

The Link Between The Rest Of God In Genesis And Hebrews

In God's Word we find much duality.

The Old Covenant – with physical promises for a physical nation.

The New Covenant – with spiritual promises for a spiritual body, the church.

A Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

A Triune Human – body, mind and spirit.

A Physical Tabernacle

A Heavenly Tabernacle

A Physical City of Jerusalem

A New Spiritual Jerusalem that comes down to earth from God's heaven.

Christ's first and second coming to the earth.

Genesis 1:26 [NIV] *“Then God said, “Let us make man in our **image**, in our **likeness**, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”*

God's Plan to create human beings in **His image** and **His likeness** was a dual plan of creation.

Genesis 1:27 [NIV] *“So God created man in his own **image**, in the **image** of God he created him; male and female he created them.”*

The original physical creation was **only** in God's “**image**”.

The different Hebrew words are used in this scripture, of dramatically different meanings.

Image – “*tselem*” – a shadow, **not** the real thing.

Likeness – “*demûwîh*” – model or pattern – manner – similitude – family likeness.

This word is referring to character – God-like character.

Character is only passed on from one person to another through an intimate relationship over a period of time.

2 Peter 1:3-4 [NIV] *“His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very **great and precious promises**, so that through them you may participate in the **divine nature** and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”*

Two things in our life enable us to receive the “*divine nature*”, the very character of a child of God.

1 God's Divine Power – available to us now in the person of the **Holy Spirit** whom the Father has sent at Christ's request to continue the work of redemption He started at His First Coming, Crucifixion and Resurrection.

John 14:15-17 [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the **Spirit of truth**. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be **in you**.”*

The Holy Spirit *“in you”* that is very intimate!

2 God's Promises – that we read in **His Word**, The Christian Bible.

Which was also inspired by the Holy Spirit.

1 Timothy 3:16 [NIV] *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,”*

When the Holy Spirit and God's Word come together the fruits of the Holy Spirit are generated in us.

Galatians 5:22-25 [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”*

These are the very characteristics of the Creator God.

Now in the light of the duality of God's creation plan, let us examine the scriptures that we find in Genesis and Hebrews that talk about **God's rest**.

Genesis 1:31 [NIV] *“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning, the sixth day.”*

God looked at all this physical creation, that included two physical human beings in His *“image”* – and declared it all to be very good.

Genesis 2:1-2 [NIV] *“Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.”*

The physical creation of the earth and human beings was now completed, humans were created in God's *“image”* but **not** yet His *“likeness”*.

We can sense that God paused, rested, at the time of this completion of the physical universe and humanity.

To experience pleasure in what He had accomplished.

Who wouldn't, when we see for the first time this vast perfect physical creation.

Then look at ourselves and the complexity of our human body, mind and spirit as God did.

The Hebrew word is *“shâbath”* – **to repose** – **an interruption of work by God to celebrate the completion of the first part of His proposed creation of humanity in His image**, this rest day had a temporal beginning but it has **no end**, there was **no** *“evening or morning”* to this created period of time.

What about the “rest” mentioned in Hebrews?

In Hebrews the word used referring to **God’s rest** – “*His rest*” – is “*katapausis*” – denotes a causing to cease or putting to rest – **indicating the completion of the second phase of God’s creation**, the spiritual, “*likeness*”, character forming in human beings.

The time will come when all human beings who have taken on the “*divine nature*” character of God will receive a “*spiritual body*” **that will leave time behind and enter into eternity.**

1 Corinthians 15:51-54 [NIV] “*Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”*”

This is a body that will never be tired or need a physical rest.

A “*sabbatismos*”, a sabbath keeping.

A physical rest during a certain period of time, the seventh day, to be a constant reminder of the eternal rest of God we are seeking.

Hebrews 4:9 [NIV] “*There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God;*”

The word translated “rest” or “sabbath rest” is “*sabbatismos*” specifically referring to human beings **not** God.

When God’s rest is mentioned in this passage the “rest” we should be, as human beings, seeking to enter is “*katapausis*” is the Greek word used.

What does God say about the “sabbath keeping” rest?

It “remains” – the Greek word translated “remains” is “*apōlēipō*”.

This word has a “passive” and “active” use, and we have to judge which is correct by the context in which we find it.

“passive” use translates it “remains”.

“active” use translates it “to leave behind”.

Surely when we enter into God’s eternal rest, with a spiritual body that is outside time, as God is, **we do not need** a physical “*sabbatismos*”.

This then is something we leave behind!

Galatians 3:23-29 [NIV] “*Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law. You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.*”

If we have faith in what God has done for us through Jesus Christ His Son we are already children of God.

1 John 5:1-5 [NIV] *“Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”*

Confirmation of our being God’s children now, and keep the Commandments of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 22:35-40 [NIV] *“One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ‘Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’ Jesus replied: ‘“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”*

These two laws cover all the many laws and statutes of the Old Covenant, as well as the prophecies about Jesus Christ, Who came to show us the Love God has for all humanity not just Israel.

Galatians 5:14 [NIV] *“The entire law is summed up in a single command: “Love your neighbour as yourself.”*

Love fulfils all the law.

John 17:3 [NIV] *“Now **this is eternal life**: that they may **know** you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”*

Eternal life is ours now if we “know” God the Father and Jesus Christ.

The Greek word translated “know” is “ginōskō” and is a very intimate relationship, being used of the physical union of a man and woman.

Luke 1:34 [King James] *“Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing **I know not a man?**”*

Mary was still a virgin.

We have this intimate relationship with God through the Holy Spirit.

John 14:15-17 [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and **will be in you.**”*

The Holy Spirit will be “in you”, that is very intimate!

This is how we are able to love God and our neighbour.

Galatians 5:22-25 [NIV] *“**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.**”*

Love is one of the fruits that the Holy Spirit in us generates in our life, when we have a close walk with Him.

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to **offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.**”*

This is how we worship God every day of the week [not just on the sabbath day], by offering our whole body, mind and human spirit [**Job 32:8**] to God to use in any way He chooses.

Romans 12:2 [NIV] *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind.** Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

We know what is His will for us when we allow the Holy Spirit in us to renew [make new] our mind.

This is the way to enter into God’s eternal rest.