

The Word of God – 21

Now see what the Holy Spirit says through Peter on the Day of Pentecost with regards to the Lord's resurrection - Ac 2:23 *"Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; 24 "whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. 25 "For David says concerning Him: 'I foresaw the LORD always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. 26 Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. 27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 28 You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.'* 29 *"Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 "Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, 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 – please note that Hades is never used to refer to the place of eternal damnation. Eternal damnation takes place in the Lake of Fire – nowhere else.

So, according to the 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 - Lu 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,*

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.

And the Lord's body? - Mt 27:59 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.

So, let's review for a moment – the Lord's spirit is with the Father, His soul is in Hades and His body is in Joseph of Arimathea's tomb – three parts in three separate locations.

And this separation continued until the soul and the spirit re-entered His body at the time of the Lord's resurrection.

This would tell us much about the experience of all believers and our own if we should die before the rapture.

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.

Just as an aside the number three in God's dealings with Man occurs in a number of settings.

Humans from God's perspective are divided into three groups – Gentile, Jew and Christian.

There is a further division of human beings into three categories – soulical, spiritual and carnal – soulical referring to the unsaved and spiritual and carnal referring to the saved.

And ultimately the earth will be ruled by three first born sons.

Israel, who has already been adopted into that status, those from the church who will be adopted as firstborn sons at the Judgment Seat, and the Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten firstborn son.

Now to go back to where we were in our last study we will recall that God had told Adam that in the day that he ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil he would surely die and we had seen that what died that day was Adam's and the Woman's spirit. That part of their being that had a direct connection with God. They experienced a separation from God.

Now can we be absolutely certain that this is what happened?

We will come back to this next time. If the Lord is willing.