses. And this is where we must begin if we are to understand the Scriptures.

If God had wanted us to begin reading the Scriptures with the Gospel of John, then guess what? That would have been the first Book in our Bible. But it isn't, Genesis is.

So, if we go back to Genesis 1:26, the unalterable truth is established, that the purpose for the creation of Man is rulership – This can never change.

For Man to rule he had to be in the image and likeness of God – This can never change.

That God is described as a Trinity, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, is beyond question. And therefore, if Man is made after God's likeness, then he must be a three-part being also. Which is exactly what Scripture teaches us – *1 Th 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, [whole] soul, and [whole] 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,*

Both the Hebrew and Greek words for spirit and soul are entirely different words that are NEVER used interchangeably in the Scriptures. The soul and the spirit are NOT one and the same.

Then for Man to be in God's image he has to have a covering of glory.

Before the fall, Adam and the Woman had an uncorrupted spirit, soul and body that was covered with Glory. After the fall, their sin had separated their spirits from God's purpose for their creation. Their souls were corrupted, now having a sin nature and their bodies were corrupted no longer having a covering of glory, and that which had been created to be eternal would now experience physical death and decay.

And from this point onwards man was no longer in God's image and likeness, but in the image and likeness of fallen Adam – Ge 5:3 *And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.*

And every human being since has been procreated in the likeness and image of Adam.

However, if God's unalterable purpose for Man's creation is to be accomplished then human beings must once again be in the image and likeness of God, because this is the unalterable truth that has been set in place from the beginning.

If this is not understood, then we will have a serious problem.

If human beings are ever to be able to fulfill the purpose for Man's creation they would have to again be in the image and likeness of God. And for this to be possible there had to be redemption – Gen 3:21 *Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.*

And here is the foundational picture for eternal salvation. It is based entirely upon death and shed blood. We will come back to this later, but for now – once God had done this for Adam and the Woman, did they receive the covering of lost glory again? No, they didn't. Did their sin nature disappear? No, it didn't. Did they now take up their position of rulership for which they were created? No, they didn't.

Ge 3:17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake..... 23 therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. 24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

Not only were Adam and Eve now in a ruined condition and separated from the tree of life but the ground, the earth, was also cursed, although remaining habitable.

And do we remember that to restore the ruined creation seen at the beginning of Genesis Chapter 1, God worked for 6 days. What do you think that would mean for the restoration of ruined Man and the ruined earth?

Next time, if the Lord is willing.