

THE WORTH OF THE HUMAN SOUL

While this is our fourth doctrine in the Nepiology series (Godhead, Plan of God, Angelic Conflict, and Human Soul), it is the seventh lesson in this series.

“What is the worth that God sees in fallen mankind that would cause Him to send His Only Begotten Son to die on the cross for them and would cause Him to send missionaries to foreign soils to die for them?”

I believe the answer is found in our lesson text with the creation of the human soul: “Then God said, ‘Let us make (asah / kal impf.1mpl) man in our image (selem) according to our likeness (demuth).”

This lesson will study five reasons why the divine Worth of the Human Soul is based on the way it was created by God – Tselem Demuth.

- 1. Tselem Demuth is two sides of the same coin, not two coins. The Hebrew does not say image and likeness. It says image according to likeness.**

The Hebrew says, “In **Our** image according to **Our** likeness.” The word **Our** is a first plural possessive pronoun, pronominal suffix and it refers to the Godhead.

(Matt.22:20) can help us to understand the meaning of “image according to likeness”. For example, the term “image” (Greek / eikon) of Caesar on the coin was a resemblance or likeness (homoioma) of Tiberius Caesar Augustus (Luke 2:1).

(Matt.22:19) [NIV footnote] “On the one side was the portrait of Emperor Tiberius and on the other the inscription in Latin: “Tiberius Caesar Augustus, son of the divine Augustus.’ The coin was issued by Caesar and was used for paying tax to him.”

- 2. The human soul is invisible and immaterial to the human eye. Yet the image or essence of human soul can be experienced within oneself and by others.**

ESSENCE of the HUMAN SOUL

Self-consciousness	Awareness of oneself, God, and others (Rom.1:28; Acts 17:27; John 4:24)
Conscience	Ability to discern right and wrong, good and evil (Gen.2:17)
Mentality	Left lobe (mind / perception) and right lobe (heart / comprehension) (Prov.27:19)
Volition	Free will or choice (believe or not to believe (John 3:18)
Emotion	Appreciate, feelings of joy or remorse (Matt.27:3-5)

- 3. In Gen.1:26, we are told that the human soul was made (asah) out of something already made.**

The human soul was made out of the invisible and immaterial essence of Godhead - “Let **Us** make man in **Our** image according to **Our** likeness.”

Three times the **first plural** was used with the making of the soul of mankind. The first plural was used with (let **Us** make) [verb] and (in **Our** image) [noun with pronominal suffix] and (according to **Our** likeness) [noun with pronominal suffix].

While the human soul is invisible and immaterial, it can be experienced, as with the Essence of God. For example, **God's love** can be experienced by faith (John 3:16). It also can be experienced by the Holy Spirit at salvation (Rom.5:5, 8) and by the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit (Gal.5:22; 1 Cor.13:4-8).

4. However in Gen.1:27, another idea is introduced regarding the human soul.

God created (bara) the human soul distinctly **male (zakar) or female (neqebah)**. This is also true for chayyah nephesh [animals] (Gen.7:2-3) [5th and 6th days].

All human souls are made up of the same five apertures, are distinctively male and female and by Tselem Demuth. The term "Bara" means to create something out of none existing materials - or out of the essence of God.

5. Mankind is the only "chayyah nephesh" (living soul) made "Tselem Demuth" (In Our image according to Our likeness) (Gen.1:26-27; 9:6; 1 Cor.11:7; James 3:7).

All other living souls "chayyah nephesh" were made with "min" (Species / DNA) (Gen.1:20-31).

God designed bodies to fit the DNA genetic code of both "min" and "Tselem Demuth" (1 Cor.15:36-39).

Every born again human has a resurrection body designed especially for eternal life (1 Cor.15:20-23, 42-44; 1 Thess.4:13-18).

6. Everything created on the 5th and 6th days as "chayyah nephesh" are trichotomous (body, soul and spirit)

(Gen.7:21-23; 8:21) "Of all that was on the dry land, all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died." [Noah's Flood] (Gen.7:22) (James 2:26) The body without spirit is dead.

(Job 12:10) "In Whose hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind?"
(Gen. 12:27:3; 33:4)

Solomon presents two interesting questions regarding this subject (Eccl.3:19-22) "Min" vs "Tselem Demuth".

God cares for all the animals with "chayyah nephesh" and not one falls to the ground without His notice.

But it is **mankind that has the greatest worth to God** (Matt.6:25-34) (Ps.104:27-30) as well as His logistical grace. (Matt.6:26) "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. **Are you not worth much more than they?**"

(Matt.10:28-31) "Therefore do not fear; **you are more value than** many sparrows."

Mankind is of MORE VALUE than the rest of "chayyah nephesh"

Because he was created "Tselem Demuth"!