

Sunday September 9th 2007
The Full Scope of Salvation – Part Four
The Salvation of the Soul

1). Let's begin today by reviewing some of the things we have already learned concerning salvation.

a). We have seen the context into which salvation fits – a context that reveals God's plans and purposes for His Son for the ages, specifically focused on the rule of this earth during the age to come, and God's plans and purposes for Man in conjunction with His Son during this same time frame.

b). We have seen that God created Man for the specific purpose of ruling over this earth in the stead of Satan, and that man was created a three part being in the image and likeness of God.

c). We saw that Man was not automatically placed in the position of rulership but was created 'a little lower than the angels'.

d). When Man sinned he became separated from the purpose for which God had created him – he was disqualified to rule.

e). Sin affected all three parts of Man's being – his spirit died, his soul became corrupted, his body began to decay.

f). For Man to ever be able to fulfill his created purpose God would need to act to deal with the issue of sin by providing redemption for fallen Man.

g). Salvation must address all three parts of Man, and is spoken of in scripture as being past, present and future

h). That God had promised and provided a means of salvation, that was completed in time past.

i). Anyone having faith in God's provision for the salvation completed in time past would be born again – that which was dead, the spirit, would be saved and would receive the free gift of eternal life.

2). Now all of this still leaves us with some questions that need to be answered –

a). If our spirit alone is eternally saved as a result of Christ's finished work in time past, then what about our soul and our body? And how do these relate to the present and future salvation spoken of in scripture?

b). And what does it mean for our spirit to be eternally saved?

3). So let's begin by putting down a foundation about time and eternity on which we can then build the answers to our questions.

4). Time as we understand it has a specific beginning and a specific ending and God has chosen to work between these two points to bring Mankind to the fulfillment of God's purpose for creating Man in the first place – to rule.

5). We saw at the beginning of Genesis that God worked for six days to restore His ruined creation - Ge 1:2 *The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep.*

a). 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.*

b). Man, because of sin, also became a ruined creation and as God had already established a pattern to restore a ruined creation – six days of work, followed by a seventh day of rest – He would have to do the same when dealing with Man.

i/ Man is made from the dust of the restored earth and the pattern God set for restoration cannot be improved upon.

ii/ If there were a better way to restore that which was ruined He would have used that in the first place.

c). And using His perfect pattern of six days of work followed by a seventh day of rest to restore Man is exactly what we find in scripture - 2Pe 3:8 ¶ *But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

d). In dealing with the restoration of Man, instead of six twenty four hour days, as we found in Genesis, God is working through six days, each of which is 1000 years in length. With a seventh day, also 1000 years in length to follow.

6). (Visual Timeline using people)(Keep in place until the end of 7)

a). Stress time / Eternity past and future / the 7th Day

b). Make clear where being eternally saved begins.

c). Point out the rapture in relation to the Kingdom

d). The Great White Throne Judgment

e). (Visualize the Church at the JSOC) -Re 2:26 *"And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over*

the nations-- 27 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels' –

e). Re 3:21 *"To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.*

7). Now the overcomers' promises in Revelation are made to those who are redeemed, who have overcome and have to do with rulership.

a). Our eternal redemption then is for a purpose – to restore man to a place where he would be able to have dominion, just as God had stated in the beginning.

b). But note something here – the promises have to do with ruling during the time of the Kingdom – and are for Christians who overcome, which means that any Christian who does not overcome will not rule during the time of the Kingdom – the thousand years comprising the seventh day - none of this has anything to do with our eternal salvation.

(Dismiss the Timeline)

8). In order to understand this more easily let's look at the example God gave to us of the Children of Israel.

a). And God gave them to us as an example for a specific reason

b). 1Co 10:11 *Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.*

c). God uses the Children of Israel as an example to teach us great spiritual truth.

d). Remember Israel was redeemed for a purpose – so that God would lead them to the land of promise – the land God had given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – in which they would receive their inheritance - Ex 6:8 *'And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am the LORD.'*

9). We will remember that on the night of the Exodus from Egypt God brought about Israel's redemption through the death of the firstborn, accepting the substitutionary death of the Passover lambs in the place of Israel's firstborn.

a). Immediately they had been redeemed, but not until they had been redeemed, God then gave them this instruction - Ex 12:15 *'Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.*

b). Leaven in scripture always represents sin and corruption

i/ Lu 12:1 ¶ *In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, so that they trampled one another, He began to say to His disciples first of all, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.*

ii/ 1Co 5:6 *Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7 ¶ Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump,*

c). In other words then God is telling Israel that now they are redeemed they are to get rid of the sin in their lives – and that this is a process that is continuous – it is for a period of 7 days, a complete period of time, and is to continue from the first day to the seventh day.

d). And the warning was that if they didn't do that they would be cut off from Israel – they would be killed.

e). Please note that they would not be cut off from God, as they were eternally saved, but cut off from the purpose of their redemption - entering the land and receiving their inheritance.

f). God of course is the only One who is able to deal with sin and so the sin of the redeemed people of Israel, the sin committed from the point of their redemption onwards, was dealt with by God, through the intercession of the High Priest on the Day of Atonement - Le 16:29 ¶ *"This shall be a statute forever for you: In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether a native of your own country or a stranger who dwells among you. 30 "For on that day the priest shall make atonement for you, to cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins before the LORD. 31 "It is a sabbath of solemn rest for you, and you shall afflict your souls. It is a statute forever. 32 "And the priest, who is anointed and consecrated to minister as priest in his father's place, shall make atonement, and put on the linen clothes, the holy garments; 33 "then he shall make atonement for the Holy Sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tabernacle of meeting and for the altar, and he shall make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly. 34 "This shall be an everlasting statute for you, to make atonement for the children of Israel, for all their sins, once a year." And he did as the LORD commanded Moses.*

g). Exactly the same thing is said to us concerning sin in our lives from the time of our new birth onwards – Ro 8:13 *For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

i/ Eph 4:22 *that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,*

ii/ Ro 7:24 *O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?*

g). And God in His mercy has provided a way for the sin in the life of an eternally saved Christian to be dealt with. Following the exact pattern He set for Israel –

h). Heb 4:15 *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

i). 1Jo 1:8 ¶ *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

10). Once Israel was eternally saved, and not until they were eternally saved, God then expected them to be faithfully obedient to His word, and their receiving their inheritance in the land of promise was conditional on their choice to be obedient – Ex 19:4 *'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. 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.6 'And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'*

a). Note that it is God alone who does the work of redemption - v4

b). And then there is the condition – v5

11). To be brief Israel as a nation was not faithfully obedient and as a result the whole generation who came out of Egypt, 20 years old and above, died in the wilderness – all except Caleb and Joshua.

a). Jos 14:14 *Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he wholly followed the LORD God of Israel.*

b). Why did Hebron become Caleb's inheritance? – Because he wholly followed the Lord God of Israel. He was faithfully obedient.

c). Those who died in the wilderness never went back into slavery, they could never go back through the Red Sea, they were never unredeemed – rather they never received the inheritance that God had for them.

12). Now we have been promised a heavenly land – the heavenly part of God's kingdom – the kingdom of the heavens. That which was taken from Israel at Christ's first coming.

a). Mt 21:43 *"Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.*

b). In the Book of Hebrews Christians are described as –
Heb 3:1... *holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling,*

c). And we are also to receive an inheritance - Col 3:24 *knowing that from the Lord you will **receive the reward of the inheritance**; for you serve the Lord Christ.*

i/ Notice the inheritance is a reward not a free gift – it is something you have to earn.

ii/ Reward = Greek word – *antapodosis* = payment of wages due.

d). Note where this inheritance is - 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.*

i/ Notice we have been born again to receive this inheritance – we have been redeemed for a purpose. The inheritance is not eternal salvation as our scripture clearly shows that the inheritance is something that comes only after we are born again.

ii/ Our inheritance is reserved in heaven – it is not heaven

iii/ And the connection it has with ‘salvation ready to be revealed in the last time’.

e). A salvation which is also part of our inheritance –
Heb 1:14 *Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will **inherit salvation**?*

f). Now what salvation are we talking about? We have just seen that our inheritance is a reward, not a free gift. And a reward is something earned – wages paid for the job we have done.

g). And we know that we have received the free gift of eternal life through the salvation of our spirit, so our scripture cannot be referring to the free gift.

13). And because this salvation is inherited and therefore part of our reward, it must be earned through faithful obedience to the word of God after we have been born again - Php 2:12 ¶ *Therefore, my beloved, 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;*

14). I am sure you have already guessed, but it is spelled out for us in the continuation of our 1 Peter scripture (Go back and read v1-5) - 1Pe 1:6 ¶ *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith--**the salvation of your souls.** 10 ¶ Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, 11 searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 12 To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things which angels desire to look into. 13 ¶ Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 **as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."***

a). If we are not obedient to the word of God as children and if we choose to conform ourselves to our former lusts – the things we did before we knew what the word of God said about them – then we will lose our inheritance. Not our eternal salvation. We will not have access to the heavenly part of the Kingdom, nor will we receive the salvation of our souls.

b). Ga 5:19 *Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not **inherit the kingdom of God.** [Repeat and substitute ‘be saved’]*

i/ Do not be deceived, this scripture is written to Christians, not to the lost.

c). We need to follow the instructions of - 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.*

d). It is the perfect will of God that we should fulfill the purpose for our creation and the purpose for our eternal salvation – that we should rule with Christ during the Millennial Kingdom – this is only possible by renewing our mind, and this can only happen through the word of God. This is why the word of God is so important to us.

e). Then it is faithful obedience to this same word of God that will result in the salvation of our souls - *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.*

15). The salvation of our soul or the loss of our soul will be decided at the Judgment Seat of Christ and is based on our faithful obedience, or lack of faithful obedience. This is shown to us clearly in scripture

a). *2Co 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

b). An account of our appearance at the Judgment Seat is given in - *1Co 3:11 ¶ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he **will receive a reward**. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he **will suffer loss**; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*

(Teach this)

c). And here we have it – our foundation is Jesus Christ, in other words salvation by faith through grace – the free gift of eternal life, relating to our spirit. This is completely, utterly and totally apart from works on our part. And was completed in time past.

d). Having received the free gift we are then to build on it through works - *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). These will be works of faithful obedience to the word of God and will emanate from the spirit and not the flesh. These works will be tested by fire at the Judgment seat and will result in our receiving a reward – the reward of the inheritance, the salvation of our soul.

f). The salvation of our soul is determined absolutely by works on our part and constitute a present process of salvation leading to a future realization.

g). Exactly what we find in the Book of James – the free gift first
Jas 1:17 *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.* 18 *Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.*

h). And then the salvation of the soul - Jas 2:20 *But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.* 24 *You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.*

i). And from the pen of Paul we see the salvation of the soul and the free gift - 1Co 15:1 ¶ *Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you--unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,*

i). The salvation of the soul is the salvation spoken of in Hebrews - Heb 2:2 *For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,*

j). Remembering that Hebrews is a book that deals exclusively with matters surrounding the 7th Day - Heb 2:5 ¶ *For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels.*

16). More next week if the Lord is willing.