

THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS

Victor Hall – Toowoomba NBS Session 6 – 4 October 2021

[Slightly edited transcription]

Old Testament lessons regarding mixed cultures in the house

I don't think a lot of people understand or apply themselves to how much was understood before the flood. There was a whole run of firstborn sons of God there, who were all making offering at the gate of the garden of Eden.

The sword is like the veil of the temple. There was an altar there at which they made offering. And Noah, in a direct line, was one of the firstborn, over thirteen hundred years plus on from there. He was making offering there, walking with God. And then you have Enoch who walked with God for three hundred years and was translated to heaven.

And so talk about touching an adoption; they were touching something there.

We look into the house of Adam and Eve, who are our first parents, and we blame them for everything that is wrong in our lives. But let's just get back 'on board' with them, because they did recover their sonship by an adoption. Yes, they were dealing with the other law, and each one is a lesson. I don't have any doubt at all that they did their best with Cain and Abel, because we see that Abel came to his name. But it was a mixed culture.

For the parallel, look at the houses of the three patriarchs – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Sometimes, I think those three did a worse job than Adam. Eve wasn't quite doing what the mother of Jacob and Esau did, teaching them how to lie. They even named him 'liar' from the womb, and then Mum helped Jacob to get the blessing by lying, pretending to be his brother.

So, that is your house, my house. And so what are the lessons we are learning, and what are the lessons that my age group is learning in relation to the unclean elements? Because all of the unclean elements of Satan were then focused on one house – Adam and Eve. Poor old Adam, with Eve, had the whole lot to contend with – and they had a mixed culture.

The issue of choice

–predisposing our children to a wrong choice because of our mixed culture

The point I am making is that these children were brought up in a house that understood that the predestination was sonship, for each of them. But when they came of age they had to make a choice.

And that happens to every one of your children as well. Good, bad or ugly – the mixed culture of your house – every child will make a choice, and every one of us has to make a choice.

I see a lot of parents blaming themselves – and so they should. But how far are you going to go with that because, in the end, everyone hears the word from a messenger. And there is a shepherd there saying that you have to make offering. The Lord Himself spoke to Cain, 'If you make offering properly, if you do well, you will be accepted.'

And so the choice is in every individual. Every individual makes the choice and no-one goes into hell because Dad and Mum blew it – even if they did blow it.

So that is leaning one way. on the other side, a lot of us need to do a lot better in our families so we are not predisposing our children, because of our mixed culture, to transgress. That is, our uncleanness goes onto them.

Finding grace in old age

And so we need to give attention to this point, particularly now in old age. I am telling you now that the bickering of old-age people is clearly the sign that the fundamental problem of Adam and Eve is still very alive – because you listen to the voice of your wife. Her fallen desire will be to control the whole agenda from her anxiety or her ambition or her romance, in the house.

And ladies you need to come to terms with what is the nature of *your* corrupted desire; what do you want in your house, and from your husband, and from your children, and from your grandchildren. And by heavens, you are going to have it! But you *will not* have it!

And then what is his response. It is anger; he blows up. And so you get this constant disparity. This is

the effect of the curse of sin. This is sin, not the Law.

And so the wives have to mourn on their own, and the men have to mourn on their own before the Lord.

And then husbands and wives need to meet in a dialogue each day and deal with that, and say, alright, the equation is quite simple. The wife has to stand up in faith to be the woman in the marriage, a son of God as a woman. Her husband cannot do it for her. A man cannot be a woman for a woman! He cannot service that. The woman has to find that from the face of Christ. And the man has to find his 'stuff' from the face of Christ and stop eating angel's food to be empowered. And so it goes on. But we should come to peace.

If we are going to live together until 'death do us part', and looking at the deprivations of age, which are the curse of the Law, we have to find grace in old age to die, and to die together.

Some horrendous things go down. Like with King Saul, people sing in the Spirit one day, and they are cursing and swearing the next day. Now, this should not be among us, and this gospel I am preaching to you is addressing that. We have other gospels that tell us that we can get to heaven *without* the gospel of sonship, and *without* becoming sanctified – woman to womanhood and man to manhood – in the marriage and in the family.

Making sonship the priority

I hope I am being clear enough. Ho-hum, here we go again, another sermon on sonship. You have another gospel and you think, yes, I can get to heaven on my old gospel, I don't need all this stuff.

A lot of my age group say that they don't need to hear any of this. 'My bag is all packed; I am ready to go.' Well, where are you going!? You will get to the judgement seat of Christ and He will say, 'I don't know your name. Who are you; where are you from; what is your name?' That is what Jesus will say to you at the judgement seat: 'What is your name; and when were you born; and did you hang on to it or did you walk carnally and die?'

I know that we, my age group, are late-comers to this gospel of sonship; we are nearer 80 than 70 now. It is new for us, and these last few years have been new for me. Every day I am *thrilled* with what I am seeing, but *bankrupted* before the Lord and saying, 'How come I did not know that? I have been

a preacher for years and years and I did not know that; I should have known that. It is all written in black and white!'

It is because I have had other dispositions and mindsets. Actually, salvation is what I am talking about, but you have to be born and then get saved. I thought, no, all I need is my four spiritual laws. I said the sinner's prayer forty years' ago; I'm going to heaven. The rest of it is just optional.

It is *not* optional! He is going to ask us every day, 'How did you walk your sonship out today?' And when we get to that judgement seat of Christ and we are saying, 'Lord, Lord; I was pentecostal, I was full gospel. I was better than all those evangelicals. I cast out devils in your name.'

Connected to the Headship of Christ –unclean attitudes that give ground to demons

No one did a better job than me in my early ministry, I am telling you. The Lord gave me three visions, one for a year where He gave me phenomenal power, in New Zealand, over unclean spirits. The same in New Guinea. But I had to learn that the problem was not exorcising the demons. The problem was the unclean attitudes in us that become the ground upon which demons operate. And so the exorcism was all 'back to front'.

We need to get everyone connected to the headship of Christ, because He has power on the cross, through Headship.

He is the Head of *all* principalities, power, might and dominion; and when you are joined to that Headship, unclean spirits cannot hurt you in your house.

But we have to get cleaned up ourselves. We are the unclean. And this is where the blood of Christ is cleansing us from our lifestyles so that we are not oppressed by all of these nameless, medical sicknesses where a solution cannot be found, which are spiritual. Fifty percent of most of the things we have that a specialist doctor can find no answer for, are spiritual. You resolve the issue of your uncleanness and then that oppression will go from you.

All of us need to accept that this is our reality. I am just saying to you 'straight' what we are dealing with.

When I came back into Melbourne after being in New Zealand, the Lord had to confront me about my attitude and deliver me from my uncleanness so I could learn that exorcism was not the 'be all and end all' of everything, and the same with healing. Otherwise, I would have got to the judgement seat of Christ and said, 'Lord, Lord; I have cast out demons in Your name, I have healed the sick in Your name.' But that did *not* qualify me for heaven! No, He would have said, 'What is your name as a son of God? How have you lived that in your house, and are you living it?'

That is the proposition that I am putting to you, and the Lord turned me around on that when He confronted me in Melbourne. I made a massive shift then and came to Brisbane and began to build in a different way. Progressively, the Lord unfolded to me an understanding of lampstand church, and then, point by point, the divine nature in the womb, and many other things that the Lord has unfolded to us over forty-seven years in the fellowship of a presbytery.

Responding to His word as it comes progressively to us

The second thing He confronted me with was the need in this area to see a presbytery established for a group of men who had fallen. And we *were* fallen. But the wonder was that we could return!

And so we now have a presbytery because many have returned. I cannot say that of everyone because they have to answer that themselves. Many joined it but never, ever returned.

For me, 'Remember from where you have fallen' was from the heights of the hand of Christ. I mourned alone for three months, because His eyes met me and confronted me, and He exposed everything in my heart. I saw the wickedness in my heart – and I had just finished a great evangelistic revival in Brisbane!

He showed me what He wanted to raise us to; He wanted a presbytery. We have a lampstand church and we will have to have a presbytery, which is a star in His hand.

I eventually said to the Lord, 'I can repent for myself but I cannot repent for all of the clergy and pentecostals and evangelicals in the city. They don't want anything to do with this word.' I saw what was like a vine on the wall and it was shaking, and then I heard His voice, 'If I call you to

repent, can't you believe that I can bring it to pass?' Instantly, that word put faith in my heart. It burned like a fire and I ignited, and I said, 'I can believe; we *can* have a presbytery.'

This word *was* proclaimed to many in the city, there *was* a revival, and in the convenient dimension of that there was a great camaraderie, a sense of love, among us all as men. But many things blew apart in the middle of all of that because of immoralities.

God was bringing the word on presbytery and was wanting to bring the word on sonship. And He did bring that word to us and it is still with us today. That has been over nearly forty seven years, and in this last seven years, the Lord has been talking to us about 'born again', the steps of salvation.

We are sort of ascending the hill of Zion, we are on a bit of a pinnacle as we make our way up. I have asked you all, in the last few weeks, to join with me and stop and take a look at where we have come from.

As I have said, once we understand that He is calling us to be sons, we begin to fear lest we fall short of it.

Children and the matter of choice –sin crouching at the door of every house

And I am talking about the children now and having a mixed culture. Cain was about 18-20 and so it was his time. When our children come of age – 16-20 – the Lord begins to shift it over to them. That is why we have the young adults group for those who are over 18, where they come as adults. It is their choice as to whether they will stay with what they were born to. They will have to choose it, like Cain had to choose. But he made a bad job out of it because he came from a mixed culture son-of-God house.

Now, one son was 'getting it', the other wasn't 'getting it'. So, why can one son get it and the other not? Because, after all, they were all at that place of offering. They saw the sword, they saw the cherub, they knew about the tree of life, they knew where they had come from.

Our children know all of this word, they hear it every week – but they still have to choose it.

And so sin lies crouching at the door of every one of your children. That is what happened to Cain.

The Lord met him sovereignly; it wasn't Dad talking to him at that point.

How did this happen, that he brought the wrong offering? He had come to the gate, come to the temple, where he could see through to the tree of life. But the Lord rejected his offering, and then spoke to him from the tree of life, through Michael or Gabriel, and said, 'Wrong offering; your own projection. If you do well, you will be accepted. You know what you have to do; go and see the shepherd and get yourself a lamb and come back here and make offering. Be the firstborn, find your name.'

This happens in every house. I do not know why your children and grandchildren choose what they do; I see the same thing happening in our own family and extended family. And it says that in every house this division will come. No house will escape this.

So, the key point is that we bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord but, in the end, everyone must choose.

I did want to talk about the children who are conceived with the divine nature in the womb, today, and their progression through to where they have to make offering and make their own choice.

I was a preacher and functionary in my early twenties, and a married man, when the Lord confronted me on that choice. I spoke to the Young Adults in Melbourne about that earlier this year. I had to face this *long after* I began ministering; the question of His absolute Lordship. And that night when He confronted me, I feared God! If I had walked out that night, I would have walked out on salvation, with a tremendous legacy behind me of a successful young ministry.

So, every one of you will know the point where He confronted you by the Holy Spirit, young people, and you made that absolute choice. In reality, He may call us again and again but, mostly, we only have the right to face that once. I 'bleated like a lamb' when He confronted me and said, 'I cannot do what You are asking me to do; you will have to help me.' And He helped me!

Cut free by prevenient grace so we can choose

That is why I am very strong on the point that the Spirit of God comes as prevenient grace, pushes back Satan, pushes back everything, and cuts us

completely free where we are standing, like Adam was even before he fell, and we have a 'cold turkey' choice: do I want to be a son of God and live the culture of a son of God, and be that for all eternity; or do I want religion on my own terms and be what I want to be?

Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, under no duress, except deception, and they had no other law in them, chose to not be a son of God – but then they found a repentance.

If you talk to people around you, they do not want to be a son of God *unless*, somehow or other, this word first puts it to them and they are given the choice.

I have chosen *this!* He revealed it and I have chosen to be a son. I think that is the freedom dimension that God gives to us.

Now, we cannot do it when we are locked under sin, because we are slaves of that; but He pushes it back, gives us a window, and says, 'You can choose' – and not only you, but every person.

So, we have to stop this 'fog' in our face and say that it is 'black and white'; it is, point blank, 'I have chosen'.

Making sonship our priority

Now, that means that where other family members have not chosen, and everyone else has not chosen, we say, 'Excuse me, my culture is now this. My culture is to hear the word of the messengers. I am part of the body of Christ. That is my priority. I can say G'day to you there, but I cannot *agape* what you are on about *against* this. If you haven't chosen sonship, what do I have in common with you. Whenever I talk, I am talking about sonship, what I am hearing, what I am seeing.'

That is where the division is with the world; a friend of the world and a friend of God. It is right there; what is our priority, what is our preoccupation? Mine is sonship.

A lot of us can get very 'shaken up' there; we think that we have to accommodate. No, you do not. You can be polite to a lot of things but you do not have to accommodate them. Just be polite and kind, and move on. But your priority is: 'Sorry, I have a son-of-God 'game' today. I have to go and do son-of-God stuff today.'

Where our treasure is, that is where our heart is. And it is amazing that we are also the treasure

hidden in the field that the Lord is raising up through baptism.

Walking after the Spirit

Let us come to our notes now, at the top of page 4, 'The dimensions of redemption'. I will look at Romans chapter 8 verse 10 and interpret it from the book Galatians.

The new proposition for eternal life and making it to heaven is to not be carnal but to be spiritual.

Rom 8:7-8. 'The carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.'

The Lord is wanting the righteousness of the Law fulfilled in us who are not walking after the flesh but after the Spirit.

Vs9. 'But you are not in the flesh [which means you are not carnal; this is a non-carnal Christian] but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God [the Father] dwells in you.'

You have been born of that Spirit of the Father, that seed, that life, that love. It was given to the Son and came to you when the Son came into your heart, and you were born of that. I think David handled that on Saturday.

'Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.'

The work of all Three

And so the Spirit of the Son is in you. Just remember that each One is doing a different thing. Primarily, regeneration is the work of the Spirit of the Son in you. Being born from above as a son of God is the work of the Holy Spirit in you. Two different things; let's not confuse them.

And then that seed, or *sperma*, of life, which is from the Father, of the Spirit of the Father, is in you. So, you have the sperm of God the Father, the life of God the Father. Now that is in your identity and you are a son of that life.

You have the Person of the Son in you, who is Yahweh the Son, who is Son of God but also Son of Man. But you would not say that the Son of Man is living in you, because the Son of Man is seated in heaven in a physical body. But you do have the Spirit of the Son in you, which is actually the Spirit of Yahweh the Son, who is the Son of God the Father.

One Spirit with Him

-our spirit is life

Vs10. 'And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.'

Now, this is a non-carnal person; Christ is in this body, and this body is dead because of sin. So, what does that mean?

My body is dead because of sin, but my spirit 'is life' (the best translation; others say 'is alive') because the Spirit of God is in it.

But it is more than that. You are joined to the Lord in one Spirit with Him, by the Spirit. And so you are born again as a son of God; your new creation life by which you cry, 'Abba Father!' is also of the Spirit. You are one Spirit with Him! And so your spirit is life.

If we are going to sit with Him in His throne as part of the fellowship of His throne, which is what He said to the church at Philadelphia, that He will give us a white stone on which our name is written, but which no one knows but us... So, the seven overcomings of the seven churches; every one of us is given an overcoming.

Joined to the source of the river of life

-life multiplied to all creation

It means then that we are actually joined to the source of the river of life. We are sitting with Christ in His throne, He is sitting with the Father in His throne.

And when I look at the 'river of life', it can also be translated as 'tree of life', or 'book of life'. That is amazing! And so it is one package. He is wanting to see that you are in the book of life, that you are part of the river of life, and the tree of life. It is teaching us the same lesson; all different ways of saying the same thing.

And so if we join the fellowship of Yahweh in His throne, from His throne - it is Father, Son and Holy Ghost, their fellowship, and us - is flowing a river, for all eternity.

There is no more temple, finally. It is just Yahweh's fellowship, and from that fellowship - which is Yahweh Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and all of us - is coming a river of life. And that is flowing then to the administration, which is the bride city, the New Jerusalem, which is travelling over this. It is the mother.

What is begotten has to be birthed. You would all agree that the begetting in the womb of a mother is not the birth. There are nine months in the womb. There is a germination but it then has to grow and come to birth, brought forth as a child. That is the work of the bride city.

So, that life comes from that begetting stream, it comes from the throne, goes to the administration of that life, the bride city, the New Jerusalem – and then flows out into the whole of the new heavens and new earth, in multiplicity.

And what is on either side of that river, and in the middle of it? The tree of life. This is for the everlasting healing of everything so that sin never happens again. It is an amazing picture as you read the end of the book of Revelation.

Adam was at the tree of life in the garden, the lord of all creation. He, every evening, went to the tree of life and received its food. He and Eve did that by offering, and then they took it out and multiplied it to all creation. That was their ‘gardening’ technique. He wasn’t just planting tulips here and cabbages there, and digging. They were multiplying life to all creation.

Now, people ask, how did you get that, how do you know that? Because Romans chapter 8 tells us that. It talks about this prayer meeting that we have joined.

The whole creation groaning, waiting for the revealing of the sons of God –priests to our God and Father

What is the whole of creation waiting for? It is waiting to be reconnected to the resource of life, from the tree of life, from the river of life.

Who is going to reconnect it? The sons of God.

How do we know that we are sons of God? Romans chapter 8 tells us that we are sons if we are led by the Spirit, and as we join the fellowship of His offering and suffer with Him.

And now the whole of creation is groaning, travailing. Your little pussy died; it groaned and travailed and died, waiting for your revealing. Do you hear the point? Waiting for the manifestation, the revealing, of the sons of God.

When we are properly reconnected to the fellowship of Yahweh, we are part of that expression – tree of life, river of life, book of life –

multiplying that life to all that comes forth into the new heavens and new earth.

That is our priesting work. And Revelation chapter 1 tells us that the Son has made us priests to our God and Father. What is the work of our God and Father? It is multiplying a multitude of sons.

We are priests to our God and Father, in His temple. And we know that the body of the Son is now that temple, and we are living stones in that temple, multiplying, through offering, that life that will then free the whole of the new creation so that it will never fall again. Isn’t that amazing?

But we have a little ‘run’ for a thousand years on this planet, and three and a half years in a wilderness, where the present creation will be released from the bondage of corruption. So we will have a thousand-year ‘party’ with the present creation, which is now groaning and travailing, waiting for our revealing as sons of God.

Time for the saints to possess the kingdom

So, please, are you going to get on with the job – all of you!

And where do we begin? Seven churches, blameless. And He keeps telling me, ‘Overcome here in that situation, I will give you that’.

You get to Philadelphia, go into the true temple, and you do not come out any more. You are given a rod of iron, given power over the nations. We are given the right to bring in this great multitude when the white horse starts riding.

Our best days are just ahead of us; the time when the saints possess the kingdom, and understand what it is to be born from above, regenerated, born of water and the Spirit. That is what this gospel is all about.

That is why we have taken seven years to get it, because this is the gospel of the kingdom that will release the whole of creation and bring in a mighty multitude. And I am optimistic enough to believe that it will be half of the earth’s population.

The sword in every house

In every house there will be two for it, three against it; or three for it, two against. He came to bring that sword, the same sword as back at the gate of the garden of Eden, which came into Adam’s house. Right there we lost one – but we did get some

others. Abel still 'speaks'; we did not lose him. He is still speaking, prophesying, in the written Scriptures.

This is your calling! That is why we need this gospel. This is the gospel of the kingdom; sons of men becoming sons of God. And the whole of creation is waiting as we begin to multiply this.

Events of the end time –the Elijah ministry in our mouth

The church ceases to travail in chapter 12, and then we are off to the wilderness for three and a half years. And what happens? It blossoms like a rose. This is the old desert. There will be a river there, there will be a highway there. That will be the same wilderness in which Israel journeyed, right over to Petra. The book of Isaiah tells you where it is, tells you about its blossoming.

That is where the church goes, protected from the face of the dragon, protected from the antichrist. And right there, in the old Jerusalem that now is, which is called Sodom and Egypt, you have Moses and Elijah and 144,000 bringing in a final harvest.

Then all the vials are poured out during that three and a half years in judgement on them – the unmitigated wrath poured on the wicked – while we are having a grand party. That is the wedding feast that is talked about in the parables.

A lot of you are young enough to make it to the wedding feast. I've sort of got my 'fingers and toes crossed' but it will be a bit of a push, and so I keep thinking there could be a white horse, or an old grey mare that might work for us!

I hear some say, 'Oh, I don't want to be here for all of those things'. Well, I want to be here. I'm not worried about all of those things happening. I am part of this thing that is overcoming; the time when the saints possess the kingdom.

So that is why the gospel of the kingdom that I am preaching to you, must be preached in all the world. It has to be in your mouth because this is an Elijah ministry.

What is an Elijah ministry? What is a prophetic ministry? It is a restorative ministry, calling people to come back in, to come back to this gospel, to stand up for this.

Either way, can some of you older people, like us, get a Caleb and a Joshua attitude, because they survived the whole thing. They said, 'We can take

it'. So, I don't want to hear my age group say, 'Oh, I don't want to be here for those judgements, a quarter of the earth dying (it's all they can see). No, I want to be dead.' Well, off you go, but you have to get past the judgement seat of Christ first.

Filling out our predestined works

What is the predestination of God for you? Do you want to die before your time? I do not want to die before my time. I want to be here for whatever He has for me, and if I die next week, I want it to be God's will, because I have done the works that He has already accomplished for me; I have filled them out.

Then, on that day, He will give to me the crown of life and present me with exceeding joy – and say, 'Hey, Dad, look at this boy; this is Vic, son of God. He certainly made 'rough weather' of it at times, and he 'messed up' an awful lot. There was no bigger 'messenger' than this boy. He got it wrong the first time every time, but he managed to sort it out the second time.'

Well, I got the gospel on the second time, and I am happy with that. I can still get there. And so it won't be an old grey mare, will it?! It is going to be a feisty white steed if I am here for that. Do you want that? Well, you had better get used to riding it! It is the best horse on the block for you. That is what the Lord wants; the armies in heaven on white horses.

See, this is the gospel of the kingdom. You have to get the big picture of your calling. And if you are not here for it, then we are overcomers in this age, the lampstand age; which has been the whole of my life; overcoming, Ephesian Pattern order, presbytery established.

Stick with it; He will bring it to pass. He is birthing in your heart a faith for you and for your house, and for your testimony as part of the Elijah ministry in the world. For you are greater than John the Baptist. The least in the kingdom, born of God, has a word whereby they can portray Christ as crucified.

Thank God for John; he was pretty good. So, what works does He have for you? Well, we need to fill them out.

Move forward in our sonship

Some of us have to get off convenient-grace ground and get onto born ground now; begin to confess that. So, get the fear of God into you because you

have now seen it is not good enough; you have seen that you are falling short. Get to be the friend of God. Get across there, make the choice, and make sure that you are not going backwards. And make sure that your house is not going backwards.

Move forward in your sonship because time is short. This is birth pangs right now.

We didn't know if we would be able to have this NBS in Brisbane, but the Lord gave it to us. It wasn't for the Grand Final; He gave it to us! They are riding on our tail. We are the overcomers.

I have been 'sweating on it' all week; Lord, we have to get this proclaimed; this is the gospel of the kingdom. And if you listen to me down there and listen to me here you will say that it is not the same sermon – but it is the same sermon, the same message! Each day I have to do as the Spirit leads me. These are my works to say this to you, in this way, today. That is what He is telling me to do. And that is my faith, and so that makes my life easy. Mind you, I do 'sweat' a lot before I get up here.

Now these things are accessible in the notes but when I say it, it quickens, doesn't it, it becomes alive. But the spirit of all that I have said is here. This is the mind of the Spirit that He laid on me this week.

Regeneration and born from above –first man>old man>new man

Rom 8:10. 'If Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin.'

What does this mean? This body, this first man, is a fallen first man who is no longer a fallen first man, because I have been born again. That is when I was regenerated.

At the same time, He 'breathed'; that unique word, only used once in the New Testament. In fact, one other time it is referred to but a different word is used. It says that 'Jesus *breathed*'. That is the breath before you breathe. That is the breath from His mouth that He blew into the nostrils of the clay on the slab where He formed up Adam.

Now, how much time did He put into Adam? I can see Him making the kidneys, making the spleen, making bones, and so on. Getting all the elements that make up blood and sticking them in the veins. This is the Master Craftsman; this was the best clay model ever made! He even put the whiskers

on his face. Imagine the work involved in forming all of this. This was Adam – but still clay though!

Then this word, 'He *breathed*', is the same word as when He breathed into the nostrils of the apostles.

Back there it was from dust to biological body, and within that body, the spirit of life.

The Pulpit Commentary makes an interesting point about that. It is funny that they can make the comment but not get the point.

It says that in that breath, He even distinguished between the spirit and soul of a man. It gave him identity, and gave him unique ownership of his identity as a living soul. He owned it. He is now living soul. And he has a biological body – and straightaway, the whole thing went 'zing' – flesh, blood, bones, and grey matter up top.

I think He needs to redo some of our brains, but anyway the one He did for Adam was pretty good. The IQ, the switchboard, was in there.

Now, when He breathed into them, that was a generation back there in Chapter 2 of Genesis, He breathed 'the breath of lives'. Man then *became* an identity. He became one identity but with two elements; a spirit and a soul. And then his biological body. And now he is an eternal identity by a biological breathing process. Amazing!

Then, in the womb of a mother, by a biological action, you get an eternal spiritual identity that will live forever. It is not some stork somewhere up there in heaven, who picked up a spirit, flew over and popped it into the womb. That did not happen.

When the sperm and egg met, an identity exploded, in a biological way, all over the womb of a mother. Then a mother had to travail for nine months to bring it forth as a person, able to express itself with breath.

That is that regeneration, and then He said, 'Receive the Holy Ghost' to those apostles and they were born of the Spirit, born from above.

I like to say that when I was back from the death of sin I saw the kingdom. And it all happened there on the day of Christ's resurrection. He breathed into them life from the dead. 'You He made alive who were dead in trespasses and sins.'

All those apostles were dead in sin, but there was a regeneration. Back in the garden, there was

generation, and so they are now back able to be Adam, the first man, a son of man. Then, through the Holy Spirit, He makes them a son of God. That is the second action.

The body dead, but the spirit alive through the Holy Spirit

Now that I am in the Spirit, the blessing of Abraham has come to me. I have received the promise of the Spirit.

Rom 8:9-11. 'But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life [that is, your spirit is full of life, or is life] because of righteousness.

'But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.'

Who raised Him from the dead? It was the Holy Spirit. He gave to Christ resurrection life, and He is giving resurrection life to you.

Vs12-17. 'Therefore, brethren, we are debtors – not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 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.

'For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption [by Christ Himself] by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father".'

'The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children [or sons of God], and if children, then heirs – heirs of God [heirs of what; the divine nature] and joint heirs with Christ [of the divine nature], if indeed we suffer with Him, [that is, join the fellowship of His seven wounding events] that we may also be [progressively] glorified together.'

So, we begin with this body of death, which is being done away with, but we are progressively coming alive! The old is going, and the new has come, and is coming, and is being manifest.

Vs18. So then 'the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.'

A kingdom of priests –our work for eternity

Why so? Because when that glory is revealed, the whole of creation is waiting for this glorification so that it can be released – by you making offering to it. Isn't that amazing? And that is your eternal work – a kingdom of priests to His God and Father.

Get the picture; it is amazing! Everywhere you read, that is what it is saying to you; your eternal king-priest work to God the Father, in the fellowship of His temple.

And then my work as part of the bride of Christ, which is the New Jerusalem, is to see it travailed over, brought to maturity, nurtured and fed, and then brought forth as mature sons of God.

The amazing point we see in Revelation chapter 12 is that when this work gets going properly, for all eternity, there will not be nine months of gestation and travail. It all ends. It happens, boom, boom, boom, through the administration of this birthing dimension, and then this travailing bringing to birth, and then brought forth into new creation as sons of God. That is our work for eternity.

And your house is a picture of that, because through biological procreation in your house, sons of men were born. They were begotten, travailed over and born; and then at the same point, they were born from above as sons of God. And they come to the age of 18-19 where they, like Cain, have to make their own choice. Are you going to keep it, or are you going to throw it away?

Redeemed from the curse of the law

I want to link another verse with this.

Galatians tells us that we are redeemed from the curse of the Law. The body dead because of sin is the curse of the Law of God upon it.

Gal 3:13. 'Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us ... cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.'

Gal 2:19. 'For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God.'

Your first man, which is your mortal body, is suffering all of the problems that Christ suffered as He hung on the cross. They are His sufferings because He was suffering for you, but you are suffering in Him.

They are all His sufferings now. And so when I get up tomorrow and get a virus, that is the curse of the Law. It is not the fruit of sin. If I drive home down the Range and I bump a tree on the way, or something, that is not sin doing that. That is the curse of the Law. It is time and chance. It is the vain lifestyle of my fathers; everything we are trying to do to survive in his world.

That is all the curse of the Law – and in the end, I can't beat it. Ecclesiastes tells me; like a fish or a bird taken in a net, eventually it will catch up with me, because I will die of something.

But then there is another thing called 'the law of sin' that is exacerbating all of that. It is all the trading that we do with the limited resource of life, and we rob and we steal and do all kinds of stuff. And so the curse of the Law, God's Law, lands on us because of our sin – how we are surviving, what we are projecting.

He is telling us that we are not carnal even though we are struggling with this problem. This is: 'I have been co-crucified with Christ' – I am co-cursed with Christ. Anyone hanging on a tree, anyone crucified, is cursed. Hello!

So, let us go with Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach, and let us now, as He said, pick up our cross and be crucified with Him.

The curse will either be killing your sin, or killing you – depending whether you walk carnal or you walk spiritual.

So, you are dealing with the curse, the body of sin (Romans 6:6) so that the body of sin in you is being done away. So either that curse of the Law has become a discipline, or a chastening; or it becomes a judgement, destroying you.

That is the Zechariah chapter 5 proposition; the curse that has gone into all the earth. That is Christ lifted up; that is you lifted up with Him. And it has entered into every house, and it is destroying the liar in you and the thief in you. Right down to the very bones of your house, it is taking it out.

That is good news, as long as it is a discipline. Good news, because what is left when that is dead? Only life and peace; new creation. If we kill sin in you and death in you – if death is dead and sin is dead – what is left? Life, light, peace, joy.

So, the curse has a double meaning. But it does enter into every house – across the whole earth,

Jew and Gentile alike. And it is there to destroy and end everything that belongs to the first man, the old man.

Rom 6:6-7. 'Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin.'

Once we are dead this way, then there is only life and peace and joy. That is what the good old curse of the Law is doing, and it is in harmony with the righteousness of God.

Then we have the statement Paul made to Peter:

Gal 2:20. 'I have been crucified with Christ.'

Therefore this body is still suffering the curse of the Law and is going out with Christ, but it is coming back from that as new creation, by the resurrection life from each wounding event that is being multiplied to me.

So, we are living in a mortal body, a body dead because of sin, but our spirit now joyfully alive because of righteousness. And so the promise given to Abraham is now mine; I have received the promise of the Spirit and I am a born again son of God. I am not carnal, but I am still wrestling with this mortal body. Tomorrow, I will wake up and it will be a bit more dead. And eventually, from dust it is, and to dust it will go, unless I am here for that resurrection.

But that day will be the day when there is only life or death. So I will fall asleep in Christ. I don't die. To die with Christ is a lifting up. It is the end of death for me. And it is full resurrection life for me in a heavenly body.

The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead, is giving life to my mortal body. This is happening to us every day. We wake, alive, to do what we need to do, by the Spirit of life that is in Christ Jesus.

Please read, study and understand these notes.