

A Wondrous Vehicle

Do you often stop to think how fortunate we are to be living on this incredible planet? How it came into existence from a void. We all know that God has no beginning, no end and is so unlimited in power that time and space cannot define or bind Him. Isaiah tells us God knows how things are going to turn out before they happen; He declares the end from the beginning and that He foreknows the end.

Isaiah 46:9-10 Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure.'

Imagine that we could see another billion light-years beyond the furthest points in this universe or even another billion beyond that. No matter how far we venture into the universe, we would still not have begun to understand the infinitude of our Creator because His nature is not material but spiritual.

Acts 17:24-28 "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 "Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. 26 "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 "so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; 28 "for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'

The human body is a universe unto itself, the crown of His creation. Shall we ponder the incomprehensible wonder of facts, just a sampling, of what our Creator manifested in each of us?

- *Stretched out, our blood vessel system would extend over 60,000 miles. Laid end to end, it could circle the equator 4 times.*
- *Our heart beats an average of 100,000 times per day, which is about 35 million times in a year and will beat around 2.5 billion times in a lifetime.*
- *Each day our heart pumps about 2,000 gallons of blood.*
- *Every second, our body produces 25 million cells.*
- *Scientists estimate that the nose can recognize a trillion different scents!*
- *During a 24-hour period, we lose up to 5 billion skin cells (that's nine zeros!) about 200 million every hour - 95 percent of epidermis cells work to make these new skin cells.*
- *During our lifetime the average person produces 2 swimming pools worth of saliva.*

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- *The most expensive digital camera today can capture 400 mega pixels while the human eye can see 576 mega pixels.*
- *The liver is responsible for more than 500 distinct processes and is so important that if a person has two-thirds of their liver removed as a result of trauma or surgery, it will grow back to its original size in as little as four weeks.*
- *Most amazing of all, through Him our bodies have the power to procreate by uniting a cell from a man and a cell from a woman to form new life! This miracle is under His control not ours because only God breathes life into every living being.*

Gen 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

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 being. KJV 7:2 uses the words 'living soul'

*The Hebrew word for soul (nephesh) Strongs #5315 refers to a **living, breathing conscious body**, rather than to an immortal soul. from 5314; properly, a breathing creature, i.e. animal of (abstractly) vitality; used very widely in a literal, accommodated or figurative sense (bodily or mental):--any, appetite, beast, body, breath, creature, heart, life, lust, man, me, mind, mortally, one, own, person, pleasure, (her-, him-, my-, thy-)self a living being, a living soul. – the seat of feelings, desires, affections, aversions (heart, soul)*

The Greek word for soul (psuche or psyche) Strongs #5590 from 5594; breath, i.e. (by implication) spirit, abstractly or concretely (the animal sentient principle only; thus distinguished on the one hand from 4151, which animates the body and shows itself in breathing

Created in His image, our bodies come alive when Yah breathes the “breath of life” into every one of us to become a living soul. Without that breath (spirit) the body dies. This miracle of life is so often taken for granted and very few understand the opportunity this ‘gift’ affords us. By the right use of the aids offered by God we can attain and secure eternal blessedness.

Acts 17:24-31 "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 "Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. 26 "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 "so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; 28 "for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' 29 "Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. 30 "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all

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men everywhere to repent, 31 "because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

Our purpose for being here is simultaneously twofold: (1) to know, love and serve our Creator who made us and (2) to love our fellow human family in the same manner. The more we know, love and serve the Father and Yahshua, the more we become like Them. When we are awakened at our calling to repentance we become aware of the foolishness of this world and begin to understand the negative contrast of worldly ways to His ways which lead us to the understanding of His master plan.

Mt 22:36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

Mt 22:37-40 Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." 38 "This is the first and great commandment. 39 "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Yahshua tells us to "love the Lord your God with all your, heart, soul, and mind." God doesn't exist to serve us... We exist to serve Him. When we love God with everything we've got, in every word we speak and in all we do each day, we become a witness of Him to others. Love God first in all you do and His love will be reflected to those around you.

1Cor 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Paul was talking to believers when He said "the Holy Spirit is in you" but is the Holy Spirit in every human created? He is also saying God is "in your body and in your spirit. This is referring to the spirit breathed into each of us by God when we come into existence. Why do we need God's Holy Spirit along with His breathed spirit? How does the Holy Spirit come to dwell within us?

John 1:6-13 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John the Baptist prepared the way for Christ's ministry and was preaching repentance (an about turn opposite from sin) while doing baptisms (water immersion) until the one day Christ Himself comes to John and asked to be baptized. John then declared:

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John 1:29-34 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30 "This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' 31 "I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water." 32 And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. 33 "I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 "And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

Why did Yahshua want to be baptized just before His ministry begins? To receive the Father's power, Yah's Holy Spirit, that empowered Him to perform many healings and miracles. This voice John heard was spoken through God's Holy Spirit via an angel, telling John about the sign that would identify Christ as the Son of God. He also said that Christ would be the one who would "baptize with the Holy Spirit."

John 14:25-26 "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

Christ tells the apostles that the Holy Spirit will be sent in His name to teach all things and remind them all of His teachings during His ministry. The Holy Spirit given to His elect works in us and we become the vehicles He uses to execute His plan.

John 20:18-23 Mary Magdalene and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her. 19 Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were came shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." 20 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. 21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

After Christ ascends to the Father, He appears to the apostles later that day as His former glorified Self! His human form was raised incorruptible as the first of the firstfruits for all to see.

1Cor 15:20 ¶ But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. (KJV)

Acts 1:1-11 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, 3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. 4 And being

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assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 "for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." 9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

Christ's followers were overwhelmed by everything they had witnessed during His three-year ministry: His incredible miracles, His brutal sacrificial death, His resurgence from the tomb, and His ascension into the clouds. They had to be wondering, what's next? He's gone. He left them with the promise of the Holy Spirit to come their way; that it would be given not too many days from now.

Acts 2:1-4 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

So it happened on Pentecost for about 120 fervently praying believers as was promised. The Holy Spirit was given to each person and all were concurrently talking in other languages. Many Jews there for the Holy Days from other regions heard them speaking in their native language and thought how could this be? They began to question Peter who then said to all of them:

Acts 2:38-41 "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." 40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

This gift of life isn't about who we are or what we've accomplished. This divine gift is focused upon refining our character and who we're capable of becoming. Through our repentance and baptism His Holy Spirit is instilled in us. Helping us to understand the spiritual gift of redemption and what awaits those who are His elect.

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Many walk the broad way during this earthly life in the attempt to attain carnal desires that we all know pull very strong, but in the end fizzle away, not lasting beyond our physical existence. Death is the great equalizer. Not one person has or will ever escape that final blow of losing our physical body.

The good news heralds that when the Father resurrected His Son from death back in 30 AD, that finality of death was overcome, not only for Christ, but for all humankind to live again! As it turns out we don't have a choice in the matter. All of us will be resurrected.

Acts 24:15 "I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.

John 5:28-29 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29 and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

There are two distinct resurrections to come. The first happens after Christ returns to this forsaken planet. So few will have found the blazoned trail laid out for all to see and follow in Scripture. This first resurrection will be the saints, those called and who remained faithful to Yah's calling.

1Th 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

Rom 6:5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.

Rom 8:23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

1Cor 15:23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

Those in the first resurrection will be given a "wondrous vehicle" in the likeness of Messiah for all eternity. Our physical bodies will get us through the 'race of our life' but once we are raised from death we will be like Him and have a spiritual body. Only our infinitely capable Creator knows when and how these incredible prophecies will come to pass.

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

Rev 20:5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished.

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Those of the second resurrection will be raised in a physical body. Many will repent and choose Christ over Satan will come into His kingdom but these will remain in that physical body and will live from substance provided by the tree of life for eternity.

Rev 14:9-11 Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 "he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11" And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

Those of the second resurrection who choose not to repent and follow Satan into the last battle of Gog Magog will experience the second death. Their bodies will perish in the Lake of Fire but their essence will not be able to escape an eternal, mental anguish as a result of their final decision to follow Satan.

Rev 21:8 "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Mt 7:13 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

Eph 1:3-14 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him. 11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. 13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Psalm 49:15 ¶ But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah.

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...A One thousand year millennium with Yahshua and beyond that eternal at-one-ment with the Father and His Son. Choose the narrow path ever leading to the spiritual harvest or the widely traveled road that ends at the physical harvest. Both harvests are an eternal blessing to those chosen to live in the heavenly kingdom on earth. Whether in the first or second resurrection it is of paramount importance to emphasize that we remain morally strong, never inclined to be taken in by Satan's deceitfulness. Those who experience the second death will be out of time, their choice final!

Proverb to Ponder – 5:11-13

And you mourn at last, when your flesh and your body are consumed,
And say: "How I have hated instruction and my heart despised correction!
I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined my ear to those who instructed
me!

Scriptures NKJV unless otherwise noted*

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