

Breath of Life

Sunday Morning, January 22, 2017

Today I'd like us to consider the significance of man's creation. Was it just to take care of the Earth? Was it just to procreate and fill the Earth? Or...Was there a primary spiritual significance intended by God? First, we can answer two of these questions by looking at

(Genesis 1: 26 – 28)

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, & over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Vs. 26 – Man had dominion over every living thing.

Vs. 28 – Man was to be fruitful and multiply.

These things were important and God ordained them to be. Yet, there are two spiritual things that Man was created for.

The first is that we were created in God's image – to be like Him.

The Hebrew word here for "image" is pronounced

“צֶלֶם tselem,(tseh'-lem)” and it means to be a resemblance and a representative figure.

So God intended for mankind to resemble Him in character.

(Romans 8:29)

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.

As Christians, we know that we are to become more like Christ in His character traits.

But, God intended all people to reflect Him.

I want us to look a little deeper into God's Word. We're going to look at two words in scripture under a spiritual microscope. *(Pray: Lord, let us have eyes to see, ears to hear and a heart to know Your Word.)* Let's look at

(Genesis 2:7)

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.


God gave man a wonderful gift this verse.

“breathed into his nostrils the breath of life”

The word “breath” in Hebrew is נְשָׁמָה neshamah (nesh-aw-maw') and it means a vital breath, divine inspiration and intellect!!

God put a divine inspiration and intellect into Adam!

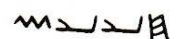
Now what does this mean?

In Ancient Paleo-Hebrew, the oldest writings of the Hebrews in pictogram form, we are able to break down Hebrew words in to their deeper meanings. For instance, the word we've been looking at "breath" in modern Hebrew is נְשָׁמָה neshamah. In Paleo-Hebrew it is: 

Now hang in there with me! These symbols break down the word "breath" to mean: continue, work, worship, sharp, mighty sign. In other words, God created Adam (man) with the intention of Adam continuing:

- † Work assigned to him
- † Worshipping God
- † Being sharp or clear cut
- † Being mighty
- † Being a sign or witness for God

So, like Adam, all people were created to reflect the image or likeness of God in all that God purposed for them.

Now, let's look at the second key word in Genesis 2:7 "life". In modern Hebrew it is חַיִּים hay·yîm and in the Ancient Paleo Hebrew it is 

These symbols break down the word "life" to mean: Divide, work, worship, mighty. It's almost the same as the word "breath" with one exception, the word "divide". Let's make this simple...when God created Adam He gave a part or divide of Himself to Adam. Adam had not only received the purpose of life to reflect the image of God through his work, worship and witness, but he also received "life" from God.

(John 14:6)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Adam not only had purpose for his life, but also fellowship with God.

Fellowship with God is the second spiritual thing man was created for.

Only by being in Christ and following His purpose for our lives can we have significant fellowship and joy in God. Look at **(I John 1: 3 – 4)**

3 that which we have seen and heard 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. 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

Adam was not created with a "spiritual hole" in his heart. He was created as God intended and in full fellowship with God! But sin, caused all mankind to be born spiritually dead, yet all people were created in His image with purpose. Only by receiving Christ Jesus into your heart and following Him as your Savior, can you reflect His image and have life complete through fellowship with God!

Self Reflection Questions:

Am I reflecting God in my life in this world? _____

Am I enjoying fellowship with God? _____

Am I completing the work He has assigned me, worshipping God regularly, being sharp, mighty, witness for God? _____