



Restoring my Soul

HE RESTORES MY SOUL, HE LEADS ME IN PATHS

PSA 23:3

AUGUST 2023

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A FIVE DAY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

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A personal letter from Cleopas

To my dear brethren in Christ,

I want to testify of the kindness of the Lord, who delivered my friend and me from the darkness of our own understanding and from the useless gospels that we had formerly believed concerning the Christ. **Tit 3:4-5**. Wonderfully, Jesus Christ, the risen, glorified Son of Man, made Himself known to us, causing us to see our calling as sons of God and sons of men. We were established on the pathway of salvation that He had pioneered for us through His offering and sufferings on the cross, and we began to enter and possess the kingdom of God!

I'll begin my account from when we first encountered Jesus, not long after He commenced His ministry in the region of Judea. Hearing Him preach with such authority, and seeing the many amazing miracles that He performed, we were convinced that He was the Messiah, the Deliverer of Israel, promised by Moses and the holy prophets. **Luk 4:36-37. Deu 18:15**. The members of the Jewish council were sceptical of Jesus, questioning the place of His birth, His parentage, and His education. **Luk 20:19-20**. However, they, too, could not deny the power that He demonstrated or the authority with which He taught.

During His ministry, Jesus sent the twelve disciples to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, directing them to preach that 'the kingdom of heaven is at hand', and to find 'worthy houses'. **Mat 10:6-7,11-13**. After they returned, we all observed a notable change in the content of Jesus' teaching. He began to say to us that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and the chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised on the third day. **Mat 16:21. Luk 9:21-22**. Peter rebuked Him for these words. This interaction was memorable, for Jesus said to him, 'Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offence to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.' **Mat 16:23**.

Further Study MATTHEW 10

The letter continued – The words of Jesus

The next day, a man implored Jesus to cast a demon out of his son. The demon spirit would seize the boy, causing him to cry out, convulse, foam at the mouth and injure himself. Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healing the child and giving him back to his father. We were all amazed at the majesty of God. However, instead of reflecting on this miracle, Jesus said to us, *'Let these words sink down into your ears, for the Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men.'* **Luk 9:44**. Evidently, His words did not sink down into our ears, because we did not understand this saying, or why He had made this statement following such an astonishing exorcism. The meaning of Jesus' words remained hidden from our understanding, and we, with His disciples, were afraid to ask Him about them. **Luk 9:45**.

After these things, the Lord appointed seventy-two disciples and sent them, two by two, before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. **Luk 10:1**. My friend and I were set apart by Jesus for this work. He directed us, saying, 'But whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house." And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on it; if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the labourer is worthy of his wages. Do not go from house to house.' **Luk 10:5-7**. We found a house of peace in a town called Emmaus, not far from Jerusalem.

Following this season of ministry, we returned to Jesus with great joy, for its fruit had exceeded our expectations. Even the demons had been subject to us in His name! **Luk 10:17**. However, as Jesus recommissioned us, He asserted that the reason for our rejoicing should not be 'power over spirits', but rather that our names were written in heaven. **Luk 10:18-20**.

Further Study LUKE 10

The letter continued - The death of Jesus

As you know, Jesus was betrayed into the hands of the Jewish council by His friend, Judas. **Mar 14:10**. The Sanhedrin condemned Jesus to death because He confessed to be the Son of God. In response to their demand, 'If you are the Christ, tell us', Jesus said to them, 'If I tell you, you will by no means believe. And if I also ask you, you will by no means answer Me or let Me go. Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God.' **Luk 22:67-69**. They all then said, 'Are You then the Son of God?', to which He replied, 'You rightly say that I am.' **Luk 22:70**.

Jesus endured a brutal death, marked by seven wounding events that culminated in His crucifixion on Mount Calvary. Following His decease, His body was secured by Joseph of Arimathea, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He, with Nicodemus, the teacher of Israel whom Jesus had instructed concerning the new birth, prepared the body for burial according to the custom of the Jews. They placed His body in a new tomb in which no one had previously been laid. **Joh 19:38-42**.

We remained in Jerusalem with the disciples, mourning the passing of Jesus, a Man whom we loved, and upon whom we had set our hopes. After three days had passed, some of the women, including Mary Magdalene, excitedly came among the disciples, claiming to have seen and spoken to Jesus who had risen from the dead! Peter and John rushed to the tomb to see for themselves and believed the report. However, the rest of the disciples were incredulous at the account of Christ's resurrection. **Mar 16:9-11**. To the disciples, the words of the women seemed to be emotionally driven nonsense, which they were unable to comprehend as they grieved and remained despondent. **Luk 24:11**.

Further Study JOHN 19

The letter continued - Meeting the Man

My friend and I determined to go back to the 'house of peace' we had found when Jesus had first sent us out before His face. We felt that it was necessary to let this household know what had happened to our Lord in Jerusalem. As we made our way to Emmaus, we reflected together on the things that had transpired. We were so engrossed in our conversation that we did not notice that a man had drawn alongside us. At the time, we did not recognise that it was Jesus. We could not see who this Man really was. **Luk 24:15-16.**

The Man asked us why we were so downcast. **Luk 24:17.** It seemed remarkable that He was unaware of what had occurred in Jerusalem. We thought that He must have been the only one who did not know! We explained to the Man that Jesus of Nazareth was a Prophet, mighty in deed and word before God and all the people. The chief priests and Jewish rulers delivered Him to the Romans to be condemned to death and to be crucified. From our reading of the Scriptures, our hearing of His teaching, and our observations of His miracles, we thought that Jesus was the Christ. However, when He died, our expectations had been confounded and we had become somewhat disillusioned.

The Man said to us, 'O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?' **Luk 24:25-26.** We now recognise that Jesus was addressing the darkness that lay over the eyes of our hearts so that we had been unable to receive His teaching on His death and resurrection. **Col 1:13.** This was the same veil that prevented us from recognising Christ, the spiritual new Man. Having confronted our foolishness and unbelief, He then began to proclaim to us the gospel of God, beginning from the book of Genesis. **Luk 24:27.**

Further Study LUKE 24

The letter continued - The gospel of God

Although we still did not recognise Him, the Man began to explain the work of the Messiah. Beginning in the book of Genesis, He drew our attention to the covenant initiative of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to make man in Their image and according to Their likeness. **Gen 1:26**. To our astonishment, He explained that Adam's creation was *not* in the image and likeness of God. Rather, Adam was the 'first man' and a 'type' of Him who was to come – the Christ. **1Co 15:45**. Adam was predestined to become a man in the image and likeness of God.

We heard how Adam fell from this predestination when he disobeyed God and ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in an endeavour to become the source of his own life and destiny. Significantly, his corruptible body, which was nourished with energy and nutrients by breaking down, or corrupting, food in his stomach, *became mortal*. God had said that this would happen. **Gen 2:16-17**. In the day that Adam ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he died, and death spread to all men. **Rom 5:12**. Now, every person's body was corruptible *and* mortal. Prior to the Fall, Adam and Eve's bodies were only corruptible.

Adam and Eve were personally redeemed and recovered to relationship with Yahweh. However, Jesus explained that mankind was recovered to their predestination as sons of God and sons of men when He called Abraham to leave his country, his family and his father's house to enter a land that He would show him. **1Co 15:22**. **Gen 12:1**. Through the Lord's initiative toward him, Abraham replaced Adam as the *beginning of a new humanity*. **Gal 3:29**.

Further Study 1 CORINTHIANS 15

The letter continued – From dust to stars

Abraham's children were first given to him as the 'dust of the earth'. The Lord said to him, 'I will make your descendants as the *dust of the earth*; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered.' **Gen 13:16**. The 'dust of the earth' refers to the sons of men who have been lost in Adam. **Gen 3:19**. It was initially confronting to realise that my friend and I were not sons of Abraham simply because we were born as Jews in his natural lineage. The Man who spoke to us made it very clear that those who are of faith are sons of Abraham! **Gal 3:7**.

We learnt that Christ, the Seed of God, gave Himself to Abraham to become Abraham's Seed when He said, 'Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield [of faith], your exceedingly great reward.' **Gen 15:1**. He then opened heaven to Abram, saying, 'Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them. ... So shall your descendants be.' **Gen 15:5**. Abram understood that the Son of God would come in the flesh as his Son. Through the Son's offering, Abram's children, as the dust of the earth, would be made into the image and likeness of God, identified as the stars of heaven!

It is clear that Abraham received Christ, the Seed, into his life when he believed this amazing promise, for the Man drew our attention to the Scripture, 'He believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.' **Gen 15:6**. This was Abraham's righteousness and it qualified him to become the father of a new humanity. This was a significant step in Abraham's pilgrimage of faith, which culminated in the offering up of Isaac on Mount Moriah.

Further Study GENESIS 15

The letter continued – The Lamb of God

The Man who walked with us reminded us that on Moriah the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven, staying his hand from slaying Isaac. **Gen 22:11-12.** Abraham released Isaac from the altar and stood him to one side. He was then instantly illuminated to see a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. **Gen 22:13.** This ram was, in reality, the Christ. At this point, the Word, who had given Himself to become the Son of Abraham, was manifest as the Lamb of God. **Joh 1:29.** He was giving Himself to be the offering of His heavenly Father and of His father, Abraham. Abraham took the ram and offered it up instead of his son, Isaac. Symbolically, in this action, Abraham and the Son offered all the sons of men back to God. Through Christ's death and resurrection, they would be born as sons of God and then become sons of men in the image and likeness of God.

In retrospect, my friend and I have mused on the irony of journeying *away* from Jerusalem while we learnt about Abraham's pilgrimage to Mount Moriah, which was later called Mount Calvary. This is where the Covenant that God made with Abraham and his children was confirmed with an oath! **Heb 6:16-18.** In our delusion, we were walking away from the very context in which the promises of God, contained in the Scriptures, had been fulfilled!

The Man who travelled with us explained from the Psalms and from the other prophetic Scriptures that the ram slain on Mount Moriah foreshadowed the offering of the Son of God who would come in the flesh of Abraham. For example, He drew our attention to the words of Isaiah who prophesied, 'He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.' **Isa 53:5-7.** We now know that when Jesus rose from the death of this offering, He was manifest as the first 'star' of Abraham's children!

Further Study GENESIS 22

The letter continued - The *agape* meal

Our hearts *burned* within us as we listened to all that this Man had to say to us on our journey to Emmaus. **Luk 24:32**. When we arrived at our destination, the Man indicated that He intended to go on further. However, we implored Him to abide with us. **Luk 24:28-29**. We did not want Him, nor His message, to pass us by. We wanted to continue to hear what He had to say, and to understand its implications for us. Thankfully, the Man was happy to stay and have a meal with us.

Then, an amazing thing happened. As the Man sat with us at the table, He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to us. Immediately, our eyes were opened and we knew that it was Jesus. **Luk 24:30-31,35**. We finally recognised the Son of Man who had been glorified through the offering journey that He had explained to us on the road to Emmaus. He had an incorruptible, immortal, spiritual body; He was the first Man to be made in the image and likeness of God. As we knew Him, we saw our calling as sons of God and sons of men who would be made into the same image and likeness through His fatherhood towards us. As soon as we had been illuminated to this great hope, Jesus Christ vanished from our sight!

That very hour, we rose up and returned to Jerusalem. We were not remotely concerned that it was now nighttime. We found the eleven and the others who were gathered together with them. We confessed our foolishness and the darkness of our former gospels, and gave thanks for the illumination that Christ Himself had ministered to us as we had fellowship with Him over a meal. Those who were gathered there testified to us, saying, 'The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!', causing us to rejoice with them. **Luk 24:32-34**.

Further Study 1 CORINTHIANS 11

The letter concluded – Our new journey

As we shared together with the eleven, and those who were gathered with them in Jerusalem, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of us all, saying, 'Peace to you'. Those who had not yet seen Jesus were terrified, supposing that they had seen a ghost! However, He said to them, 'Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.' **Luk 24:38-39**. He then breathed on us and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit!', and we were born again. **Joh 20:22**. This was the beginning point of our journey with Him, in the fellowship of His offering and sufferings, through which we would be made men in the image and likeness of God through His Everlasting Fatherhood.

I have written this letter for the purpose of highlighting the inadequacy of our own understanding of the gospel. Without mercy and illumination by the Spirit, we are indeed foolish and slow of heart to believe the gospel of God contained in the Scriptures. **Luk 24:25**. However, as we receive and abide in the word of the Lord as it is proclaimed to us by His messengers, we can turn from our darkness and walk in the light of His word. **Joh 8:31-32**. As sons of God who are established on this pathway, we are revealing Christ as members of His body. Through His fatherhood, in the fellowship of His offering and sufferings, we are being progressively glorified and being made into the image and likeness of God.

Further Study GALATIANS 1

The purpose of Paul's ministry

The apostle Paul said that he had been separated to proclaim *the gospel of God*. The gospel of God reveals how Jesus Christ was begotten of the Father before the heavens and earth were created; how He came in the flesh; His offering journey from the last Passover to Calvary; and His resurrection from the dead. **Rom 1:1-4**. In summary, the gospel of God details the process by which the Son was established as the first Man who was made in the image and likeness of God.

We were predestined by God to be made into this image and likeness. **Gen 1:26**. As Paul explained, 'For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be *conformed to the image of His Son*, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren [who are just like Him]. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.' **Rom 8:29-30**.

The process of our calling, our justification, and our glorification as sons of God and sons of men is *the mystery of God*. It describes how we are made like Christ. Paul suffered great persecution for the purpose of making this mystery known to his hearers. He wanted them to attain 'to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ'. **Col 2:1-3**.

In this statement, Paul nominated two dimensions of the mystery – of the Father, and of the Son. These two dimensions of the mystery correspond with two births, which Jesus outlined in His discussion with Nicodemus, the teacher of Israel. Jesus explained to Nicodemus that a person needed to be born from above, of the Father, to see the kingdom. **Joh 3:3**. He then said that a son of God needed to be born of water and the Spirit, by the Son, to enter the kingdom. **Joh 3:5**.

Further Study ACTS 22

The word from before the beginning

If we want to understand the gospel of God, the best place to start is at the beginning! This is where the apostle John started. He wrote, 'That which was from [before] *the beginning*, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life ... we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is *with the Father* and *with His Son Jesus Christ*.' **1Jn 1:1,3.**

To join the fellowship through which we are established in the mystery of God – which is of the Father and of Christ – we must receive the word that is from before the beginning. Helpfully, John identified this message, writing '*This is the message* which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that *God is light and in Him is no darkness at all*.' **1Jn 1:5.** 'God is light' means that God is a fellowship. **1Jn 1:7.**

Who God is, and how He lives as a fellowship, is revealed in His name. This was made known to Moses in the burning bush, which was a *fiery light*. After Moses was commissioned to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt and into the promised land, he asked to know the name of the Lord. In response, God said to him, 'I AM WHO I AM. ... The LORD [Yahweh] God [*Elohim*] of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob ... *This is My name forever*, and this is My memorial to all generations.' **Exo 3:14-15.**

The name 'I AM' reveals that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are before, and outside of, space and time. They do not live somewhere, for there is nothing outside of God. Furthermore, They do not have a beginning, nor an age of years, for there is no time within Their fellowship. They just are! And They are completely satisfied in Their fellowship with one another.

Further Study 1 JOHN 1

The fellowship of Yahweh-*Elohim*

The name of 'Yahweh' reveals that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are completely *one Spirit*. Moses established this point, declaring to the children of Israel, 'Hear, O Israel: The LORD [Yahweh] our God [*Elohim*], the LORD is one!' **Deu 6:4**. Further emphasising the one-Spirit nature of God, Jesus proclaimed, '*God is Spirit*, and those who worship Him must worship *in [one] spirit and [in] truth*.' **Joh 4:24**.

Jesus' statement enables us to see that the oneness of Yahweh is the fruit of worship in truth by three unique identities – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is expressed in the name *Elohim*. Each Person in *Elohim* is a Spirit, or identity, with a name, who are one Spirit together as Yahweh. In this regard, we could identify Yahweh *Elohim* as 'Yahweh Father', 'Yahweh Son', and 'Yahweh Holy Spirit'.

In Their fellowship *before*, which is outside of time and space, Yahweh Father, Yahweh Son and Yahweh Holy Spirit are Spirits. They do not need bodies in Their fellowship *before* because they do not live in time and space. Importantly, in the fellowship of Yahweh *before*, the Father was not the Father of the Son, nor was the Holy Spirit the Helper of the Father and the Son.

In this fellowship of light, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit determined together, saying, 'Let Us make man in *Our* image, according to *Our* likeness'. **Gen 1:26**. Significantly, this statement encapsulates the dialogue of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit concerning the sonship predestination of every person who would ever live. This discussion concerning the name of every son of God happened before the Father, Son and Holy Spirit initiated the offering through which Their covenant purpose was brought to pass. It established the *foreknowledge of God*.

It is significant that we were predestined to be made in the image and likeness of *Elohim* – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Accordingly, there are three covenant actions towards this goal through which each Person is revealed by the other two. **Col 2:9-10**. **Eph 3:16-19**.

Further Study JOHN 17

My Covenant

The three Covenants through which *Elohim's* purpose for us is achieved are 'My Covenant', which belongs to the Father; 'The Everlasting Covenant', which belongs to the Son; and 'The New Covenant' of the Holy Spirit.

'My Covenant' is the Covenant of the Father. Through the offering of Yahweh, the Father was revealed as the inexhaustible source of the life of God and the 'architect' of the whole of creation.

To bring this to pass, the Holy Spirit emptied Himself to become the Helper of the Father and the Son by empowering and sanctifying Their unique offerings with Eternal Spirit. **Heb 9:13-14**. As the Helper, the Holy Spirit also revealed the Father and the Son by becoming the life of the Father through which Yahweh Son would be begotten as the Son of God. **Act 13:33**.

Then, by Eternal Spirit, Yahweh Son laid down His glory, as the expression of all sonship, into the hands of the Father. He emptied Himself to the bosom of the Father so that He could be begotten from the bosom of the Father as the Son of God. **Php 2:7**.

By Eternal Spirit, the Father laid down His glory as Father and Word to Yahweh Son when He declared, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You.' **Heb 1:5**. Through this declaration, the Son was begotten of the Father, by the Holy Spirit. The Father's glory was then to be proclaimed and known *only* through the Son of God as the Word and Seed of the Father. **Joh 1:18**.

Significantly, when Yahweh the Son was begotten of the Father as the Son of God, *before, the Father's house* was established, and the Son *received a heavenly body*. This was the first mansion in the Father's house. **Joh 14:2**. This birth established the beginning of the Everlasting Covenant.

Further Study EPHESIANS 1

A beginning established

When Yahweh Son was begotten as the Son of God, a beginning was established! This was the beginning of the Everlasting Covenant. From this beginning, the Son further emptied Himself to reveal the Father. He emptied all the way to the death of the cross, where He declared, 'It is finished'. **Joh 19:30**. This marked the end of this particular aspect of Yahweh *Elohim's* initiative to make man in Their image and likeness. Jesus Christ was manifest as the New Creation when He was 'declared [by the Father] to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead'. **Rom 1:4**.

Through the Everlasting Covenant, the Son was revealed as the Beginning and the End of a new creation. Accordingly, He described Himself as 'the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, *the beginning of the creation of God*'. **Rev 3:14**. He further identified Himself as 'the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the End*'. **Rev 1:8,11-13**.

From the beginning, the Son of God revealed the Father, by the Spirit, through the work of creation. **Joh 1:3**. The first creative work of the Son, according to the word of the Father, was the establishment of a void, or space, within Yahweh *Elohim*. Remember, there is no space outside of Yahweh, nor room for any other identities within Him. The void was created within Themselves as the context in which the creation would be brought into existence.

In the void, the Son first created the heavens, including the angels. He then created the earth as the context for the natural creation, into which the sons of men would be born and then brought to glory with Him. Moses summarised this initial creative work, writing, 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.' **Gen 1:1-2**.

Further Study GENESIS 1

Made like us

The creation of the void was not the first day of creation. Moses explained that the first day of creation was when God said, 'Let there be light.' **Gen 1:3-5**. Significantly, on the sixth day of creation, Yahweh *Elohim* formed the body of man from the dust and then breathed into him the breath of lives, and man became a living soul. **Gen 1:26. Gen 2:7**.

Adam was *not* made complete in the image and likeness of God on the day of his creation. **Gen 1:27**. We know this because the apostle Paul explained that Adam was 'a *type* of Him who was to come.' **Rom 5:14**. A 'type' is a figure, or representation, of something else. This means that Adam was not the substance of a man in the image and likeness of God. The One who was to come, of whom Adam was a type, is Jesus Christ, the resurrected and glorified Son of Man.

The Son of God emptied Himself to become flesh as the Son of Abraham and the Son of David when He was born of the virgin Mary. He laid aside His heavenly body, which remained in the house of the Father in heaven, to take on a physical body, and was brought to the womb of Mary as the Seed of the Father, by the Holy Spirit. **Luk 1:35**.

Through this process, He was made like us – having a physical, corruptible body and a human soul and spirit. **Heb 2:17**. His corruptible body does not mean that He had a propensity to sin and could die. It means that the energy to sustain His physical body came from the corruption, or breaking down, of food in His stomach. **1Co 6:13**. His body was like Adam's body before Adam sinned and began to die.

Further Study HEBREWS 2

Emptying as the Lamb of God

From the last Passover, Christ emptied Himself to the death of the cross, *for our sake*. Emphasising this point, Paul said, 'For He [the Father] made Him who knew no sin to be sin *for us, that we might become* the righteousness of God in Him.' **2Co 5:21**. Jesus was made sin in the garden of Gethsemane when the Father made every person, who had been lost to God through Adam's transgression, to be a member of Christ's corporate body. We all were given to the Son for judgement or mercy.

As Christ drank the cup of God's wrath upon the whole world, He began to 'taste', with us, the sufferings of mortality because of our sin. **Luk 22:41-42**. The physical trauma that Jesus endured in any one of His seven wounds would have been sufficient to kill Him. However, He was strengthened with Eternal Spirit, from the Holy Spirit, for this offering. **Heb 9:13-14**. Furthermore, as His blood was being shed in each wound, His mortal body was being preserved and healed. This was the evidence of *anastasis*, or resurrection life, at work in His mortal body. This was the life of God the Father in His blood, bringing Him back from the death associated with mortality. **Heb 13:20-21**.

In each wound that Christ suffered, something of the fallen, old man was destroyed, and something of the new man was established, or created. On His offering journey from the garden of Gethsemane to the cross, Jesus Christ became *the end* of the old creation, while at the same time, He became *the beginning* of the new creation. **Rev 1:8**. We are reminded that the two goats that were offered on the Day of Atonement – the scapegoat and the Lord's goat – signified that there would be two dimensions to the one offering of Christ as the Lamb of God. **Lev 16:7-8**.

Further Study ISAIAH 53

A new motive and new face

In Gethsemane, Christ destroyed all the alternative 'wills', sourced from the other law, which Satan fathered in mankind. The Scriptures identify five key expressions of 'will' associated with Satan's fatherhood. Satan fell when he said in his heart, *I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.* **Isa 14:13-14.** These motives were all fathered in mankind when Adam and Eve ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in an endeavour to *'be like God'*. **Gen 3:5.**

Having been strengthened with Eternal Spirit by an Angel sent from the Holy Spirit, Jesus began to pray, *'Not My will but Yours be done'*, even more earnestly. **Luk 22:43-44. Mat 26:42.** His sweat became like great clots of blood falling down to the ground. **Luk 22:44.**

As Jesus suffered this extraordinary psychological and physical trauma, all the other 'wills' of fallen mankind, which He embodied, were broken, judged and silenced, forever. At the same time, by the power of *anastasis* in His blood, Christ revealed and established obedience to the will of the Father as the fundamental motive of the new Man.

In the court of Caiaphas, Jesus' face was beaten and bruised for our iniquities. **Isa 53:5.** The disfigurement of His face reflected the ugliness of our iniquitous idolatry. As His face was brutally marred more than any man's had been before, the idolatrous projections of fallen mankind were judged and destroyed. **Isa 52:14.**

In this same wounding event, by the power of *anastasis*, Jesus manifested the countenance, or face, of the new Man. The apostle John described the face of the new Man as *'like the sun shining in its strength'*. **Rev 1:16.** This means that it only expresses the truth that is sourced from the Father. There is no shadow of a lie, or projection, in its expression.

Further Study ISAIAH 42

One new man

Jesus was beaten with rods in the court of Caiaphas. Luke wrote, 'Now the men who held Jesus in custody mocked Him and beat Him'. **Luk 22:63**. This was the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy, 'I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting'. **Isa 50:6**.

When Jesus was beaten with rods, 'the chastisement for our peace was upon Him'. **Isa 53:5**. Helpfully, Paul addressed the implication of this wound in his letter to the Ephesians. He explained, 'For He Himself is our *peace*, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, *so as to create in Himself one new man* from the two, *thus making peace*, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity'. **Eph 2:14-16**.

The misappropriation of the Law is the basis of all enmity. This is because the Law is used by those who are fleshly, to judge, accuse, or excuse, others, and to justify themselves. Relational disharmony and disconnection are the unavoidable outcomes of relating to one another on this basis.

As Jesus was chastened under the direction of Caiaphas, the high priest, He took the Law out of their hands and bound it to Himself in order to take it with Him to the cross. He removed the Law as the basis of relating with one another so that, in Himself, He could create one new man from a myriad of nations, tribes, peoples and tongues. Through this wound, the corporate new man began to emerge. It is as if a new plant began to be seen, arising from the one Seed, Christ, who had fallen into the ground and died in Gethsemane.

Further Study EPHESIANS 2

In the Praetorium

Jesus was *scourged* by the Roman soldiers in the Praetorium. The whip used to scourge Jesus was a terrible instrument that was designed to cause intense pain. A full beating of thirty-nine stripes would bring an individual to the brink of death, having caused approximately 1600 wounds to their back. Isaiah declared that *by these stripes we are healed*. **Isa 53:5**.

As Jesus was wounded in this manner, He overcame and judged all the actions of self-preservation that cause many and varied injuries to others. This way of living is the default of fallen mankind who were subjected to time and chance when they departed from fellowship with Yahweh at the tree of life. Through *anastasis*, Christ's body was further manifest as the Tree of Life whose leaves are for the healing of the nations. **Rev 22:2**.

The crown of thorns that was thrust onto Christ's head, and the reed that was placed into His right hand, and was then used to strike Him and drive the thorns into His skull, was the fifth wounding event of Christ's offering and suffering journey. **Mat 27:29**.

Mankind was cursed by God because Adam heeded the voice of his wife, instead of obeying the word of God proceeding to him through the order of headship. Adam's rejection of Christ as his Head was the basis for all misappropriation and abuse of authority and power by mankind. The Lord God said that because man had rejected the order of authority that belonged to fellowship with Him, the ground would be cursed. Specifically, it would bring forth *thorns and thistles*. **Gen 3:17-18**.

Through this wounding event, Christ judged and destroyed every authority and power that sets itself against God. The authority of the kingdoms of the world was stripped from them and given to Christ. Through the power of *anastasis*, Christ established headship as the order of authority that belongs to the new Man. Accordingly, He became the Head of all the nations. **Psa 18:43**.

Further Study MARK 15

Constrained to the cross

Christ journeyed to Mount Calvary, where His hands and feet were nailed to the cross and He was lifted up before men. Describing this wound, Isaiah declared, 'But He was wounded [lit: to bore a hole in] for our transgressions.' **Isa 53:5**.

When Jesus' hands and feet were nailed to the cross, and He was lifted up from the earth, the whole of humanity was drawn to Him. **Joh 12:32**. As part of the corporate body of sin, everyone was nailed with Him to the cross, and given the opportunity to make a choice. We choose *cursing* under the judgement of God as transgressors or *blessing* as those who are constrained by the love of Christ to judge ourselves to be dead with Christ so that we no longer live for ourselves, as transgressors, but for Christ. **2Co 5:14-15**. The two thieves who were crucified with Christ on the day that He died, represent us all and the choice that we all must make.

At the end of the three hours of great darkness, as Christ was separated from the Father in the lowest parts of the earth with us, He cried, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?' **Mat 27:46**. This was the Son's expression of the grief that was experienced by the Father, as our reproaches against the Father were fully laid upon Him. Christ's heart was physically broken by the grief caused by humanity's rejection of God's fatherhood. The breaking of Christ's heart, by the sorrow of God, was the seventh wound of His offering journey.

In this wound, Christ judged and destroyed the alternative names crafted by mankind, which were all a reproach against the Father. He took us all out into the sea of God's forgetfulness. However, in the lowest parts of the earth, He also fashioned us, and fulfilled the works that belong to our name as a son of God in Him. **Psa 139:15-16. Isa 26:12**. Through this wound, He established a people who would hear His voice and follow Him as He called them by name.

Further Study LUKE 23

The end of His offering

Following Christ's seventh wound, the two dimensions of His one offering were complete. Sin and death had been judged and destroyed forever, and everlasting righteousness had been fulfilled. **Rom 8:2. Dan 9:24.** Significantly, His physical body had been changed through the power of *anastasis*. It was now manifest as a perfect, incorruptible and immortal body!

By 'incorruptible', we mean that Jesus' physical body was no longer sustained by energy drawn from natural food or drink. We know this to be the case because Jesus' heart had stopped beating following the seventh wound. Blood, carrying nutrients and oxygen to His body, was no longer being pumped around His body. His body was now only sustained by the Spirit and life of God, through the word of the Father, ministered by the Holy Spirit. His body was immortal, meaning that it could no longer die. The incorruptibility and immortality of Jesus' body is the reason why it did not experience decay as it lay in the tomb for three days and three nights. **Mat 12:40.**

The Son declared His offering journey 'finished', and then committed His Spirit into the hands of the Father. **Joh 19:30. Luk 23:46.** The Father drew Him out of His physical, immortal body, which was hanging on the cross, and brought Him to His throne. Importantly, we were all drawn out of the waters of God's judgement and were received into the bosom of the Father, with Christ. **Joh 1:18.** This is where our names as sons of God were hidden with Him in the Father!

Christ remained in the bosom of the Father, in fellowship with the Holy Spirit, while His physical body rested in the tomb for three days and three nights. After three days and three nights, the Father declared, a second time, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You.' **Heb 5:5.** By the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the Son returned to His incorruptible, immortal body, which was also clothed with His heavenly, glorified body from the Father. *It was now a spiritual body.* His body was as much spiritual as it was physical.

Further Study HEBREWS 5

The last Adam

It is remarkable to consider that one corporate new man was formed by Jesus in the court of Caiaphas when He was *chastened with rods for our peace!* **Isa 53:5. Eph 2:14-15.** The corporate body of Christ continued to be fashioned until He declared His offering to be complete on the cross. **Joh 19:30.** At that point in time, Jesus was, literally, one new Man. However, every person who was later born of God, and baptised into Christ, would be joined to this expression of His body.

After Jesus committed His Spirit into the hands of the Father, bringing all our names with Him to the Father's throne, His incorruptible, immortal, physical body remained on the cross. A little while later, a soldier pierced the side of His physical body with a spear, causing blood, water, and a spirit of grace and supplication to flow from His side. **Joh 19:34. Zec 12:10.** These elements are the 'rib' from which the church, the bride of Christ, was formed to be His comparable helper for the work of bringing forth and nurturing sons of God.

Following His resurrection and manifestation as the last Adam and the first Man made in the image and likeness of God, Jesus Christ began to minister to His followers. On the day of His resurrection, He appeared to the eleven disciples, and to those who were with them. He breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.' **Joh 20:22.** By this means, they were born of the Father to see the kingdom. **1Pe 1:22-23.**

Through new birth, the identity of a believer was begotten of the Father, and they received the divine nature. **2Pe 1:3.** As a son of God, they were now in Christ. They received a heavenly body, which He had prepared for them when He went to the Father. This heavenly body, containing their name and life as a son of God, was hidden in the Father. **Col 3:3.** Moreover, they were also being formed as part of the bride of Christ.

Further Study JOHN 20

To our advantage

For forty days after His resurrection, Jesus Christ personally ministered to His followers. **1Co 15:3-7**. However, earlier, Jesus had said to His disciples, 'It is to your *advantage* that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.' **Joh 16:7**.

At first glance, it is hard to see why Christ ascending to His throne in heaven is to our advantage. However, the word that is translated 'advantage' in this passage means 'suitable for achieving a particular end'. Jesus was highlighting that there was still a third Covenant that belonged to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit's initiative to make man in Their image and likeness. *This is the New Covenant of the Spirit*. **2Co 3:5-6**.

It is important to recognise that while Jesus remained with His followers, they did not have a participation in bringing other sons of God to birth as part of the bride of Christ. Sons of God were only being brought forth through Christ. Furthermore, Christ was the only observable new Man. That is, the believers among whom Christ ministered had not yet joined the fellowship of His offering and sufferings, nor were they revealing His glory as members of His body.

Our participation in these two fundamental aspects of the mystery of God is only possible by the Holy Spirit. Speaking of the work of the Spirit, Jesus explained, 'He [the Holy Spirit] will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.' **Joh 16:14-15**. Furthermore, Jesus said to His disciples that when they were baptised with the Holy Spirit, they would receive power to be His witnesses, as members of His body, in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. **Act 1:4-8**.

Further Study JOHN 16

The body and bride

The church is the bride of Christ, the heavenly Jerusalem. This city is also called Mount Zion. **Heb 12:22-23**. Since the Day of Pentecost, it has been coming down out of heaven and has been established on the earth.

The physical body of Christ is now in heaven, sitting at the right hand of God. **Eph 1:20-23**. It is the only body that has *anastasis*, or resurrection life within it. The physical body of Christ is a *temple* made of living stones, which has been set on the top of Mount Zion. **Eph 2:19-22**. Mount Zion is the connection between the body and the church. **Col 1:18**.

When a person is born from above as a son of God, through the ministry of the bride of Christ, the church, they receive a heavenly house. This house is a heavenly body which contains their name, life and glory as a son of God. It resides in the Father's house in heaven as one of many mansions belonging to other sons of God. **Joh 14:2**.

When a son of God is baptised into Christ and filled with the Holy Spirit, they are baptised by one Spirit into the one body of Christ in heaven. **1Co 12:13-14**. God the Father places them in the body according to the name that He has given to them. **1Co 12:18**. They recognise that their sonship life is hidden with Christ in God, and they are motivated to reveal Christ on earth, by the power of the Holy Spirit, as mortal members of His one body.

Christ, who is the Head of His own body in heaven, gives to each member of His body a share in His divine nature and immortal life. This is the life that He has in His body in heaven. Jesus spoke of this life, and its allotment to the members of His body, in the parables of the talents and minas. In these parables, Jesus taught that the members of His body, whom He described as 'slaves', were to multiply His life through fellowship in His offering and sufferings.

Further Study 1 CORINTHIANS 12

His resurrection life

As we suffer with Christ as members of His body, His *anastasis*, or resurrection life, flows out from Him to us as *exanastasis*. This is resurrection life, ministered to us by the Holy Spirit. This life sustains us in our mortal bodies as we fulfil the will of the Father as members of the body of Christ. Paul testified of this outcome of fellowship in Christ's sufferings, saying, 'I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church.' **Col 1:24. Php 3:10-11.**

The increase of Christ's life, which we receive in the fellowship of His offering and sufferings, is further multiplied as we lay our lives down by serving one another in the body of Christ. **Gal 5:13.** Significantly, Christ is being glorified when the members of His body multiply His life. Because He reveals the Father, the Father is also glorified. **Joh 14:9. Joh 17:1.**

This life, which is multiplied through suffering and by love, becomes the glory of our eternal life. It is stored up in our heavenly body. On the day of resurrection, our incorruptible, immortal body, which we receive through the fatherhood of the Son, is clothed with the glory of our heavenly body from the Father. This will be a spiritual body which is as much spiritual as it is physical. It will be just like Jesus Christ's resurrection, glorified, spiritual body.

The Holy Spirit has dedicated Himself to ensuring that we obtain the blessing of becoming a son of God and son of man in the image and likeness of God. He yearns jealously within us for this outcome. **Jas 4:5.** This is what it means to be sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. As Paul declared, 'You were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession [on the day of resurrection], to the praise of His glory.' **Eph 1:13-14.**

Further Study PHILIPPIANS 3



Restoring
my Soul