

What Remains? He Did Not Leave Us As Orphans

Ephesians 1:14 (CSB) *The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession...*

1. The Holy Spirit, his **presence**

John 14:16-17 (CSB) *...the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. ¹⁷ He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn't see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be in you.*

2. His **power**

Acts 1:8 (CSB) *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

3. His **gifts**

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 (CSB) *A manifestation of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good: ⁸ to one is given a message of wisdom through the Spirit, to another, a message of knowledge by the same Spirit, ⁹ to another, faith by the same Spirit, to another, gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another, the performing of miracles, to another, prophecy, to another, distinguishing between spirits, to another, different kinds of tongues, to another, interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ One and the same Spirit is active in all these, distributing to each person as he wills.*

4. His **communication**

John 14:26 (CSB) *But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything...*

5. His **inner strength**

Ephesians 3:16 (CSB) *I pray that he may grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with power in your inner being through his Spirit...*

6. His **unifying energy**

Ephesians 4:3 (CSB) *making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

A Pantheon of gods?

1 Corinthians 8:1-6 *Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up. 2 If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. 3 But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. 4 Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one." 5 For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as **indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"**— 6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.*

Isaiah 45:18 *For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): "I am the LORD, and **there is no other.**"*

- a. "No other God besides me."
- b. This is not a statement of deniability: "There are no other gods."
- c. It is a statement of comparability: "There are no other gods like me."

Deuteronomy 10:17 For the LORD your God is **God of gods** and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God,

Psalms 89:5-7 Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the **assembly of the holy ones**! 6 For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? **Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD**, 7 a God greatly to be feared in the **council of the holy ones**, and awesome above all who are around him?

1. "Sons of god" is used many times throughout the Bible, yet of "**Jesus**" in John 3:16 it says he is the **"only begotten Son of God."**

- a. "**Monogenes**" translated "only begotten." The Greek word "monogeneses" is better translated "**unique.**" Jesus is the "unique" son of God. He is clearly different than the rest of the sons of God.

b. But Jesus himself claims to be one of the sons of God who make up the Divine Council. He is "unique" among the sons of God, being one of the Trinity, yet he sits on the Divine Council ruling and reigning with the Father. In fact his uniqueness qualifies him to sit at the **right hand of God the Father**. That is the place of highest authority.

Psalms 82:1-6 *God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment: 2 "How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Selah 3 Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. 4 Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked...." 6 I said, "You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you;*

New Testament Summary Passages Always Unite Heaven and Earth

Ephesians 1:9-10 *making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.*

Ephesians 1:19-23 *and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him 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 the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.*

Ephesians 3:8-10 *To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.*

Ephesians 3:14-15 *For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,*

Ephesians 6:10-12 *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand*

against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Philippians 2:9-11 *Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Colossians 1:16-20 *For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*

Notes on the Bad Guys from the New Testament

1 Timothy 4:1-2 (ESV) *Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to **deceitful spirits** and **teachings of demons**, ² through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared...*

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 (ESV) *The coming of the lawless one is by the **activity of Satan** with all power and **false signs and wonders**, ¹⁰ and with all **wicked deception** for those who are perishing, because **they refused to love the truth** and so be saved. ¹¹ Therefore God sends them **a strong delusion**, so that they may believe what is false, ¹² in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

Ephesians 6:10-13 (ESV) *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the **schemes of the devil**. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the **rulers**, against the **authorities**, against the **cosmic powers** over **this present darkness**, against the **spiritual forces***

of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in **the evil day**, and having done all, to stand firm.

1 Corinthians 8:1-6 (ESV) Now concerning food offered to **idols**: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This **"knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up.** ² If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. ³ But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. ⁴ Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵ For although **there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"—** ⁶ yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

Deuteronomy 32 Worldview

Deuteronomy 32:8-9 (ESV) When the Most High gave to the **nations** their inheritance, when he divided mankind, **he fixed the borders** of the peoples according to the **number of the sons of God.** ⁹ But the LORD'S portion is his people, **Jacob his allotted heritage.**

Deuteronomy 32:10-18 He found him in a desert land, and in the howling waste of the wilderness; he encircled him, he cared for him, he kept him as the apple of his eye. ¹¹ Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young, spreading out its wings, catching them, bearing them on its pinions, ¹² the LORD alone guided him, **no foreign god was with him.** ¹³ He made him ride on the high places of the land, and he ate the produce of the field, and he suckled him with honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock. ¹⁴ Curds from the herd, and milk from the flock, with fat of lambs, rams of Bashan and goats, with the very finest of the wheat— and you drank foaming wine made from the blood of the grape. ¹⁵ "But Jeshurun grew fat, and kicked; you grew fat, stout, and sleek; then he forsook God who made him and scoffed at the Rock of his salvation. ¹⁶ They stirred him to jealousy with **strange gods; with abominations** they provoked him to anger. ¹⁷ They **sacrificed to demons** that were not God, to **gods** they had never known, to **new gods** that had come recently, whom your fathers had never dreaded. ¹⁸ You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you, and you **forgot the God who gave you birth.**

Genesis 11 The Tower of Babel and the Division of Nations

1. In Genesis 11, mankind attempts to build a tower to reach into heaven. If you want to study that further, just research ziggurats. They were built to reach heaven. To honor and worship certain gods and goddesses. It was mankind's attempt to bargain with gods, appease them, curry their favor.

- a. Now notice again how three sin passages of Genesis contain things that God actually wants to happen. But in each case they are doing it in a sinful way.
- b. In other words, **God does want earth and heaven joined**. But it is meant to be done by the **grace**, the gift, the love of God. Heaven comes to earth! But in Genesis 11, it is the prideful activity of mankind thinking they can reach heaven by their **works**! And then they get led astray into the worship of other gods and goddesses who deceive them. Who respond to their prideful acts and rewards them.
- c. So God, the Father steps in and says "No!" This is not the way heaven and earth are meant to be joined. So God confuses their language, separates them into nations (Gen. 10: Table of nations), and scatters them across the earth. That's the story of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11.
 - i. Here we find the application of the **Deuteronomy 32 worldview**. Verses 8 and 9 show us God assigning members of the Divine Council to govern the nations, to serve the growth and maturity of civilization.
 - ii. But we know some of them rebel. That is the **Psalms 82** recording of God's judgment on his rebellious sons.

Now the Jesus' story

1. We know of the birth, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. But before he returns to take his seat at the head of the Divine Council, Jesus commands his followers to wait....

Luke 24:44-49 *Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of*

*Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled. ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. **But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.**"*

2. So now we see God about to initiate what he had always intended.

Instead of earth reaching into heaven by **works** (like the Tower of Babel), God's plan is that heaven would come to earth by his grace. It is the gift of God. The gift of the Holy Spirit.

a. The fallen sons of God keep misappropriating what the Trinity is planning. They want it for themselves.

b. So the disciples, Jesus, now wait 40 days. They wait in humility and prayer. **Unlike the people at the Tower of Babel, they were not trying to work their way up to heaven and into relationship with a god.**

They waited as Jesus commanded. They waited for the gift of the Father. In response to their believing obedience, now **heaven comes to earth.**

c. **The Day of Pentecost** arrives and the **Holy Spirit** comes to rest on each individual as tongues of fires.

d. After the Holy Spirit had come upon them, he leads to go out into the streets and proclaim the mighty works of God. During the Feast of Pentecost, people from many different nations and tongues were celebrating in Jerusalem. As the disciples proclaimed God's greatness and the good news of Jesus Christ, every person, no matter what nation or language group they were from, **each heard the words of the disciples in their own language!**

e. **The work of Jesus has now reversed the Tower of Babel.**

f. And in the greatest reversal of Babel, we see at the end of the Bible, God joins heaven to earth.

Revelation 21:2-3 *And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of*

God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God."

The Rest of the Story

1. Jesus succeeds in uniting God's two families. All dearly loved by God. Jesus heals the division. He restores the oneness of the family of God.

a. Jesus integrates heaven and earth.

b. Jesus synthesizes matter and Spirit.

c. Jesus restores the loving union of God and mankind.

d. The New Testament has many other references to this story. **There are many subtexts and trails we could trace and see the marvelous story of God's two families and his unrelenting love.**

e. Let's close by just reading a few of the New Testament texts that bring us to the conclusion of God's grand story, revealing the work of God through Jesus and the Holy Spirit to bring heaven and earth together forever.

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