

A New Creation

(part 1)

mdb

***“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth;
And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.”***

- Isaiah 65:17

When the stone rolled away, and Jesus walked out of that tomb on that first Easter morning, the new creation had fully begun. This Man, the last Adam, was now an Eternal Life-giving spirit in bodily form. The determination of God purposed to the Council in the beginning - ***“Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness”*** (Gen 1:26) - had now begun to be fulfilled. The First had come.

This One who was born in a stable, to poor unassuming parents, whom fallen principalities and men sought to destroy, God has ***“made both Lord and Christ.”*** (Acts 2:36). Now ***“in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and He is the Head over all rule and authority.”*** (Col 2:9-10)

Before the time came for a Child named Jesus to be born of woman (Gal 4:4), this One had existed from eternity as the Word.

- ***“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
² He was with God in the beginning.”*** - John 1:1-2 NIV

That Word was made flesh (John 1:14) and walked among men. But He was not yet perfected into the new creation. This One had to be tested. The transformation into God's image must be a process, complete with trials meant to prove faithfulness to the One True God.

- ***“For it was fitting that He, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through suffering.”***
- Heb 2:10 RSV

“Pioneer” ἀρχηγός archegos (Strong's 747) - 'primarily signifies one who takes a lead in, or provides the first occasion of anything.'

The root of archegos is arche (Strong's 746) which translates as “beginning” or “corner”, or “first”, and ‘ago’ (Strong's 71) meaning “bring” or “lead”

Jesus was the first, the leader, the One who went before us to pave the Way -

- ***“One who breaks open the way will advance before them; they will break out, pass through the gate, and leave by it. Their King will pass through before them, the Lord as their Leader.”*** – Micah 2:13

This One who went before is the “first”, the prototype, or “cornerstone” as we read throughout the Scripture. Born in the physical, called the Son of David, from the line of Judah, came the King -

- ***“From (the house of Judah) will come the cornerstone,
From them the tent peg,
From them the bow of battle,
From them every ruler, all of them together.
⁵ “They will be as mighty men,
Treading down the enemy in the mire of the streets in battle;
And they will fight, for the Lord will be with them...”***
- Zec 10:4-5 NASB

And after this One will come every “ruler”, every “mighty man”, each one who will be a living stone in the Eternal Temple not made with hands. For indeed, the Son will not ***“abideth alone”***, but there will be others, brothers of Christ who will be of the ***“household of God,²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,”*** (Eph 2:20-21 NKJV)

- ***“Coming to Him, a living stone—rejected by men but chosen and valuable to God—⁵ you yourselves, as living stones, are being built into a spiritual house for a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.⁶ For it is contained in Scripture:
Look! I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and honored cornerstone,
and the one who believes in Him will never be put to shame!”***
- 1Pet 2:4-6 HCSB

Jesus, the prototype, the “Pattern Son” as one saint wrote, passed every test. From being an obedient son to Mary & Joseph (Luke 2:51-52), to resisting the temptation in the wilderness (Luke 4:1-13), to His greatest test in the garden (Matt 26:36-46) and everything else in between (Heb 2:17-18, Heb 4:15). His resolve to obey God never wavered. Jesus ***“became obedient to death, even the death of the cross.”*** (Phil 2:8)

As Isaac was to Abraham, Jesus was God’s beloved Son. And as we will look later, a bride was/is being prepared for both. (***“It is not good for the Man to be alone.”***- Gen 2:18) But first Jesus came for a purpose: To become the Firstborn of the New Creation by leading the Way to the Father through the Cross. (All must die there.) He not only showed us the Way, but Himself, the Man, ***became*** the Way (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.” – John 14:6 NKJV***

It is only through death on the Cross – Jesus’ as well as our own – that we can be truly ***“conformed into His image”***, and follow Him into the New Creation, truly made new into the *“likeness and image”* of God.

Whereas others (we’ll read about shortly) had great selfish ambition to be as God - even others whom God had given places of authority to rule that failed to remain faithful - the Logos (the Word) was simply content to dwell with God. Speaking I believe of Their relationship from eternity, Proverbs 8 says -

- ***“Then I was constantly at His side.
I was filled with delight day after day,
rejoicing always in His presence.”***
- Prov 8:30 NIV

It was not the ambition of this One to be like God, or usurp His authority, but rather it was God Himself who desired to exalt this One who would become His Son.

- ***“Christ did not exalt Himself to be made a high priest,
but was appointed by Him who said to Him,
“Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee.”***
- Heb 5:5 RSV

The prophetic Word of the Father concerning the Christ had been spoken through the Psalmist -

- ***“I will declare the decree:
The Lord has said to Me,
‘You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You.
⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give You
The nations for Your inheritance,
And the ends of the earth for Your possession.”***
- Psalm 2:7-8 NKJV

(This promise is extended to God’s other sons, Jesus’ brethren, the counterpart of the Lamb, as well, as we will study later.)

Throughout Jesus’ earthly ministry the Father honored Him, as Jesus took every cue from His Father and walked the road that God had set before Him.

When Jesus came to John to be baptized, in order to *“fulfill all righteousness”* the Voice from Heaven declared - *“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”* (Matt 3:17)

Alone with Peter, James & John atop the mountain, when He revealed a taste of the glory to come, again spoke the Father - *“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”* (Matt 17:5)

Are we listening for Him today? And if we indeed hear Him, are we obeying the Word? Is He pleased with our response?

The Father was pleased with Jesus. All that Jesus did was directed by God. His ambition was only to do the works of His Father and be about His business. (John 5:36, 14:10, Luke 2:49)

- *“Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.”* – John 4:34 NKJV
- *“Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I Am, and that I do nothing on My own, but I speak these things as the Father instructed Me.²⁹ And the One who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do what is pleasing to Him.”* – John 8:28-29 NRSV

When my own little boy gives me a hug for no reason, or tells me he loves me, and especially when he just wants to be with me, it truly touches my heart and gives me great pleasure to know he is my son. In this I believe I catch a glimpse of the loving relationship between the Father & Son.

Several times we find in the Gospels, Jesus going off alone to spend time with His Father.

- *“When He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.”* – Matt 14:23 NKJV
- *“It came to pass in these days, that He went out into the mountain to pray; and He continued all night in prayer to God.”* – Luke 6:12 ASV

Jesus’ concern was that God’s Name would be glorified (John 12:28). God’s desire was to give glory to His Son. (John 17:24). And Jesus wants us to share in that glory. (John 17:22)

These verses tell of a wonderful relationship between a Father & Son, yet the complete fulfillment of this relationship, with Jesus as the new creation, still needed to be accomplished. The ultimate test needed to take place. The sacrifice of all that He was and had to obtain everything God is and has.

- ***“Although he was a Son, He learned obedience through what He suffered; ⁹ and being made perfect He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.”***

– Heb 5:8-9 RSV

We too are called to lay down all that we are, to cast our crowns of self-will and perceived right to be the master of our own soul at His feet, that we may receive the fullness of God’s desire for us. Jesus, Himself, did. He saw what awaited Him, and cried, *“Not My will, Father, but Thine be done.”*

Does not the Scripture exhort us to –

- ***“lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus the Pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”***

– Heb 12:1-2 RSV

Again, Jesus is referred to as the Pioneer, the Author, the leader, the first; indicating that there are more of this New Creation to follow.

The Gospels confirm that Jesus was the beginning of the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy. In Matthew we read -

- ***“Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, And He will declare justice to the Gentiles.”***

- Matt 12:18 NKJV

- declaring the Man Jesus to be the Servant, the Messiah about whom the prophets spoke. In Isaiah 42:1 the Hebrew text indicates the “Elect” is not singular, but a plurality. ***“Behold My Servant, Whom I uphold, My Elect in whom My soul delights!”*** (Isaiah 42:1 AMPC)

- ***“Thus says God the Lord—He Who created the heavens and stretched them forth, He Who spread abroad the earth and that which comes out of it, He Who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it:***

⁶ I the Lord have called You [the Messiah] for a righteous purpose and in righteousness; I will take You by the hand and will keep You; I will give You for a covenant to the people [Israel], for a light to the nations [Gentiles].”

- Isaiah 42:5-6 AMPC

Messiah means ‘anointed’, and so the word applies not only to Jesus, but many others in the OT, such as Saul, David, Solomon, and even the Persian king Cyrus.

(*Heb. mashiah*), in all the thirty-nine instances of its occurring in the Old Testament, is rendered by the LXX. "Christos." It means anointed. Thus priests ([Exodus 28:41](#) ; [40:15](#) ; [Numbers 3:3](#)), prophets ([1Kings 19:16](#)), and kings ([1Samuel 9:16](#) ; [16:3](#) ; [2Samuel 12:7](#)) were anointed with oil, and so consecrated to their respective offices. The great Messiah is anointed "above his fellows" ([Psalm 45:7](#)) i.e., he embraces in himself all the three offices.

- M.G. Easton, Illustrated Bible Dictionary (1897)

In Christ Jesus, we find the Prophet ([Deut 18:15](#), [John 4:19](#), [7:16](#), [Mark 6:4](#)), the Priest ([Heb 4:14-15](#), [6:19-20](#), [8:1](#)), and the King ([Dan 7:13-14](#), [Matt 28:18](#), [1Tim 6:15](#), [Rev 15:3](#), [19:16](#)).

We too, the body of Messiah, are being made "**kings and priests**" unto God, and over the peoples of the earth. This is the reward of the saints for using their talents, being faithful to God along life's journey and enduring to the end through all trials. ([Is 32:1](#), [Luke 19:19](#), [2Tim 2:12](#) & [Rev 20:4](#)). So, too, these will be those "**sons & daughters who prophesy**" ([Joel 2:28](#), [Acts 2:17](#)). May we be included among them, and hear the Master invite us to enter into His joy with the words -

- ***"Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities."*** – [Luke 19:17](#) RSV

That which the host of heaven forfeited by their rebellion, will be restored and given to God's faithful servants.

- ***"I will restore your judges as at the first, And your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness, the faithful city."***
- [Isaiah 42:1](#) NKJV

The Bible picture of eternity is the saints reigning with Jesus over the saved nations of the earth, with "**righteousness, peace & joy in the Holy Spirit.**" ([Rom 14:15](#))

- ***"You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."*** – [Rev 5:10](#) NIV

Our modern picture of heaven as our Eternal home has robbed us of the hope of the ancients, the Apostles, and has obscured the plan of God.

I often lament concerning the lost vision of the Church, and long to see a day when from the pulpits we are taught the True picture of Eternity.

- ***"And I saw no temple in the city (New Jerusalem), for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵ and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶ They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations."*** – [Rev 21:22-26](#) ESV

Yes, man was made to have dominion over the earth, and all the works of God's hands (Gen 1:28, 9:1-3). And indeed man shall! (Dan 7:27, 1Cor 6:2-3, Rev 12:5)

- ***“When I look at thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers,
the moon and the stars which Thou hast established;
⁴ what is man that Thou art mindful of him,
and the son of man that Thou dost care for him?
⁵ Yet Thou hast made him little less than God,
and dost crown him with glory and honor.
⁶ Thou hast given him dominion (rule) over the works of Thy hands;
Thou hast put all things under his feet.”***
- Psalm 8:3-6 RSV

We find this same decree in the Letter to the Hebrews, which afterward states, concerning man -

- ***“For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him.”⁹ But we see Jesus...”***
- Heb 2:8-9a NKJV

In our current state & condition, even as blood-washed disciples, we cannot receive it. We must be transformed even as Jesus was before we can truly be given authority to rule and sit with the Son on His Throne. But we see Jesus! That is why the writer of Hebrews tells us to ***“fix our eyes upon Jesus”*** (Heb 12:2).

In the Book of Revelation, the saints are greeted with grace & peace -

- ***“from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.
To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood,⁶ and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve His God and Father—to Him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.”***
- Rev 1:5-6 NAS

“Firstborn” tells us there are more to follow Him into Resurrection Life. “Ruler of Kings” says that He will not reign alone.

- ***“Worthy art Thou to take the scroll and to open its seals,
for Thou wast slain and by Thy blood didst ransom men for God
from every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
¹⁰ and hast made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on earth.”***
- Rev 5:9-10 RSV

First given to the heavenly host (who transgressed and “*did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling*” – Jude 1:6), the charge that was then given to the physical nation of Israel (which they too failed to accomplish – “*you have transgressed against the Lord your God, And have scattered your charms To alien deities under every green tree, And you have not obeyed My voice, ’ says the Lord.*” – Jer 3:13), is now given to the “*Israel of God*”, the Church -

- **“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. ⁶ And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”** – Ex 19:5-6 NKJV

Our calling is not to be saved, but to BE salvation for the peoples of the earth (Psalm 132:16, Is 32:1-2), to be the very leaves on the Tree of Life and brings healing to the nations (Eze 47:12, Rev 22:1-2). But first we must be transformed as Jesus was into the new creation.

- **“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.”**
– Rom 8:29 NKJV

Subject only to God the Father (1Cor 15:20-28, Eph 1:19-23), Jesus is Lord over all and Head of the Church (Eph 5:23), the first Man qualified to fulfill the fiat given in Psalm 8:6.

- **“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. ¹⁸ And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.”**
– Col 1:15-18 NKJV

Again we find that term “*firstborn from the dead*” (also in Rev 1:5), meaning there will be others who will rise from the grave to die no more. And this is not a spiritual resurrection. We will not be raised spiritual beings in heaven. No, we shall stand upon the earth in physical, immortal, transformed bodies, clothed with our “tent” from heaven. “*in my flesh I will see God.*” (Job 19:26)

- **“we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He really is.”** - 1John 3:2 GNT

Jesus, who was at the Father’s side from eternity, and who was born as a baby & walked as a physical man on the earth for 33 years, was born again a new creation when He walked out of that tomb on Easter morning.

Now the promise of God made to man in Psalm 8 could be fulfilled. The authority to rule over God's creation and to have dominion over all the works of His hands was now given to a man; the Man Jesus, who is now fully human and fully divine, the True **"Firstborn of creation."** (Col 1:15).

As the Logos, the Word of God, all things had been created by Him and for Him, yet He had to become a man as well to fully take charge over them.

It was only after His resurrection that Jesus met the disciples and declared - **"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me."** (Matt 28:18). He was no longer **"flesh and blood"** which cannot inherit the Kingdom (1Cor 15:50), but rather He appeared **"flesh and bone"** (Luke 24:39) full of the Holy Spirit, the **"fullness of the Deity bodily."** (Col 2:9)

- **"God raised Him from the dead and made Him sit at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come; ²² and He has put all things under His feet and has made Him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."**
- Eph 1:20-23 RSV

He first had to reverse the curse brought upon us by the disobedience of Adam, and the host of heaven. He had to be perfected through temptations and suffering and be crucified. He had to be tested in all points like as we and endure through all these things without wavering in order to receive all that God desired to give Him.

Only then, after He had endured and remained faithful to the end and been raised to new Life, was He crowned. As Peter testified on the day of Pentecost - **"let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."** (Acts 2:36)

And now He calls us to likewise lay down our lives for Him, and endure through all temptation and tribulation.

- **"To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."** - Rev 3:21 NKJV

All the promises & rewards of Revelation chapters 2&3 especially, as well as elsewhere, are to those who are obedient, who overcome, and who endure to the end.

Salvation from bondage to the spirit of the world is free: obtained by the blood of Jesus shed on the Cross of Calvary. But to enter into the fullness of the promises of God, we must be proven worthy. (Matt 10:38, Eph 4:1, Phil 1:27, Col 1:10, 1Thess 2:12, 2Thess 1:5&11, Rev 3:4). Indeed, we have been given all we need to **"walk worthy"** of our calling, of the Gospel, white robes of righteousness, of the Kingdom, the Lord, and of God Himself. (2Pet 1:2-4, John 15:26, John 16:13-15, Heb 13:20-21)

Where the first man Adam failed (when he disobeyed and disappointed God) Jesus would be tested. To see the fulfillment of the promises, He had to leave His place by the Father's side, to come to earth as a helpless babe, born into a poor family, and grow up in the face of persecution and temptation and ultimately great suffering, so that He could return to the right Hand of God as His rightful heir, and ruler over all creation, as a Man.

- ***“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.”***
- John 1:14

And by this, He made a way for us to come out from the shadow of Adam, and into His Light. To no longer be destined to fall short of God's glory. To be born again as the sons and daughters of God that we were ultimately, and originally, meant to be.

- ***“He was in the world, and the world was made through Him... To as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His Name.”***
- John 1:10-12

God's plan was that His Son would become one of us, that He might be tested, perfected, and found worthy to inherit all things. He came with the blessing of God, but indeed He came as a man. He was subject to the frailties and temptations of the flesh. But He came to do the will of God, to fulfill the prophecies written about Him in the Law and the Prophets. He said, ***“I have come to do Thy will, O God, Yea, Thy Law is within My heart.”*** (Psalm 40 Heb 10). He would example this resolve throughout His ministry even up to the Garden on the night of His greatest test, the eve of His crucifixion, where He declared 3 times - ***“Not My will, but Thine be done.”***

- ***“For I have come down from heaven not to do My own will and purpose but to do the will and purpose of Him Who sent Me.”***
- John 6:38 AMPC

Jesus came to be that example for us to follow. Again, where Adam failed, Jesus would succeed. The first Adam broke the only commandment God had given Him. Jesus (the last Adam) would be obedient to the entirety of God's Eternal Law, even to death.

Having paved the Way, and becoming the ***“first to rise from the dead”*** (Acts 26:23), Jesus invites us to come after Him and follow His example of self-denial and unwavering obedience to the will of God.

- ***“Have this in your mind, which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, existing in the form of God, didn’t consider equality with God a thing to be grasped, (that is where satan fell, and how he tempted Adam to fall) ⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, He humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, yes, the death of the cross. ⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted Him, and gave to Him the Name which is above every name; ¹⁰ that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, those on earth, and those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”***
- Phil 2:5-11_{WEB}

- ***“Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. ²⁴ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.”***
- Luke 9:23-24_{NKJV}

May we set aside that which is perishing and ***“put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him”*** (Col 3:10), and realize that the Father’s desire is that we ***“are being transformed into the same image (of His Son) from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”*** (2Cor 3:18)

Amen.

We’ve looked at many passages of Scripture here, and I’ve referenced many more. I pray those reading this would look up the verses, and seek the wisdom of God as to what they mean and how they apply to our personal calling and walk with the Lord.

Blessings, and discernment to all,
Michael

To be continued...