

The Word of God – 20

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,'

So far in our study of the full scope of salvation we have seen the context into which salvation is placed – a context that reveals God's plans and purposes for His Son, clearly revealed in - 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.*

And God's purpose for Man as a joint heir with God's Son –

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

2Ti 1:9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

Tit 1:2 in hope of eternal [Age lasting] life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,

Heb 2:7 You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands. 8 You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him.

We also saw in the Garden of Eden the Man and the Woman created in an unfallen state and then the effect of sin upon them causing a change in that state - *Ge 2:16 ¶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

Now it is so important, because of the death that takes place here in the Garden, and because of what God does subsequently to deal with this death, that we are firmly established in the truth of Man having been created as a tripartite – that is three-part being – body, soul and spirit. If we don't have this firmly set in our foundation it cannot help but lead us into all sorts of confusion regarding salvation.

We can look again at Scriptures from 1 Thessalonians 5:23 and Hebrews 4:12 that clearly show this distinction - 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.*

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*

But I want to take a moment now to focus on Jesus, as that which Scripture says of Him gives us further irrefutable proof of this reality.

We will remember that Man was created in the image and likeness of God and the Hebrew word used for God in Genesis 1:26 is the plural noun 'Elohim' meaning three or more.

We know of course that God is a trinity, being three and no more than three – God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit.

When Christ was on the earth He is described as 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,*

Also - Col 2:9 *For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;* 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 – 2Co 5:21 *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us,*

His being in the likeness of Man is confirmed for us in – Php 2:8 *And being found in appearance as a man,*

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.

And this is exactly what Scripture testifies to. And what we are about to read is not peculiar to Jesus because He is the Son of God, it is the way it is because He is patterned after Man, and Man was made by Him a three-part being after God's own image.

Firstly, let's deal with His spirit - Lu 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.*

Let's make sure we are absolutely clear – what did He commit into His Father's hands? – His spirit.

We see this again with respect to the martyr Stephen in – Ac 7:59 *And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."*

We will return to this next time – If the Lord is willing.