

X.3. Lambs to Rams: Body, Soul & Spirit

Body

Gen 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 soul (*Heb.5315- breathing creature*). (*Emp. added*)

“The ‘breath of life’ is special to this passage. It expresses the spiritual and principal element in man, which is not formed, but breathed by the Creator into the physical form of man. This rational part is that in which he bears the image of God, and is suited to be his vicegerent on earth.”

Albert Barnes

Heb 10:5 Wherefore when He (*Jesus*) cometh into the world, He saith, Sacrifice and offering Thou wouldest not, but **a body** hast Thou **prepared** Me: (*Emp. added*)

Eventually, “when the fullness of time had come” (*Gal 4:4*) Christ came into the world to fulfill the prophecies, “which were written in the Law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms” (*Lk 24:44*) concerning Him (*here Ps 40:6*). Since God did not prefer animal sacrifices (*His preference instead was for man to obey Him- 1 Sam 15:22*), that system was never intended for the removal of sin. It was only intended to show man the magnitude of sin’s destructive nature (*Rom 7:13*).

God did not **create** a body for Christ to inhabit which would give the idea that He wasn’t finished on the sixth day of the creation week (*Gen 2:2*). He “prepared” one via the virgin birth (*Mat 1:23*). God suspended His natural law of conception; in this case He did not include a man (*through whom death was introduced into humanity- Rom 5:12, 17*). For His Son to be “born of woman” (*Gal 4:4*), He removed man’s mortal contribution and replaced it with the conception of the Eternal Holy Spirit. The following passage speaks of the inanimate body without the soul.

Ecc 9:5 For the living know that they shall die: but the dead (*body*) know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. 6 Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion forever in *anything* that is done under the sun (*i.e., in the physical realm*).

Soul

Thayer- Gk.5590: “an essence which differs from the body and is not dissolved by death”.

From G5594; *breath*, that is, (by implication) *spirit*, abstractly or concretely (the *animal* sentient principle only; thus distinguished on the one hand from G4151, which is the rational and immortal *soul*; and on the other from G2222, which is mere *vitality*, even of plants: these terms thus exactly correspond respectively to the Hebrew [H5315], [H7307] and [H2416]: - heart (+ -ily), life, mind, soul, + us, + you.

Mat 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy (Gk.622- Thayer: “*to devote or give over to eternal misery*”) both soul and body in Hell (Gk.1067).

“Hell” in this passage refers to a place known as Gehenna. It was known to the Jews as the place where children were offered to Moloch by fire, where all manner of refuse was disposed such as dead bodies of animals and “unburied criminals who had been executed”. “This name was transferred to the place in Hades where the wicked after death will suffer punishment” (Thayer).

Mat 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

How often do we ask ourselves “is what I’m about to do going to have any effect, negative or positive, on the salvation of either

my own soul or the soul of another?” And do we look at others in categories such as family, friends, neighbors or co-workers before looking at them from the point of view that within each of them there lies a God breathed soul that will eventually pass from this physical life into the next, spiritual realm? So many people live their lives as if only robbers, rapists and child molesters will suffer in the end, or if there is even an end to begin with. The majority live as if they really don’t know (*or want to know*) that what they do in life will affect their own soul’s eternal existence.

1Pe 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers (*Gk.3941- alien resident*) and pilgrims (*Gk.3927- resident foreigner*), abstain from fleshly lusts, which **war against the soul**; 12 Having your conversation (*Gk.391- behavior*) honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers (*1 Pet 4:4*), they may by *your* good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. (*Emp. added; Mat 5:16*)

Peter was speaking to fellow Christians in aiding them in their understanding that this life isn’t all there is to our existence. We are just traveling through to our ultimate home. Anything that is done in the flesh that is contrary to being prepared for Heaven is considered as “war against the soul”, i.e., condemns the eternal existence to a place of unimaginable pain and suffering. And since “death [has] passed upon all men, for all have sinned” (*Rom 5:12*) the only remedy we have is Jesus Christ.

Heb 2:7 Thou madest him (*man*) a little lower than the angels; Thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of Thy hands: 8 Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing *that is* not put under him (*Gen 1:28*). **But** now we see **not yet all things put under him**. 9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels (*in human form*) for (*purpose*) the suffering of death (*since spirit cannot die*), crowned with glory and honour; that He by the grace of God should taste

death (*the one thing that man cannot control*) for every man. (*Emp. added*)

The one thing that man has no power over, because he has little to no control over sin, is death! It didn't exist when man was first created but came into existence once sin entered. It was for this purpose that Jesus came.

Luk 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Spirit

Gk.4151: From G4154; a *current* of air, that is, *breath* (*blast*) or a *breeze*; by analogy or figuratively a *spirit*, that is, (human) the rational *soul*, (by implication) *vital principle*, mental *disposition*, etc., or (superhuman) an *angel*, *daemon*, or (divine) God, Christ's *spirit*, the Holy *spirit*: - ghost, life, spirit (-ual, -ually), mind. Compare G5590.

Contextually, spirit and soul are interchangeable. The spirit within man rationalizes which part of man (*body/soul*) gets fed.

"Death, mortality, corruptibility, decay, [and] destruction are never affirmed to the spirit. It is, in the nature of the case, impossible for a spirit to die. The scriptures affirm deathlessness to angels; and the angels do not die because they are angels, but because they are spirits."

Guy N. Woods: "What is the Soul of Man?"
Gospel Advocate (1985)

Thayer: "the rational part of man, the power of perceiving and grasping divine and eternal things, and upon which the Spirit of God exerts its influence; (says Luther, 'is the highest and noblest part of man, which qualifies him to lay hold of incomprehensible, invisible, eternal things; in short, it is the house where Faith and God's word are at home')

The origin of this part of man is given in the following passages.

Ecc 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto **God who gave it.** (*Emp. added*)

Heb 12:9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected *us*, and we gave *them* reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the **Father of spirits**, and live? (*Emp. added; read also Heb 10:31*)

When man is given his spirit, and thus begins his immortality, it must be at conception. James says that “the body without the spirit is dead” (2:26). If the seed within a woman didn’t have a spirit, and thus is not alive, then why do abortionists claim it is only dead tissue and not human? What then is it if it isn’t human? David understood how man is formed and even before birth, via God’s omniscience (*all knowing nature*), his days are known in advance (*but not taking away man’s free agency*).

Psa 139:13 For Thou hast possessed my reins: Thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made: marvelous *are* Thy works; and *that* my soul knoweth right well. 15 My substance was not hid from Thee, when I was made in secret, *and* curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in Thy book all *my members* were written, *which* in continuance were fashioned, when *as yet there was* none of them.

Body, Soul and Spirit

According to Ecc 3:21, the body (*whether of man or animal*) is animated by the spirit (*the life of the body*) that is in them. Both go through the death process. The difference between man and beast is that man also has a soul, i.e., “the breath of life” and was created “in the image of God” Who is spirit, which animals are not (*Gen 1:26; 2:7*). And only man can consider and understand the eternal nature of the immortal soul.

Ecc 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He **has put eternity into man's heart** (*Heb 3820*), yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. (*Emp. added*)

How we decide the use of either soul or spirit in any given passage is determined by the **context** in which it is being used. The following passage denotes a difference between them (*in man*) even though in some passages they **are** synonymous.

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is quick (*Gk.2198- to live*), and powerful (*Gk.1756- active*), and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of **soul** (*Gk.5590*) **and spirit** (*Gk.4151*), and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (*Emp. added*)

The word of God being alive (*present tense, voice active, indicative [demonstrating true reality]*) impresses the idea that Holy Spirit is still influencing (*active*) both saved (*through continual study- 2 Pet 3:18*) and lost (*through the message of the Gospel- Rom 1:16*) via the Spirit inspired words found therein (*2 Pet 1:21*).

As the primary weapon of the soldier of the time, any (*no matter how finely crafted it be*) double-edged implement of war was no match for what “the sword of the Spirit” (*Eph 6:17*) was able to do. The “word of God” stays sharper than the most advanced man-made weapon since it is of a spiritual nature and is being honed for battle “against the schemes of the devil” (*Eph 6:12*). With it “we destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ” (*2 Cor 10:5- ESV*).

It was by God’s word (*verbal as in Gen 1:3, etc.*) that all things exist and by that same word they will be destroyed (*2 Pet 3:7*). It is able to *penetrate* to the point of making a *separation* between the *animal* sentient principle of man (*his human nature*) and his “spirit”, “the hidden man of the heart, in that

which is not corruptible” (*the part of man that Satan cannot influence- 1 Pet 3:4*). This is the rational part of man that *discerns* good and evil thus the word separates man’s natural thinking (*deliberation*) from his moral *understanding*.

Since “all are from dust, and to dust all return” (*Ecc 3:20*) as the word spoke man into physical existence so it will speak him back to the dust from which he came. As a “sword” the word of God “is so sharp that it can divide the ‘very essence of man’” (*Gary Hampton*).

Consequences

But if the soul/spirit of man is immortal, what happens after death when the physical body is placed in the grave? Jesus actually dealt with this in Luke 16 where He compared the death of a rich man who was not a faithful Jew under the Old Covenant to the death of Lazarus who was. As a faithful Jew, the rich man would have understood his duty to his fellow poor brother.

Deu 15:7 If there be among you a **poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates** in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother: 8 But **thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him**, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, *in that* which he wanteth (*Heb.2637- to lack*). 9 Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart, saying, The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand; and thine eye be **evil against thy poor brother**, and thou **givest him nought**; and he cry unto the LORD against thee, and **it be sin unto thee**. 10 Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou putttest thine hand unto. 11 For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore **I command thee**, saying, Thou shalt **open thine hand wide** unto thy brother, **to thy poor**, and **to thy needy**, in thy land. (*Emp. added*) (*Mk 14:7*)

Because he didn't aid poor Lazarus in his needs, the rich man defied God in his being so blessed with such wealth. He sowed "to his flesh" and reaped "corruption" but Lazarus sowed "to the Spirit" and is reaping "life everlasting" (*Gal 6:8*). Lazarus was the better of the two (*Pro 28:6*) and thus received his comfort after his death, but not the rich man. At death Lazarus "was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom (*by Abraham's side in the afterlife, whom the Jews held in such high regard; both then were and are in Paradise*)" whereas when "the rich man also died" he was not comforted but as Jesus said he only "was buried". What a sad way to be ushered into eternity?

Once in the afterlife the rich man "being in torments" saw Abraham and Lazarus and crying to Abraham about his state, he asked if he would send Lazarus "that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame". Abraham responded by reminding him of his wealth and how he didn't act according to the Law of Moses in taking care of a fellow Israelite who was poor. The rich man replied that he had five brothers that he didn't want to be where he was and asked if Abraham would send Lazarus to them to warn them of such a place.

Luk 16:29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, **though one rose from the dead.** (*Emp. added*)

Do we not see how important the eternal realm we go to is decided according to the way we live in this physical realm? Do we not realize that life "is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (*Jas 4:14*)? The rich man wasn't obedient to the Old Covenant so how much more are we responsible concerning obedience under the New (*Gospel*)? When we truly understand how the spirit and soul are imperishable no matter where they may end up, our lives

should make the adjustments necessary if we wish to be where Lazarus is until the resurrection, and not where the rich man ended up. Jesus wasn't teaching a parable here since He referenced proper names (*Lazarus, Abraham*), and these are actual places in the Hadean realm.

Mat 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into **everlasting** (*Gk.166- perpetual*) **fire**, prepared for the devil and his angels: (*Emp. added*)

Mat 25:46 And these shall go away into **everlasting** (*Gk.166- perpetual*) **punishment**: but the righteous into life eternal (*Gk.166- perpetual*). (*Emp. added*)

Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

X.3. Questions

1. Why was a body "prepared" and not created for Jesus to inhabit to fulfill His mission? a) God was finished "creating" on the sixth day; b) this was Jesus first appearance on earth; c) Jesus is not a created being since He has always existed.

2. Why was Jesus born of a virgin? a) Mary had to be pure in order to conceive Jesus; b) death was introduced into humanity through a man; c) it was the only way Mary could conceive by the Holy Spirit.
3. What does it mean to “destroy” both body and soul in Hell? a) to completely annihilate them; b) to devote them to eternal misery; c) neither a nor b.
4. Of all that God put under man’s control, what’s the one thing he has no power over? a) woman; b) death; c) his enemies.
5. What determines meaning of soul or spirit where they are synonymous? a) context; b) location; c) definition.
6. When does a person’s immortality begin? a) at death; b) at conception; c) at birth.
7. Since both man and animal are created from “the dust of the earth” what separates us? a) animals have souls; b) man has been given the breath of life; c) nothing separates us since we both suffer death.
8. What determines our fate in the next realm? a) obedience or defiance to the Gospel; b) nothing we do can earn where we end up; c) only God determines where we end up.