

Sunday November 27th, 2005

Seven Days – Part 2 of 2

1). Ge 2:1 ¶ *Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. 2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made. 4 ¶ This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,*

a). We saw last week in the six days of work in Genesis 1 the foundational framework of the complete picture of salvation.

b). From Spirit salvation on Day 1, when light shone forth out of the darkness to soul salvation Days 2- 6 where the man and the woman were to have dominion.

c). All of which led into the 7 Day. The Day of Rest. The Sabbath. The Millennial Kingdom. The focus of God's revelation to man.

d). And it is of course the foundational picture of the faithful Christian experience. The experience of the ones who will receive the salvation of their soul. Who will be adopted as first-born sons. Becoming the Bride of Christ.

2). What we noted last week was that after the first day, picturing the salvation of the spirit, there was a continual work of the spirit accompanied by a resultant action within creation that led to a complete restoration. This would be those things we noted in days 2 thru 6. e.g. Ge 1:6 ¶ *Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters."*

a). If this is seen in the type it will also be true for the faithful Christian in the antitype.

3). So what do we see then? - Each of the six days begins with the phrase seen here in

Ge 1:6 ¶ *Then God said,*

4). It is the word that God speaks at the beginning of each day that brings about the resultant action on that day. It is the wisdom from above, that which is brought forth out of God by the Spirit of God that causes a

transformation to take place - Ps 104:24 *O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all.*

5). Additional information is added to the foundation of God speaking in Genesis 2 in relation to the man, Adam. Who is also His creation, made from the substance of His restorative work.

a). Ge 2:7 *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.*

b). The man is formed of the dust of the ground, but is completely inanimate and lifeless until God ‘breathed into his nostrils the breath of life’.

c). God’s breath = Hebrew nashamah = breath/Spirit.

d). It is the Spirit alone that produces life in that which is dead.

e). Every time God spoke for six days, His words comprised His breath. His breath, His Spirit, produced life in that which was dead. Resulting in transformation and restoration.

6). This is exactly what we read at the beginning of John’s Gospel – Joh 1:1 ¶ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 ¶ And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.*

a). And this should not be a surprise for us.

b). God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, did not work independently of each other in Genesis 1. The word for God in Genesis 2:7 is Elohim.

c). Nor do they work independently of each other in that which Genesis 1 pictures – the salvation of our spirit and the salvation of our soul.

7). The continuing work of the Spirit, resultant from God’s breath, His word, subsequent to the initial redemption, that seen in days 2-5, is further enhanced for us in the two following types. Firstly -

a). Subsequent to the man receiving God’s breath we find – Ge 1:29 ¶ *And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.*

(Say something about God’s commentary on what has gone before)

b). God had provided food for the man. All that he would need to sustain him. And how did that food come into existence? ‘God said’

c). Ge 2:15 *Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. 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."*

d). The Man was given work to do, which God had provided beforehand, and this work was inextricably linked to obedience, ‘God commanded the man’

e). The food, the work and the command are all God breathed and are provided for the man after life had been breathed into him.

f). And all lead to a specific conclusion – to be found worthy to rule in the 7th Day.

g). The man’s part in this was to eat what God had provided and to be faithfully obedient to what God had said as he looked to the coming day of rest.

8). Secondly –

a). Subsequent to Israel’s redemption from Egypt, where God separated the light from the dark, and breathed life into that which was dead, we see that He provided food for them to eat which was every thing necessary to sustain them.

Ex 16:4 *Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you.*

And this had come from above, because ‘God had said’ – a work of His breath, a continuing work of His Spirit.

c). He provided work for them to do, which was encompassed in the journey from the land of their birth to the land of their calling. And this work was inextricably linked with obedience - Ex 19:5 *'Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.*

d). The work, the food and the command are all God breathed. They are all for Israel after redemption and are a continuing work of the Spirit.

e). Ne 9:20 *You also gave Your good Spirit to instruct them, And did not withhold Your manna from their mouth, And gave them water for their thirst.*

f). And all were to lead to a specific conclusion – entrance into the land, the receiving of inheritance, the setting up of the Theocratic Kingdom.

g). Israel’s part was to eat that which God had provided and to be faithfully obedient to what God had said as they looked to their inheritance in the land of promise.

9). That pictured for us in our two types here, which give further detail to the foundation in days 2-5 given in Genesis 1 must also be true in the antitype of the experience of the faithful Christian.

a). Tit 2:11 ¶ *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*

b). Our food is not the green herb or the fruit tree, or the manna, but that to which these point - Joh 6:35 *And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger,*

c). The One who is the word made flesh who admonished us Joh 6:53 *Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.*

d). His flesh Joh 6:55 *"... is food indeed, and provides everything we need to sustain us in our spiritual journey to maturity.*

10). Now in respect of this let's consider what God said in Jonah - Jon 2:9b *Salvation is of the LORD."*

a). We are no more able to bring about the salvation of our soul by our own actions than we were the salvation of our Spirit. The salvation of our soul is life in the coming age and it is only through the spirit that life in the age to come will be realized - Joh 6:63 *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. Again the connection of the spirit, the breath and the word.*

11). The continuing work of the Spirit in the life of the faithful Christian, as we would expect comes from the breath of God, the word of God, the bread of life

a). 2Ti 3:16 *Every Scripture, seeing that it is God-breathed, is also profitable for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may himself be complete, and completely equipped for every good work.*

b). That which is God breathed, the bread of life, every scripture, will work in us a transformation that will bring us to completion, to maturity, being fully prepared for the 7th Day to which we are to continually look.

c). 2Co 4:16 *Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.*

d). We clearly see here the continual daily work of renewal of our inward man, something only brought about by the Spirit through the word – eating His flesh.

e). Col 3:9 *Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,*

f). The renewal of our inward man takes place as a result of knowledge, ‘mature’ knowledge. A revelation that comes only from above.

Eph 3:4 *by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:*

Joh 3:3 *Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

g). We also see in our Colossians scripture a division being realized between the old man and his deeds and the new man. The very division we saw pictured in Day 2 of the Genesis account.

h). We witness this again in Ephesians 4 - Eph 4:21 *if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus (The bread of life) 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*

i). Again this is exactly what we see in Romans

Ro 12:2 *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

12). The transformation that takes place through the renewing of our mind is a continuing work of the Spirit in relation to the revelation of mature knowledge. As we see in our scriptures above. And in Hebrews 6, where in speaking of going on to maturity it says, Heb 6:3 *And this we will do if God permits.*

a). Transform = metamorphoo = metamorphosis = a total transformation that takes place apart from the ability of the individual. Cf. the caterpillar and the butterfly.

b). As God brings about this transformation there is a concurrent action to be taken by us described here in Romans as not being conformed to this world/age. The word conformed would have to do with patterning our life after this age. There is a division taking place between this age and the age to come on which we must act.

c). Our action would be an act of righteousness, a good work based on faithful obedience to that which God has said.

d). Not being conformed to this world would be the same as putting off the old man with his deeds, who grows corrupt according to deceitful lusts.

e). Our old man is inextricably connected to our first birth and therefore under the sway of this age and the god of this age. And because of this he must be put to death.

f). This is exactly what Jesus was alluding to in Luke –
Lu 9:23 Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. 24 "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.

Ga 5:24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

1Co 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

13). The most significant division that we see in scripture, presented in various ways, is that between the things of this world and the hope to be realized in the next. And is expressed for us most poignantly in walking in the flesh or walking in the Spirit.

a). *Php 3:18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame--who set their mind on earthly things.*

b). It is Christ's work on the cross that has set us free from the slavery of sin and it is the cross on which we must constantly see our old man as dead.

c). To see this, believe this, and then choose to live accordingly is an act of faith it is a good work.

d). *Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

e). Even the works we are to do are not of our own invention, but have been prepared before hand, from above, for us to walk in them.

f). We will remember Ruth in Boaz's field who was instructed to pick up that which had been deliberately left for her. And again the association of her work with barley and wheat harvest, that having to do with death and resurrection brings us back to crucifying the flesh and newness of life in the Spirit.

14). In the life of the faithful Christian there will be a constant tension between the cross and resurrection. One is the place of death, the other is life by the Spirit - Ro 6:4 *Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.* 5 *For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,*

a). This would be a present likeness as we choose to walk by the Spirit. And a consummated future likeness as we are glorified with Him.

b). 1Jo 3:2 *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.* 3 *And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

c). All is a continuing work of the Spirit. A work that is only possible after death - 1Pe 1:3 ¶ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

d). The Lord Jesus Christ is the living hope. Through His resurrection is the guarantee of the redemption of the inheritance at the revelation of His glory and the guarantee of the power of God in us to live a crucified life now dead to self, but alive to the Spirit, so as to share in His glory then.

e). This is why we see in scripture - Php 1:6 *being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;*

Php 2:13 *for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*

Ga 5:5 *For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.*

1Pe 1:22 *Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently*

with a pure heart, 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

15). Let us please remember that we are dealing with the experience of the faithful Christian, and what does our scripture say? – this one will have been brought forth out of God, ‘born again’, through the word of God and this will be a continuous experience.

a). And we come full circle. It is the word of God, that which is God breathed that is the means of the continual work of the Spirit.

b). 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,*

c). This is why we must be continually filled with the Spirit, which is the word, which is God’s breath - Eph 5:18 *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,*

d). Which is synonymous with - Col 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom,* - Which is ‘mature’ knowledge.

e). Jas 1:21 *Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*

f). This is why we should separate ourselves from all filthiness and overflow of wickedness. Why we should receive with meekness the implanted word. For it is only the continual work of the Spirit, from above, through the word that can save our souls. And that word must be accompanied by a resultant action - *be doers of the word, and not hearers only* , just as we saw in Genesis 1, if our restoration and transformation are to be brought to their goal at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

g). Php 3:20 *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*

h). Our part is to eat that which God had provided thereby letting the Spirit continually breath life into us, transforming us, and to be faithfully obedient to what God had said as we look to our inheritance in the land of our calling..

i). The challenge remains, how much of the word of Christ are we allowing to dwell in us? And how often do we allow the Spirit of God to breath life into us. Do we inhale deeply, or are we already blue in the face?