

Turning Death Inside Out

I. The Human Being, God's Great Work

A. IN THE BEGINNING God Said and It Was (So)

Gen 1.3 **And God said**, “**Let there be** light,” and there was light.

FIAT - a decree. (from Latin “let it be done.”)

Gen 1.6 **And God said**, “**Let there be** an expanse,... 7 ... **And it was so**.

9 “Let the waters ... **And it was so**.

11 “Let the earth sprout vegetation,... **And it was so**.

14 “Let there be lights... 15 ... **And it was so**.

24 “Let the earth bring forth living creatures ... **And it was so**.

And it was GOOD!

B. The Human Project

Gen 1.26 Then God said, “**Let us make man in our image, after our likeness**. And let them have dominion ...” 27 So God **created** man in **his own image**, in the **image** of God **he created** him; male and female **he created** them.

Now this is something God does, not simply by FIAT or by speaking.

We don't get the simple, “**And it was so**” statement for a very, very long time.

Did God get what he was looking for? Not instantly. The human was beautiful, but it wasn't perfect. The Image, the Message was incomplete, warped, even totally the opposite of what was intended.

Ps 8.4 **what is man**

C. Behold the Human Being!

John 1.1 **In the beginning** was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and **we have seen his glory**, glory as of the only Son from the Father, **full of grace and truth**.

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "**Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**"

John 1.43 NIV The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. **Finding Philip**, he said to him, "Follow me."

45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, "**We have found the One** Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote — Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

John 6.48 **I am the bread of life.**

John 8.12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "**I am the light of the world. ...**"

John 10.9 **I am the door. 11 I am the good shepherd.**

36 do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, '**I am the Son of God**'?"

John 11.25 Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life.** Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

John 14.6 Jesus said to him, "**I am the way, and the truth, and the life.** No one comes to the Father except through me.

9 **...Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Mark 14.36 And he said, “Abba, Father, **all things are possible** for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet **not what I will**, but what you will.”

John 19.5 So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, **“Behold the man!”**

ECCE HOMO **“Behold the Human Being”**

In this we see the true image we were intended to bear. Wiping away every illusion, every false value and vain ambition!

John 19.26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, **“Woman, behold, your son!”** 27 Then he said to the disciple, **“Behold, your mother!”** And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

28 After this, Jesus, **knowing that all was now finished**, said (to fulfill the Scripture), **“I thirst.”** 29 A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.

30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, **“It is finished,”** and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

The HUMAN was COMPLETED.

As a human, Jesus did what God could not do – DIE!

He defeats death by dying.

Not by moving mountains, Splitting the earth, Lightning bolts, Plagues

Not by being Rich & Powerful, Not by being Poor & Outcast, but by DYING IN LOVE!

He hands over his Spirit

Luke 23.45 **while the sun’s light failed.** And the **curtain of the temple was torn** in two. 46 Then Jesus, calling out with a

loud voice, said, **“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!”** And having said this he breathed his last.

II. Turning Death Inside Out!

Death – What every human experiences

- A. The Penalty of Sin
- B. The Last Enemy
- C. The Fearful Unknown that Kept Us Slaves

In His DEATH, HE defeated DEATH.

Heb 2:14 NIV Since the children have flesh and blood, he too ***shared in their humanity*** so that ***by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death***—that is, the devil—
15 and ***free*** those who all their lives were ***held in slavery*** by their fear of death.

NOW – New Creation

- D. Precious In the Sight of the Lord
- E. The Doorway to a Greater Life!

Phil 1.21 For to me to live is Christ, and **to die is gain**. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 I am hard pressed between the two. **My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better**. 24 But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith...

- F. The Final Victory!

1Cor 15.1 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and

by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

- 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins** in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was **buried**, that he was **raised on the third day** in accordance with the Scriptures,
- 21 For as **by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.** 22 For **as in Adam all die**, so also **in Christ shall all be made alive.**
- 54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:
“Death is swallowed up in victory.”
- 55 “O death, where is your victory?
O death, where is your sting?”

The SHIFT

- Destroyed Death on the 6th Day
- Took the Keys of Hell and Death on the 7th Day
- Released the New Creation on the 8th Day!
- Shattering the **No Hope** World that Most Know!

All Things are Possible!

1. Tendency to Look For Things Which No Longer Exist

Luke 24:5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, **“Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He is not here; he has risen! Remember ... 8 Then they remembered his words.**

2. The Tendency to Panic

John 20:2 NIV [Mary Magdalene] came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "**They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!**"

3. Tendency to Get Stuck in Loss

11 but *Mary stood outside the tomb crying.*

15 "Woman," he said, "**why** are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" **Thinking he was the gardener**, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, **tell me where you have put him**, and I will get him."

16 Jesus said to her, "**Mary.**" She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

4. Disappointment ~ "It's Over"

Luke 24:21 NIV but **we had hoped** that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. **MIRACLES AREN'T WHAT WE EXPECT**

31 ***Then their eyes were opened*** and they recognized him, and ***he disappeared*** from their sight.

HE STIRS OUR HEARTS & OPENS OUR EYES

5. Survivalism — "We're Next!"

John 20:19 NIV On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the ***doors locked for fear of the Jews***, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "**Peace** be with you!" 20:20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were ***overjoyed*** when they saw the Lord.

21 Again Jesus said, "**Peace** be with you! As the ***Father*** has ***sent*** me, ***I am sending you.***" 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "***Receive the Holy Spirit.***"

HE GIVES US UNQUALIFIED PEACE (Back to Eden)

COMMISSIONS US INTO THE ETERNAL PURPOSE

PARTICIPATION IN THE TRINITY

Two Things to Remember

1. One Key – Faith (all things are possible)

John 20:26 Eight days later, ... **27** He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. **Do not disbelieve, but believe.**"

INVITES US INTO UNCOMFORTABLE INTIMACY & FAITH

2. One Standard – Love

Turns our frustration into success

John 21:15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, **do you love me** more than these?" ...
16 ... a second time, "Simon, son of John, **do you love me?**" ...
17 ... the third time, "Simon, son of John, **do you love me?**" ...
Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

FAILURE IS NOT AN ISSUE... LOVE IS ... it casts out FEAR

God is Love. Love is Holy. With God, All Things are Possible!

DO WE LOVE HIM? LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR?

Spirit & the Bride say to ALL who are thirsty, "Come!"

And let him who hears say...

The Victory Shout!