

The Word of God – 15

When we think of the word salvation mostly, we will think of the cross of Calvary, and we think of an eternity in heaven for those who are saved and an eternity in hell for those who are lost.

In these statements however there is much that is scripturally incorrect. And the reason for this is very simple – our understanding of ‘salvation’ is much too narrow, and it is too narrow because most often we don’t begin our understanding of it in the right place.

When Jesus is walking with two of His disciples on the Road to Emmaus on the day of His resurrection, He reprimanded them for not having properly understood scripture - Lu 24:25 *Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 "Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.*

He reprimanded them and then to correct their misunderstanding of the Scriptures He began at Moses and then going to all the prophets, expounding in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

He began at Moses – and Moses began at Genesis, and so must we if we are going to understand the full scope of salvation.

And this you will remember is exactly what we did as we began our study 15 weeks ago, we had turned to the opening verse of Scripture to help us to understand the context for salvation.

And we have consequently seen that this context has to do with God’s plans and purposes for the ages, which have been constructed by and for His Son, with a particular focus on this earth and the rule that takes place from the heavens connected to this earth and with Man, who was created a little lower than the angels, ultimately to be elevated to a position of coheir with the Son.

Col 1:16 *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.*

And salvation has been an integral part of God's purpose, even before there was ever a man who needed to be saved - Re 13:8....*the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

So, as we continue study, so that we can understand exactly what God's plan of salvation is, we will return to the beginning.

Ge 1:1 ¶ *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

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 - God = Elohim - El = God / Him = 3 or more

We know from comparing Scripture with Scripture that God is a trinity - in three persons – God the Father / God the Son / God the Holy Spirit

Now this is significant because of what God says concerning the creation of Man - Ge 1:26 ¶ *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion*

Notice the first two things God says in respect of Man – ‘...in our image according to our likeness.....’ ‘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.

That Man is indeed a three-part being is borne out by comparing Scripture with Scripture - 1Th 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.*

You will have also noticed in our Genesis Scripture that not only does God make Man in His image He creates Man for a specifically stated purpose – ‘let them have dominion’ – literally – ‘let them rule over’.

God used the plural pronoun ‘them’ pointing to the fact that in order to fulfill the purpose for his creation the man needed a helper comparable to him.

Ge 2:18 ¶ *And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."*

This of course gives us the type to be fulfilled in the antitype by Christ and His Bride.

We will continue with this next time – if the Lord is willing