

Session 81

Before we get into the subilty aspect of our Level 2 education, I need to finish up something that we did not get to do last week. I think I can do this very quickly, which will let us move right on in to the material that I know you are all waiting for.

Pictured on the board is a candlestick with 7 stems. Each stem contains a feast day and an aspect of God's Jehovahness. This is particularly Jewish. These manifest the 7 ways in which God will do for Israel, all that she needs, which she cannot perform on her own. The last candle is the one we are looking at; the feast of tabernacles. It refers to a time in which God will "tabernacle" with men on this earth, hence, the kingdom.

The feast of tabernacles includes the original feast day on the 15th of the month and declares it to be a Sabbath. The feast runs for 7 more days and declares the last of those days to also be a Sabbath. Therefore, you have 2 Sabbaths in connection with God "tabernacling" with men.

Since this is exactly what God was preparing to do in the creation week, God would, in that second week, educate Adam and Eve as to the work they were to be involved in. On the 2nd Sabbath, they would open up the connection between heaven and earth and God would bring His New Jerusalem down to the earth and set up His residence here.

This is God's plan and all that He had done up to this point was with this action in mind, which would take place "on the 2nd Sabbath" which would fulfill the type. For example, one of the things that God did leading up to this was to plant some particular plants in the garden of Eden Himself. He did not have Adam plant them and they were, I believe, of a different nature than the ordinary plants we have on the earth.

Genesis 2:8 And the LORD **God planted a garden** eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

God is making preparation for His residence being set up, exactly where He wants it, surrounded by the kind of vegetation He wants. The 8 days encompassing the 1st and 2nd Sabbaths has the preparation for the Lord to set up His residence and dwell among men on the earth. The feast of tabernacles holds this out and because of the Sabbath constantly pointing you back to the first week of creation, we see the significance of the 2nd Sabbath.

With that in mind, let us now turn our attention to what we have been looking at in this sonship orientation. For the last few weeks we have been engaged in looking at the sonship curriculum and what it holds out for us as we advance our way through it. We looked at the 4 decision-making skills that comprise Level 1 of our sonship education and now we have moved into Level 2 where we see that the "simple" son will add subilty to what he has already learned.

As we covered previously, the simple son should have enough understanding of where he is in the curriculum that he not only knows his need of subilty, but he is enthusiastically pursuing the acquisition of it. He knows that as that "one-dimensional" son that he is, he knows very little about his Father's business and also that he is vulnerable to the attack of the POE. (Policy of Evil)

(81-82) Sonship Orientation

When you, as a simple son, add subtilty, you become a “young man.” There are two outstanding conditions that define a young man:

(I) Extreme acuteness in penetrating and discriminating the finer points of the Father’s business and your part in it.

Subtilty provides for the son to be multi-dimensional in the understanding and appreciation of the Father’s business.

(II) Extreme acuteness in penetrating and discriminating the finer points of the Satanic policy of evil.

Subtilty provides for the son to have acute comprehension to see through the subtleties of the Satanic Policy of Evil so as to not be victimized by it.

Let’s talk for a moment about the first condition; your Father’s business. Why would you need subtilty with regard to that? When you look up at the sky, you have to see more than just the sun, moon and stars. And you even have to see more than just the “gospel in the stars.”

In order to best illustrate what I’m talking about, let’s go over to Job 38. What Job writes is important for the remnant to be aware of. But what I’m after in all of this is your capacity to use subtilty to see more than what lies on the surface of things, not the least of which is your Father’s business. Subtilty equips you with the capacity to understand and appreciate and comprehend things that are hidden by a veil and are impenetrable to common observation, that go far beyond the merely obvious.

For example, there is something we’ll be doing, as an operation of our Father’s business, when He finally establishes His residence on this earth and as the transition is made into the next dispensation of the “fullness of times.” Then, the land of Israel will be the prophesied “gate of heaven,” (see Genesis 28:17) from which the Father will run His entire business. Up until that time, the realms of heaven and earth have been distinct and separate, with a barrier placed between them. The interface between the two was made defective so that they could not function together the way they were meant to function except through man’s sonship education. Part of our job will be to dismantle the defects, or maybe I should say, “fix the defects” so that the creature will be able to respond to the earth, and visa versa, as was originally intended.

That does not happen until the completion of God’s program with Israel in a dispensation that is not named or revealed until Paul speaks about it in the mystery program for the body of Christ. It is called the “fullness of times.”

Ephesians 1:10 That in the dispensation of **the fulness of times** he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

The book of Ephesians is exactly where you will be as you begin to add subtilty in your Level 2 education as a son. Now, if you remember Jacob’s dream where he saw the ladder with angels ascending and descending, he proclaimed that the land area he was standing on was “the gate of heaven.” What I believe was happening is that God was allowing Jacob to see the “path” that was in place from the time of the original creation. That was changed somewhat as God stretched out the heavens, but it will be restored in the new heavens and the new earth. That

ladder was one of the paths or ways that was established in the creature; this one being the connection between heaven and earth.

Now we are going to turn our attention to the creature. And I want to say right from the beginning, that I am reserving the right to come back later and say these things better. One thing you learn, as you go through the sonship curriculum, is that you never know it all at the early stages and just about the time you think you know all about some aspect of sonship, you find something more than you never even knew existed.

So, the things we will talk about with regard to the creature will, later on, get more detail added to them, they will flesh themselves out and there will be dimensions and aspects that we will discover later that we know little or nothing about right now.

Now, to get ourselves started, when I talk about the creature, it is important to understand what I am referring to. The creature is everything that God created in the creation week, minus the earth. You could say that it is the entire universe, but the Bible does not use that terminology. Neither does it use the term “outer space.” But you get the idea I’m after; everything in the heaven is the creature. When you refer to both the heaven and the earth, that is “the whole creation.”

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.¹⁵ For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:¹⁷ And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.¹⁸ For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy to be *compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of **the creature** waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. 20 For **the creature** was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, 21 Because **the creature** itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that **the whole creation** groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. 23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. 24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? 25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

There are a number of things that we need to observe about this passage.

First of all, I would call your attention to vs. 17 which talks about us being glorified “with Christ” if we “suffer with Him.” In vs. 18 you run into a phrase; “the glory which shall be revealed in us.” That is a very broad term. And even when you read it, this passage alone does not give you much definition or detail concerning that glory. But that glory is a critical part of this passage. You could talk about it like it is the first of two bookends. The second bookend would be found in vv. 24-25, which is “hope.”

The reason I'm saying it this way is because what is given to you between those bookends is designed to produce something in you; patient hope. And in order to produce that patient hope, our Father is going to tell us about some of the things that His business involves.

Verse 21 is a very important verse for us right now too. In fact, this is the verse that I actually want to focus on. Think about that terminology; "deliver the creature from the bondage of corruption."

You can see something else from this passage; how the "creature" is separated out from "the whole creation." You have Paul talking about the creature 3 times and then at the end he refers to "the whole creation" which would include the earth.

Before we move on, there is something else I want you to notice about the creature. I want you to pay attention to the terminology used in the passage. The Bible uses terminology to indicate that the creature really is a living creature. It may not properly function, it may be subjected to vanity, it may be paralyzed, it may not be able to respond to the rest of its parts or the earth, but it is a living creature.

Verse 20 tells us the creature has a will. Only a living creature has a will. Even our dog has a will. Don't get to thinking that these are "words of accommodation" or "anthropomorphisms." This is a precise and accurate description of what is real and it is describing things exactly the way you are to understand and you will ignore these things at your own peril.

Verse 19 says the creature has an expectation. And what is that expectation? It expects to be delivered from that bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. In other words, it expects to be delivered from its present predicament and it even knows who to look to for that deliverance!

Well, since all of that was a secret that was hidden from the foundation of the world, how did the creature come to know about that? And when did the creature first begin to have that expectation of deliverance? And how does the creature know about the "sons of God" who are going to liberate it?

The creature could not have known about its deliverance until it was preached by the apostle Paul; the mystery of Christ revealed. Now think about that for a minute. The creature is aware of the mystery! How aware is it? It is aware enough to know who is going to deliver it – the sons of God. It even knows these are "adopted sons." The creature even knows when that deliverance will take place; when those sons are "manifested." And what does verse 20 say that the creature is doing until those sons of God are manifested? It is waiting!

And if you notice verse 20, the suffering creature has also been subjected to a hope – just like us! And the glory of the restored creature will be so much greater than what it has suffered – again just like us!

But can you imagine what was going on with the creature before the mystery was revealed? It would be like a man, in a hopeless and irreversible situation, sunken into despair. But what must have been the change when the mystery was revealed.

I told you that when the manifold wisdom of God was put on display, God makes the entire creation to take notice! And even the creature was able to comprehend that there was a day of deliverance from its predicament. It understands the plan of God better than most preachers do.

And even though this entirely off the subject, I have to say this too; at the end of Israel's program God will bring about a new heaven and a new earth and new Jerusalem. And we, members of the body of Christ are called the what?

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is **a new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Galatians 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but **a new creature**.

Does it strike you as just a coincidence that when God talks about delivering the creature, by utilizing us, he calls us the "new creature?" Well, I couldn't help but throw that in there. And just to avoid any confusion, I'm saying that as the new creature, it is a description of us as members of the body of Christ and our role in that creature.

As members of the new creature, it will be our grand privilege to renew the creature's capacity to respond to the earth as we judge angels and as we judge the world.

1 Corinthians 6:1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?² Do ye not know that **the saints shall judge the world**? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?³ Know ye not that **we shall judge angels**? how much more things that pertain to this life?⁴ If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.⁵ I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren?⁶ But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers.⁷ Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather *suffer yourselves to be defrauded*?⁸ Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that *your* brethren.

Those are our first 2 vocational roles to fulfill. When Paul talks in Romans 8 about our "delivering the creature from the bondage of corruption," this is what he is talking about.

There's going to be a physical dismantling of the physical structure of some of the aspects of the heavenly places as they surround the earth, as well as a spiritual dismantling of some things that has to do with how and where and why Satan established his dominion in those heavenly places.

Even though He originally created the heaven and the earth as 2 distinct places, He didn't intend that they remain that way. There was supposed to have been sonship labor to be done in conjunction with God and man in order to bring about what was supposed to happen on the 2nd Sabbath after the 1st.

Back at the rebellion of Lucifer, God purposefully placed a barrier between the earth and the heavenly places. While I do not claim to understand everything about this, I do see some things that let lead me to think that if Satan could have restored the connections between the heavens

and the earth, then it would have greatly benefitted him in holding on to them as his possession. It may have even made it so that he could have held them indefinitely.

The barrier that was placed between the heavens and the earth effectively severed any link between them. Since that is the only way we have known about the heavens and the earth, that seems normal to us. But that is not the way it was supposed to be. The way things are now are very abnormal as it pertains to how a body functions properly. In order to see what I'm after, think about your body being separated from your soul and spirit by some kind of barrier so that they cannot interact. How would that affect your body? Now think about the various parts of your body being disconnected from other parts. You would die if the systems within your body did not work together in connection with each other.

What if the lungs breathed in air, but failed to put oxygen into the blood stream? With no oxygen going to the parts of your body, all of those body parts would die. Your brain would go first and then the whole apparatus would shut down. And that is my point, if things were not properly connected, the brain would not be controlling the things it normally does. What makes your heart beat all day? What makes you breathe while you are asleep? You see, to disconnect any part from any other part is to affect the body's normal function.

Think of it this way, if the earth blew up and was completely disintegrated, it would have practically no effect upon the other stars and systems in our own Milky Way galaxy. And when it comes to other galaxies, they would continue right along without any ill effects whatsoever. That is because within the body of the creature, everything is disconnected and essentially dead. At least it sure appears to be dead. Like a limb which has no feeling in it and cannot be controlled or moved. It may or may not be dead, but either way it appears to be dead. And as far as proper function, for all intents and purposes, it is dead.

But that is not the way it is with your physical body as it properly functions. Stick one part and suddenly you are totally aware of it. Have a kidney stone and your whole body reacts to the pain and so does your soul and spirit. You might not be aware of many parts of your body while they function normally, but let one part "blow up" and watch how you take notice.

What I'm pointing out is that unless there is something wrong with you, you do not have a disconnect between parts of your body and between your soul and spirit, but the creature does. We are going to be involved in the process to restore those kinds of connections between the parts of the creature and between the creature and the earth (the soul and spirit of the creature).

It will be our responsibility to make it so that the creature can respond within itself to its various parts and we will accomplish that as we "judge angels." We will have to oversee the work of getting the creature to respond to the earth and the earth to respond to the creature and we will do that as we "judge the world."

And just to enlarge on this for a moment, the earth is not meant to just whirl around out in space for eternity, but it is meant to have the capacity to interact with the rest of the creation; with the creature. And it is meant to respond to creature in some very particular ways and visa versa.

Of course, neither the world nor the creature are responding to each other today. And that is because of what Romans 8:20 says; the creature was made subject to vanity.

Romans 8:20 For the creature was **made subject to vanity**, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

Vanity means “emptiness.” And that is state things are in today, which is why of the two issues concerning the creature, one of them is observable while the other one is not. When the creature was made subject to vanity and put under the bondage of corruption, there was an aspect of the creature that God subjected to emptiness. And unless God tells you about it, no one would know it was even there. And in this, I’m referring to the spiritual and angelic aspect to the creature.

That is why we “judge the world” and “judge angels.” In that “judge angels” area, it has a lot to do with the structure of the heavenly places, which is why the Bible takes such pains to describe the structure of the heavens.

God, for reasons we can discuss later, has placed barriers and separations in place between the earth and the heaven so that the creature and the earth cannot properly respond to each other today. But one day, all of that will need to change and we will be directly involved in removing those various barriers.

Now, getting back to that phrase, “we shall judge the world,” that does not mean that we are taking up Israel’s responsibility to rule and reign on the earth. It means that as we accomplish Ephesians 1:10, we will be making “judgments” to restore the connections between heaven and earth, thereby “gathering together in one all things in heaven and in earth.”

Ephesians 1:10 That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

This is all for the purpose of restoring total functional life to the creature. And just so you think about this properly, this restoration of life and response to the creature and the earth is a process that will take time to accomplish. This is the job we will be working to accomplish in the dispensation of the fullness of times. When that job is finished, then we move on to the “ages to come” which will involve the proper functioning of the entire heavens and earth.

But we’re getting off point. What I really want to focus on is the work we will do as we “deliver the creature from the bondage of corruption.” Just as your body is made to function in harmony with your soul and spirit, so the creature is made to function in harmony with the earth. The creature is the “body” while the earth will be function as the creature’s soul and spirit, and they need to work together before the whole creation can be and do what it was originally created for.

Adam and Eve were going to be involved in the process of bringing the heavens and the earth together. That was going to begin taking place during the week following the first Sabbath and come to completion on the 2nd Sabbath after the first Sabbath of the creation week. That timetable mirrors the 2 Sabbaths of the feast of tabernacles, which has as its end result, “God tabernacling” among His people in the midst of His creation.

Upon the completion of the process, God would bring His New Jerusalem down to the earth and Adam and Eve would continue to labor with God in what He was doing. What they had to do, because of the original creation and because Satan had not yet rebelled, the work of connecting it all up could have been done quickly. But when Lucifer rebelled, that changed things. As I mentioned earlier, some things not only got dismantled, but some things were erected as well.

Some of those things were put into place by God and other things have been put into place by the adversary. Therefore, restoring life and connections to the creature is not the only thing we will be involved in. We will also have some dismantling work to do before the restoration process can get underway.

And here is one more caveat to all this; so far, we only talking about the physical aspects of all this. I know that so far, you don't have the capacity to fully appreciate it, but you will also be involved in dismantling some spiritual things as well. You and I will be responsible for the destruction of Satan's dominion in the heavenly places.

Your sonship education will enable you to make decisions about these very things. You will know the order in which things need to happen. You will understand what the final goal is and you will know what steps need to be taken in order to reach that goal. You will understand the layout of the heavens with relation to the earth and you will understand how your Father intends to carry on His business through the various paths and ways. And because of that understanding, you will know exactly what to do.

Your decision-making skills will come into play, but more than that, the subtilty, the ability to discern the finer points of your Father's business and your part in it, will also come into play. Those basic skills will get refined. Your ability to perceive what needs to be done will be sharpened. Your understanding will be increased as you move into Phase 2 of your Level 2 education.

Well, for Adam and Eve, it was going to be a week's work to get it so that the Lord could bring His city down to the earth, but all of that was sidetracked by the rebellion in the heavens. Therefore for us, it will be a much more involved task.

Make no mistake, God will set up His residence at the start of the Millennium. So we know that some work has to be done very quickly once He has defeated His enemies at the great and terrible day of the Lord. But, there will be much more work to do in order to restore life and functionality to the creature. We will have to "undo" what has been done by the adversary in the heavenly places and we are going to take some things apart and put some other things back together. We'll talk more about this is just a bit.

Now, the body of Christ has become an accomplished reality due to Christ's work in His death, burial and resurrection that no one knew about (the mystery). We are God's provision not only to repossess the heavenly places, not only to take up positions of authority in them, but to also put things right between the heavens and the earth. It will be our job to fix that broken connection between them. This is what we are doing as we "judge angels" and "judge the world."

So, one aspect I trying to get across is that because of Lucifer's rebellion, the job "got bigger." The name Lucifer means "light bearer." As a matter of fact, if you go to Germany and buy a pack of matches, the pack will be labeled "lucifers" on the outside.

But here is my point, back in Genesis, when God said "let there be light," it may well have been that Lucifer's was somehow involved with that light. I don't want to say that he produces it, but his name reveals that he "carries" it or "bears" it. In that sense, he may have been involved in it. But no matter the degree to which he was or was not involved, Lucifer (the light-bearer) rebelled

on day 4 of the creation week, God brought into being “other lights” to rule the day and rule the night.

Genesis 1:14 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:
¹⁵ And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. ¹⁶ And God made two great lights; the greater light **to rule the day**, and the lesser light to **rule the night**: *he made* the stars also. ¹⁷ And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ And **to rule over the day and over the night**, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that *it was* good.

Notice that the verse doesn’t say that God made the greater light to “light” the day, but to “rule” the day. The lesser light does not “light” the night, but it “rules” the night. The terminology is revealing and should not be overlooked. We may have opportunity to discuss this further one day, but for now we need to get ourselves back on track.

Draw timeline:

Day 2 – Lucifer’s heart is filled with violence

Day 4 – Lucifer sins

Ezekiel 28:14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁵ Thou *wast* perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. ¹⁶ By the multitude of thy merchandise they have **filled the midst of thee with violence**, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

Just as a parallel, notice how the earth is described as Satan has usurped it and brought it to ruin.

Genesis 6:11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was **filled with violence**.

But again, we are getting off track. Let me take you over to Psalm 104.

Psalms 104:1 Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty. ² Who coverest *thyself* with light as *with* a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain: ³ Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind:

Those “beams” were laid down on day of creation, with the whole thing encased in water. “His chambers” is a reference to the New Jerusalem, the eternal city that is in the 3rd heaven that one day will be on this earth.

On the third day, God recedes those waters and “dry land” appears.

Genesis 1:9 And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and **let the dry land appear**: and it was so.

(81-82) Sonship Orientation

Between those stars and the earth there was a 2-barrier system in place. That was the function of the “firmament;” to be a barrier between heaven and earth. In that 2-barrier concept, God has already brought down 1 of those 2 barriers (the water barrier) and He did that at the flood of Noah’s day.

That left a space where all the water used to be. Then God had to stretch out the heavens because if He didn’t, man never would have survived. Astronomers look through telescopes and proclaim that the universe is expanding. What they are seeing is the continued motion of the “stretching out of the heavens” because that action is still going on today.

So, why did God have to stretch out the “space” barrier? It was because Nimrod discovered how to breach that other firmament! (That tower was literally going to reach heaven!) If you get the idea that things were a lot closer back than they are now, you are right.

That’s why God said what He said in Gen. 11:6.

Genesis 11:6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now **nothing will be restrained from them**, which they have imagined to do.

All that God had to put into place, in order to deal with the complications that would arise in dealing with the Adversary’s attempts to circumvent God’s plan & purpose, once the Adversary & his plan of evil has been finally judged and executed, then the program turns it’s attention to the dismantling of the various aspects in the creature and creation as a whole that were put into place as ‘prevention measures’ (so to speak) and to destroy all remnants of that plan of evil. Then God can do what will be done in the dispensation of the fullness of times and “gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth ...”

Then, for the 1st time, creation as a whole (heaven and earth) can function according to its original design! That’s our 1st vocational roll, to be involved in that. It takes some intelligence to orchestrate that and that’s all provided for (among other things) in our sonship education. (those 4 decision-making skills)

By the way, there are only two entities that know how to deliver the creature from the bondage of corruption; God (in all 3 persons of the Godhead) and an educated member of the new creation, the church the body of Christ, a son who has been adopted and taken through the sonship curriculum. And no one else in the universe can make the kind of decisions necessary to get that done, because no one else knows what all is involved in doing that.

Draw the timeline adding the d. of the f. of times, and “ages to come”

We’ll expand on this timeline in just a bit, but first, let’s go back and examine the creature. The 2nd heaven is given to you in 2 different ways; as the body of a creature and as a structure. As you presented with information in the book of Romans, you are first of instructed to observe the heavens as a creature and more specifically, as the body of a creature. That isn’t the way we were taught to look at the heavens, so we don’t normally or naturally look at it that way.