

The Full Scope of Our Salvation

Lesson One — The Purpose for Salvation

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Colossians 1:16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created by Him and for Him.....**20** and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

In this Colossians passage, the Apostle Paul reveals to us that Jesus Christ (God the Son) created all things the *invisible* and *visible* things, **both in the heavens and on the earth**. Specifically, the invisible and visible things referred to in this passage are *places of rulership* thrones, dominions, rulers and authorities. These have been created *by* Jesus Christ and *for* Jesus Christ. Then jumping down to v. 20, we see that not only did Jesus Himself create these things, but He also *reconciled* these same things to Himself, through His death on the cross. That Jesus *reconciled* visible and invisible places of rulership reveals that for some reason at some point in time *after* He had created these things there came a need for the reconciliation of the places of rulership that He had created. These *invisible* and *visible* **thrones, dominions, rulers and authorities** both in the heavens *and* on the earth had for reasons revealed in the Old Testament fallen out of order, thereby needed to be brought back into their originally-created proper order. And the only way and means in all of creation that could bring about this reconciliation is the death and shed blood of the very One Who had created them in the first place. **Hebrews 9:11** **But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; 12 and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.**

The Need for Salvation

From OT Scriptures, we can know what happened! We can know that Lucifer, the invisible ruler who was originally created to rule over the earth from the heavens, at some point in an age past, rebelled against God seeking to raise himself and his throne above his equals throughout the whole Universe, even seeking to sit on God's Throne, which is in the uppermost recesses of the north. We can read about it in a passage in **Isaiah 14:12** **“How**

you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! 13 But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High...’” From comparing Scripture with Scripture, we can also know that a third of Lucifer’s host of angels joined him in his rebellion, and as a result, the sanctuaries in which and over which they ruled became desecrated (Ezek. 28:11ff; cf. Rev. 12:4). Herein is the reason that the *invisible* places of rulership *in the heavens* needed reconciliation. The succinct description of the desecration of their sanctuary is found in the second verse in the whole Bible: **Gen 1:2 And the earth was (Lit., became) formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep...**

And so God restored the ruined creation over a six day period, creating man on the 6th day *for the purpose of replacing the invisible rulers* over the earth. This set into motion God’s eternal plan of reconciling the *invisible* places of dominion *in the heavens*. The fact that man was created to rule over the earth is easily seen in the verses surrounding man’s creation in the first chapter of Genesis. **Gen 1:26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”**

At some point in our spiritual growth, we need to know about these things as they are necessary to know if we are to come into a better understanding of our own salvation.

- We need to know that man was *created* for a purpose, and we need to know what that purpose is.
- We also need to know that man has been *saved* for a purpose, and we need to know what that purpose is.

The truth is that *the purpose of our salvation is one and the same as the purpose for our creation*. And in knowing why man was created (to replace Satan and his angels in ruling over the earth) will go a long way in understanding the need for salvation.

Let’s review a few more things that we should already know. Once we understand that God created man to take Satan’s place, we have to then realize that for now, as a result of Adam’s sin in the Garden, Satan remains as the ruler over the earth! It is specifically stated in Scripture (even in the New Testament) that Satan is

- the *god of this world* II Cor. 4:4 ...in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
- the *prince of the power of the air* — Ephesians 2:2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

And in the Old Testament we see that Satan is

- *the anointed cherub who covers (governs) the earth* Ezek. 28:14 “You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you there...”

And even though Satan *presently* continues to rule, he disqualified himself from continuing to rule throughout eternity future through that ancient rebellion he led in the heavens against God.

Once we come to understand these things, we can easily grasp why God originally created man in His own image and likeness for the purpose of ruling. We'll read it here: **Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."**

Track 2

Created in God's Image and Likeness

In understanding the need for Salvation, we would need to grasp what it means that the man was created in God's image and likeness. One facet of God's image is that He is a Trinity, three parts – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is easy to see then that man (having been made in God's image) is also three parts – spirit and soul and body. God's Word confirms this fact. Under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Apostle Paul prayed for believers in **I Thessalonians 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your *spirit and soul and body* be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.** The significance of Paul praying for each of the three parts of man (spirit *and* soul *and* body) becoming *entirely sanctified* will be brought to light as we work through the remaining lessons in this series, but for now suffice it to say that man, who was made in God's image and likeness is, like God, three parts.

Another facet of God's image and likeness can be seen in a description of God found in **Psalm 104:1 ...Thou art very great; Thou art clothed with splendor and majesty, 2 Covering Thyself with light as with a cloak...** Here we see God is *covered in light* (glory) and *clothed in splendor and majesty*. This description of God is stating the self-evident fact that God is the Sovereign Ruler over all of creation. One example of this fact is found in: **I Chronicles 16:23 Sing to the LORD, all the earth; Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day. 24 Tell of His glory among the nations... 27 Splendor and majesty are before Him, Strength and joy are in His place. 28... Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. 29 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; ...31 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; And let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns."**

God the Father is enthroned in the heavens, covered in glory and clothed in splendor and majesty as He executes His sovereign rule over all of creation. And Jesus sits at His Father's right hand, Himself glorified, as He awaits His return to the earth when the Father will send Him back. This passage in I Chronicles is specifically a description of the time when God the Son comes back to the earth to reign over all the earth.

Since man was created in God's image and likeness for God's stated purpose of rulership, it is evident that glory, splendor and majesty were to be his as well. The Psalmist wrote in **Psalm 8:4 What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him? 5 Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty! 6 You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, 7 All sheep and oxen, And also the beasts of the field, 8 The birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, Whatever passes through the paths of the seas.**

This same Psalm was quoted by the author of the Book of Hebrews as he was inspired to write about the coming Messianic Era – the 1,000 year period in which Jesus will rule over the earth, having defeated Satan in the final battle. In a text revealing that "the world [Lit., the inhabited earth] to come" will no longer be subjected to the fallen angels who presently rule over the earth, he wrote: **Hebrews 2:4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will. 5 For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking. 6 But one has testified somewhere, saying, "WHAT IS MAN, THAT YOU REMEMBER HIM? OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HIM? 7 YOU HAVE MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND HAVE APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS; 8 YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET."**...

However, we can know that the things mentioned in Psalm Eight and quoted in Hebrews Two have not yet been fulfilled, by reading the last half of v. 8! **Hebrews 2:8 ...But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him.** And this delay, if you will, was also part of God's overall plan. Let's pay particular attention to this last sentence in Hebrews 2:8: *But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him* [to man].

So what happened? If God created man to rule over the earth and 6,000 years later man is not yet in this position, then were God's plans and purposes for man somehow thwarted? We have a passage from Isaiah revealing that *all* of God's plans and purposes will be established! **Isaiah 46:9 "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'..."**

So let's go back 6,000 years ago to the Garden in order to see events as they unfolded at the very beginning of man's history. It is here where our understanding of the need for salvation must begin. Look again at **Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness [plural pronouns are used here, revealing that all three persons in the God-head were participating]; and let them rule over..."** all created things on the earth. Not only does being made in God's image and likeness portend rulership; but here God specifically stated *why* He created man in His image and likeness. Now, if we understand the **WHY** of creation, then we can understand the need for salvation. Let's check some of the early details of these events.

God formed the man from the dust of the earth and He breathed LIFE into the man! **Genesis 2:7 Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.** *God breathed His breath into the man and the man became a **living being.*** Man was very unique in this, as it is not stated that God breathed *His* breath into any other created being – not the birds of the air, nor of the fish and sea monsters of the sea, nor of the beasts of the earth. God simply spoke, and brought these creatures forth, as we see in **Genesis 1:24 Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind... 25 And God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.** God brought forth living creatures, which obviously had breath in them, but the Scriptures do not anywhere state that God breathed *His* breath into the beasts of the earth, the cattle and everything else mentioned. Evidently, His breath (Lit., His Spirit) was reserved only for mankind. And it was only after God breathed His breath into the man that the Scriptures state that he became a *living being.* (Let’s remember this “after their kind” rule, as it will come into play with man, which we will see shortly.)

Herein is something to note here about *life.* Evidently it was God’s Spirit, entering into the man, which caused him to become a “living being.” And this *life* is juxtaposed to the first mention of *death* just 10 verses down: **Genesis 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.”**¹

Track 3

It is Not Good for the Man to be Alone

After giving the man the command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, along with stating the consequence of disobeying this command, it is at this point in chapter two that God makes a statement about the man, which is really connected to God’s stated purpose for creating man back in chapter one. Here in chapter two God follows the command that He gave the man by saying: **Genesis 2:18 Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.”** And this helper must be seen in connection with God’s stated purpose for creating man in the first place. We’ll read it again: **Genesis 1: 27, 28 And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”** Man was not going to be able to *be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and rule over it* apart from a helper!

Then we can read specifically how God made a helper suitable for the man. God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept, God opened up the man’s side, took a

¹ To study more on *life and death*, see the three-part series entitled *Life, Death and Resurrection to Life Again.*

part of his body, and from that part of the man God fashioned (Lit., *built*) a helper suitable an individual who was made up of the very flesh and bones which had been taken out of the man's body. When God brought her to the man, Adam named her *öwoman*, for she was taken out of the man's body. These things are instructive to us.

The Scripture then says: **Genesis 2:25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.** The Hebrew word *naked* used in the original text is a word that can mean *partially naked* – *naked in the sense of having an under covering, but not possessing an outer garment.* Based upon several Scriptural factors, this would seem to be the case for Adam and the woman in the Garden. With man having been created by God in His own image and likeness for the expressed purpose of ruling over the earth, just as God covers Himself in glory, so God covered the man and the woman in glory! Yet we see the man and the woman being described as *önaked* and not *ashamed*. They could not yet be fully clothed with the royal garments of splendor and majesty (like God), nor could they step into the position of rulership for which they were created because they first had to be tested. Before they would fulfill their created purpose, they had to prove their worthiness to rule through a test of obedience. Hence, the *partial nakedness*, as they awaited the garments of royalty. And it was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that was the point of their testing. Would they prove themselves worthy (through obedience to the command of God) and replace the incumbent ruler, or would they fail the test? And if they failed the test – if they disobeyed God's command by eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil what would it mean that they would *surely die*?

We know the rest of the story. Shortly after the woman was brought forth, she – being deceived by the incumbent ruler of the world, Satan – ate the forbidden fruit and she gave to her husband and he ate also. It was at this point that the two became *önaked* and hid themselves from God's presence. **Genesis 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings. 8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.** A different Hebrew word is used here for *naked* than previously used in chapter two – it is a word which can mean *utter nakedness* – i.e., no covering whatsoever. And this would seem to be the case here, as with *this* nakedness, the man and the woman shamefully hid themselves, attempting to cover themselves with fig leaves – the works of their own hands. They had surely lost something – they had lost their covering of glory! (Remember this is all building the overall picture of the need for salvation.)

So now let's put a few *more* things together. Since the man and the woman were created to rule, having been created in God's image and likeness – covered in light, but awaiting the reception of the garments of splendor and majesty, and since sin thwarted man from fulfilling his purpose, bringing him to utter nakedness, then the question is: Was God's plan for man thwarted forever? May it never be! We have already seen that God's plans and purposes which were spoken of in ancient times (even from the beginning at the creation of man) will one day stand (Isa. 46:9-10)! And amazingly, even the *apparent* *ödelay* in bringing His plans and purposes to fruition was within the scope of His plan laid out from

before the foundation of the world! Yes, His plans and purposes will yet be *fully* fulfilled! Otherwise He would not be God! So now it becomes essential to know and understand that **the purpose of man's salvation is one in the same as the purposes of man's creation!**

Track 4

God's Plan for Man's Redemption

The federal head of mankind, Adam, lost the image and likeness of God, he lost the covering of glory, thereby forfeiting his right to rule. This *completely* naked condition has affected every person ever born to a man and a woman since then. (Do you remember the ðafter their kindö rule?) We see it coming into play for mankind in **Genesis 5:1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. 2 He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man in the day when they were created. 3 When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth.**

But God had a plan to *redeem/reconcile* mankind from this fallen state. The first mention of this plan, which was forged from before the Universe was created, is found in Genesis 3:15. Before we read it, let's realize that God spoke this promise of reconciliation to the very one who had rebelled against God in the heavens during an age past, bringing about the need for the reconciliation of *the invisible thrones, dominions, rulers and authorities in the heavens*. Let's also realize that he is the very same one who brought about the fall of man, bringing about the need for reconciliation of the *visible thrones, dominions, rulers and authorities on the earth*. To this one, whom man was created to replace as ruler over the earth, God said: **Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.**" Yes, God had a plan for man's redemption! And, as we have already seen, and will yet see in more detail in this series, God will yet fulfill His plan!

So far we have seen that:

- The original ruler over the earth was disqualified through his rebellion.
- Man was created to rule in his place.
- The original ruler brought about the man disqualification through deceiving the woman.

But

- God had forged a plan to remedy situation from eternity past.

We know that Jesus paid the price for redemption. Jesus died on the cross for the reconciliation of the places of rulership in the heavens and on the earth! So let's be sure that we understand that the need, as well as the benefits, of the overall scope of redemption/reconciliation/salvation is multifaceted. When Adam sinned in the Garden, his complete being was affected his *spirit*, and his *soul* and his *body* all three parts were affected by death at the moment of his disobedience. And all three parts of man must be redeemed through salvation if man is going to fulfill his created purpose in the image and likeness of God. So in order to understand the full scope of salvation, we need to come to an understanding of the three parts of man: his spirit, and soul, and body. Whenever these

three parts are listed together in Scripture, they are always listed in this order: spirit, soul and body. Every human being who has ever been conceived by a man and a woman possesses all three parts, with each part being seen as dead, separated from God and his purpose. Let's look at how each part is affected by death and then by salvation.

Man's Spirit

Man's *spirit* is his *God-conscious part*. This is where union with God takes place. Having been procreated in Adam's image and likeness, each of us is born with a dead spirit, separated from God. Each of us still has a spirit, but we are born *separated* from God, and in that respect our human spirit is seen as dead (Eph. 2:1). With respect to man, death never means annihilation; death only ever refers to some type of separation. A dead spirit simply means that an individual is spiritually separated from God, which is the way death is presented in the opening chapters of Scripture. Initially, when God breathed His breath into Adam (which was when Adam became a living being), God imparted His Spirit into the man. Therefore, the man was brought to life in the sense of being *in union with God*. This idea of *spiritual* union with God can be seen more clearly in John chapter four where Jesus is speaking to the Samaritan woman at the well. **John 4:24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."** We can see from this verse that union with God emanates from our spirit. In Adam's sin, his spirit died—he became separated from God. Due to Adam's sin, all of Adam's offspring are born in his image, after his kind i.e., separated from God (cf. Gen. 5:1-3). If an individual's spirit is not redeemed through faith in the Provision that God has given, then that individual remains *eternally* separated from God, and eternally separated from fulfilling his very purpose. But, as we shall see in the next lesson, an individual can come into eternal, spiritual union with God through faith in the Provision He has given, thereby being placed in a position wherein he *can* fulfill his purpose.

Man's Soul

Man's *soul* is his *man-conscious part*. This is where the man realizes things about himself. His soul is the seat of his emotions, his feelings, his desires. When God created Adam, He created him with a soul that only knew *good*; God did not want him to know *evil*. (Therefore the command—Do not eat from the tree of *the knowledge of good and evil*.) But when Adam ate from the forbidden tree, he immediately came to know evil, through experience, and in this knowledge, he was *self-conscious* about something else—he realized he no longer possessed the covering of glory. He knew immediately that he was utterly naked. In his sin, not only did his soul become corrupted—his emotions, feelings, desires became perverted—but he also realized his body lost the covering of glory, which has to do with the death of his body. Due to Adam's sin, all of Adam's offspring are born in Adam's image—born with a corrupted soul, a soul which is perverted, knowing evil, and a body born utterly naked, apart from glory. As we will see in this series, the application of Philippians 2:12 has to do with the salvation of the soul. **Philippians 2:12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling...** (We'll take a closer look at this facet in Lesson Three of this series.)

Man's Body

Man's body is the physical entity that houses his spirit and soul. As mentioned previously, it was his body that had been covered in glory, like God, while he awaited the reception of royal garments. In Adam's sin, the covering of glory was lost, as well as the right to be clothed in splendor and majesty, bringing the man and woman to an *utterly naked* condition. As we will see in Lesson Four in this series, the redemption of the body has to do with regaining the covering of glory, attaining the clothing of splendor and majesty, coming into the image and likeness of God and therein stepping into man's created purpose. But due to Adam's sin, all of Adam's offspring are born in *his* image, after his kind with a dead spirit and corrupted soul, both of which are housed in a body devoid of the covering of glory, a body susceptible to sickness, decay and eventually returning to dust.

In this series, we will come to understand that Adam's immediate death brought about through his sin affects each of us in all three parts of our being: our spirit, our soul and our body. We will come to understand that salvation as depicted in Scripture, not only reveals our *being delivered out of something*, but also our *being delivered into something else*, with respect to each of our three parts. We will not only come to understand how each facet of salvation affects each part of our being, but also how salvation is attained for each part. We will come to understand that salvation, as presented in Scripture, is presented thusly:

- Our *spiritual birth* is a free gift based upon faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ, and once gained, cannot be lost. This salvation *delivers us out of eternal spiritual separation* from God and *delivers us into eternal spiritual union* with God. The ramifications of this facet of salvation are realized at the moment of faith (apart from the works of our own hands), and have eternal verities. (We look in detail at the spiritual birth in Lesson Two of this series.)
- The *salvation of the soul* is based upon our own works (i.e., obedience) which must emanate out of faith, and *delivers us out of being separated from Christ and His glory*, and *delivers us into union with Christ in His glory* when He comes into His kingdom that period of time depicted in Scripture as the Coming Age. The ramifications of the *salvation of the soul* are realized at the Judgment Seat of Christ (JSOC), and are based upon how the individual lived his life as a Christian. This facet of salvation has millennial² verities, not eternal. (We look in detail at the salvation of the soul in Lesson Three of this series.)
- The *redemption of the body* also takes place at the JSOC, allowing the physical body (which will then house a redeemed spirit and saved soul), to be covered in glory and eventually clothed in splendor and majesty something to be shared with Christ in His glory during the Coming Age. As we will see, the redemption of the body has to do with individuals who have been created in Christ's (Eph. 2:10 individuals who have experienced spiritual birth) and have realized the salvation of their soul, then being adopted as a firstborn son. (We look in detail at the redemption of the body in Lesson Four of this series.)

² *Millennial* refers to the Coming Age, when Christ is rule over the earth for 1,000 years prior to the future eternal ages begin.

As we proceed through these lessons on the overall scope of salvation, please pray for your own understanding of these things as you read through and/or listen to the next three parts in this series. Ask God to bring you into a more complete understanding of the way in which He presents salvation in His Word, not taking my word for it (may that never be!) but rather believing what God has said in His Word! We'll close this lesson with the words of Paul: **II Corinthians 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. 17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal [Lit., age-lasting] weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.** May the Lord richly bless us in this study as we look at the things which are not yet seen, and in seeing these things, give us clearer understanding of the full scope of our salvation.

