

CHAPTER 3

YESHUA'S OUT OF BODY EXPERIENCES ~ A Forerunner For Us

“For unto us a Child is born.

Unto us a Son is given...” Isaiah

How can there be life for our soul when our body is dead? How can there be life for our soul apart from our body? A critical analysis of the transformations Yeshua went through can be very revealing for us in our quest for understanding. Let's do a little exegesis of the scriptures regarding the steps necessary to accomplish the immaculate conception, birth, life, death and resurrection of Yeshua HaMashiach (Jesus the Christ), for we are on a similar journey to the same destination.

Heb 2:11, 14, 17

For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified *are* all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Since we were made flesh, He was made flesh. Since we lived in a body that would die, He lived in a body that died. He experienced all that we do.

Before we get started with this exciting chapter, let's briefly consider a few reasons behind much of the confusion in understanding God's words:

- 1 Looking into deep things without a solid Torah-based foundation is like trying to study algebra or calculus without first understanding basic math. God said Torah is our wisdom and understanding (Deut 4:6). David said a love of Torah would give us understanding making us wiser than our

enemies, wiser than our teachers and wiser than the aged (Ps 119:98 – 104). He also said it would convert our soul (Ps 19:7). Paul told Timothy that Torah would make him WISE unto salvation (2 Tim 3:15).

- 2 A closed mind is difficult to teach. We can't learn when we have closed our minds to truth because we think we already know something that we don't actually know by clinging to pre-conceived or inherited ideas.

- 3 Acceptance! It can sometimes be difficult to learn something that, if accepted, may put us at odds with others who believe differently. This was a constant challenge for the Jews in Yeshua's time, just as it is in many churches and synagogues today (John 7:13, 19:38, 20:19). The mind is powerfully clever in finding ways to ignore truth to avoid undesirable consequences, but only truth makes us free.

We've already seen in the previous chapter that God clearly has a soul, spirit and body. We've also seen

that man, being made in God's image, also has a soul, spirit and body. Let us now begin – not with difficult and hard to understand sayings of deep mysteries – let's instead begin with the clear, the simple and the logical. Let's begin with the easily verifiable words of God that need no interpretation.

Let's begin this journey with eyes open wide...

The Greek word translated “body” as used by the apostles in the New Testament is *soma*. *Soma* is also translated and likened unto *a house, a tent, a tabernacle, a body* - something we live in. *Soma* is something that accommodates us, but it is not our whole or center. We can and do move from house to house, from one dwelling to another, just like Yeshua did. *Soma* is also translated as *slave*, as in (Rev 18:13). This is because the body functions as a slave to carry out our will, our instructions, and our commands. When your brain says “move left” – our body moves left. A healthy body is an obedient slave and a wonderful place to live in.

Consider this...

But when the fullness of the time had come,
God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born

under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons (Gal 4:4 – 5).

When the time came for God to send forth His Son, How did He do it and with what body did He come?

We see from (Heb 7:1 – 3) that Yeshua had no beginning of days and no end of life. He is called the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the Almighty (Rev 1:8). He came to offer us the same fountain of the water of life (Rev 21:6). John the apostle called Yeshua, “the Word.”

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men (John 1:1 – 4).

Since we see that everything that was made was made by Yeshua, and that without Him nothing was made that was made, we can see that Yeshua has always had life with the Father – eternally. He was before all creation. If He were “made” He would have had to

have made Himself, for without Him nothing was made that was made.

Messiah not only suffered and died in our stead, He also gave up His glorious existence with the Father in a glorified spirit body. He did this so He could come down to this earth and live in a weak, physical body like man. Notice Yeshua's own words, spoken shortly before His death, about the state of His pre-existence with the Father:

And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was (John 17:5).

Notice the words, “the glory which I had with You before the world was.” Yeshua had a glorified body with the Father, before He “traded down” to a physical body – one that could be sacrificed for us. It's a truth so incredible that many struggle with it, but if you can receive it, Yeshua was the One who uttered the 10 commandments to Israel and the Rock who led Israel out of Egypt (1 Cor 10:1 – 4).

As John said:

“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God (John 1:1-2).”

“God” is not a name but a descriptive title, like the word “family.” You can have one family made up of more than one member. In Genesis 1:1 we read:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

The Hebrew word translated into the English word “God” here is *Elohiym*. It is the plural form of the word translated *God*. Scripture also uses *Eloah* as the singular, but not here. Both the plural *Elohiym* and the singular *Eloah* are translated as “God” in the English language. English can be confusing in that way, as the reader must determine by the context if the singular or plural noun is intended. Such is the case with “elk” or “deer” and many other words in the English language. But the Hebrew is clear in both verbiage and context. So we see that Yeshua, as the Word, was both with God and was God. That’s why the word *God* is in the plural form, as it is referring to the two members of the God head – the Father and the Son. This is the only way the following language actually makes sense:

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them (Gen 1:26 – 27).

“Let Us...” Clearly there was more than one being and they said “Let Us make man in Our image.” *Us* is not a singular term. Part of being made in God’s image was to be made as man and woman – two. God calls Himself “Father” which is a family term. Both man and woman are made in His image. So when John says the Word was with God and the Word was God, that’s exactly what he means. The Word was God and the Word was with the Father and from the Father. Yeshua is the Word’s name. Yeshua has always had a glorious existence with the Father and a glorious body like our Father.

Further confirmation of Yeshua’s glorious pre-incarnate body is found in the book of Daniel. Let’s

view, as through the glass of a window, right into the very temple of Adonai in the heavens and see:

Dan 7:9-10

"I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment *was* white as snow, and the hair of His head *was* like pure wool. His throne *was* a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire;

A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.

The Ancient of Days was seated and all other came ministering to Him. Clearly He is the Most High. Then notice:

Dan 7:13-14

"I was watching in the night visions, And behold, *One* like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him.

Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion *is* an

everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, And His kingdom *the one* which shall not be destroyed.

It was said of the Son of Man who came on the clouds of heaven that He had glory and a kingdom (verse 14). Thus we see in the book of Daniel a vision of the glorious body and glorious state of both the Father Ancient of Days and His Son Yeshua similar to what we see in the book of Revelation. In Revelation chapter four we see descriptive visions of the Father Most High being seated and the glorious Lamb of God coming to Him in chapter five. Yeshua, who is called the Lamb of God and the Son of Man, had His glorious body that was described with similar verbiage in the transfiguration before Peter, James and John.

Matt 17:2

and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

The evidence put forward thus far is sufficient to say beyond any doubt that Yeshua had a glorious existence with a glorious body *before* the angel spoke to Mary. After which the appointed time came for Yeshua to

give all that up, for “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...(John 3:16).”

So step one in Yeshua’s out of body experience was divesting Himself of His glorious spirit body. Now we know He did not just move over to another body, but was actually without a body for a while, while He lived and grew within Mary’s body. Let’s have some fun and THINK. Consider...

When the appointed time came – the very instant Mary conceived, Yeshua was void of His glorious body. At that time He had no body, unless you want to consider one cell splitting into two as a “body.”

QUESTION: The instant Yeshua gave up His body and became a single fertile cell in Mary’s womb, was He still alive...?

Of course He was! Being pregnant is being imbued with life, not death. So at that moment and for a time, Yeshua did not have a body. Over time, one cell turned

into two, then two cells divided and became four and then four cells divided and became eight, and so on. While this process called the first trimester continued, Yeshua had life, but He did not yet really have a body.

QUESTION: During the first trimester of Mary's pregnancy, was Messiah still alive? – YES.

Soon the replication of cells advanced and a growing tiny life that became the body of Messiah began to take shape and the signs of pregnancy began to be noticeable in Mary. During this time, was Yeshua alive? – YES.

Finally the time for birth arrived and all the angles could see this glorious spirit being that previously had a glorious spirit body now dwelt in a new body – a physical body. Please get this point – a spirit being now lived in a physical body. Remember, we are made in God's image. Ponder this fact for a moment: Yeshua had a new physical body that housed the soul of His spirit! WOW. It's simple but profound.

So we see that at the very instant Mary conceived, Yeshua moved from one body to another – yet He remained alive. When I say, “He moved from one body to another,” I mean He moved out of His glorious spirit body into Mary’s body. He lived in the body of another – His mother. He lived in Mary’s body while His own body was being prepared, much like those who die in Yeshua live in His body while they await the resurrection to receive their own new spirit bodies (1 Thess 4:14 – 16). It’s just a fact that God intends for each of us to have and live in more than one body! In fact, God has prepared more than one body for each of us.

Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "*Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me (Heb 10:5).*"

And:

It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body (1 Cor 15:44).

Consider these poignant truths:

- At the very instant that Mary conceived, the Son of God still had a soul which was spiritual in nature and which was living – but He had no body.
- At the very instant Mary conceived, the Son of God remained alive and still had a living Spirit – the spirit of God in Him – but He did not have a body.
- During this process of being born again, HaMashiach’s spirit and incorporeal soul resided and lived in Mary’s physical body. This continued until Messiah’s own physical body was prepared and ready. Likewise, those who die in Yeshua will remain “*IN Him*” until their own spirit body is prepared and ready (1 Th 4:14,16, Rev14:13, 1 Cor 15:18 – 19). The saints (both dead and alive) are all members of the body of Christ. Christ’s body is not dead (1 Cor 12:27, Matt 16:18).
- Right now, you and I have a soul which is not material, not physical, breathed directly from the breath of God’s spirit.
- Right now, you and I have a spirit that continues to work with and dwell within our soul.

- Right now, both our spirit and our soul live captive inside a carnal physical body (Rom 7:24). But that too is about to change.

At birth, Yeshua breathed. His blood pumped through the many little veins of His new little body. His bones grew. He learned tradesman skills; He studied Torah, played, joked, laughed, cried and suffered. His Soul developed and improved and the perfect will of God was His delight. When He was betrayed by His close friends and fellow Jews, it hurt deeply. When He was hungry with fasting, He felt it. When He was beaten, His flesh ripped open and He bled. He lived in His new body of flesh. His fleshly body was a weak house that offered little protection. His only protection was from above – from His Father.

He was restrained while his hands and wrists were tied and then nailed to a cross beam called a patibulum. The vertical beam, called a stake, was already fixed in the ground. The patibulum was then hung on top of the stake, thus making a cross. Crucifixion was such a horrific way to die that it spawned a new word to describe that level of pain. It was called *excruciating*,

meaning “out of the cross” or “from the cross.” When the Roman soldier thrust his spear into Yeshua’s side, water and blood poured out of His body. As His life literally drained out of His body and His soul and spirit were poured out as well. He breathed His last and died. His dead body now hung lifeless on the cross, but He had already committed His living Spirit into the hands of God His Father (Luke 23:46). Steven also that his spirit would return to the Father at his death (Acts 7:59).

Now Yeshua found Himself once again in the peculiar position of not having a body. His living Spirit (and Soul) was in God’s hands, but His physical body was dead.

QUESTION: Where did Yeshua say He was going on the day of His death – just before He died? The question was not where were you taught Yeshua went or where do you think Yeshua went on the day of His death. The question is, where did Yeshua say He was going on the day of His death?

Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals hanging there hurled insults at him. "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

But the other one spoke up and rebuked the first, saying, "Have you no fear of God? You're getting the same punishment as he is.

Ours is only fair; we're getting what we deserve for what we did. But this man did nothing wrong."

Then he said, "Yeshua, remember me when you come as King."

Yeshua said to him, "Yes! I promise that you will be with me today in Gan-'Eden." CJB

The New King James translation states:

And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise (Luke 23:43)."

Yeshua's promise to the repentant thief on the cross was that they would be together, later in the same day, in Paradise- the beautiful garden of God. Where was this Paradise? Was it in heaven or hell?

Later that same day we see where Yeshua's body went. His body was placed in a tomb where it remained for the next three days and three nights (Luke 23:47 – 53). The body of the thief on the cross

was not buried with Yeshua's, and the grave was certainly was not paradise, so where did their souls go?

Just like God said, the abode of the dead was far away from their dwellings and far away from their graves (Ps 49:14).

Remember Yeshua said;

As Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth (Matt 12:40).

What does "heart of the earth" mean? A tomb on the surface of the earth certainly is not the "heart" of the earth! David plainly stated that evil people will go to hell, deep in the lower parts of the earth.

Ps 63:9

But those *who* seek my life, to destroy *it*, Shall go into the lower parts of the earth.

Again, Jonah described his journey down to Sheol as being so deep it was down to the very under-support or "moorings of the mountains" (Jonah 2:6). In Psalm 49 the Psalmist describes Hell as being a distant deep pit (Ps 49:1 – 15). If you look it up you will notice in

verse 15 that Sheol is described as being far from their dwellings. Graves are typically placed very near the dwelling of the deceased. The word “grave” is substituted in this passage by the New King James translators, but the Hebrew word is used is Sheol – best translated Hell – not grave.

We’ve already seen that they took the body of Yeshua and placed it in a nearby tomb. Now let’s learn from the words of the apostle Peter and king David about where Yeshua’s soul went, while His body lay in the grave or tomb.

Acts 2:22-27

"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know —

Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

For David says concerning Him: *'I foresaw the LORD always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.*

Yeshua's soul went to Sheol at death (Hades), while His body was put into a tomb or grave. Yeshua's soul went to Sheol, but it did not remain there past 3 days and 3 nights – just like the prophets foretold.

It should not be a shock to think that our Lord and Messiah went to Sheol. Long ago, David said to God, “If I make my bed in hell, behold You are there (Ps 139:8).”

Messiah's reference to a compartment of Sheol as being “Paradise” and His teaching in Luke 16 where Abraham sat and comforted those that the angels brought to him, show us that there are different compartments in Sheol (Hell). Sheol is not necessarily always a bad place. Yeshua did not go immediately to

heaven at His death. He went first to Sheol. We'll have more on this later. Now let's get back to the main point of this chapter – Yeshua's out of body experiences.

- We have seen that Yeshua remained very much alive as He moved from His glorious body to the body of His mother, Mary.
- Yeshua remained alive as He transitioned from the body of His mother, Mary, to His own body.
- Yeshua remained alive during His birth wherein His life was now housed completely within His own new fleshly body.
- We have seen that Yeshua stated that the soul has life independent of the body (Matt 10:28). Thus Yeshua lived while in that part of Sheol that he told the thief on the adjacent cross was called Paradise. He also lived when He visited other parts of Sheol and preached to the spirits of those who were incarcerated there (1 Pet 3:19).
- Then Yeshua remained alive as He was resurrected back into His same body of flesh and bones. Remember, Yeshua told Thomas and the other disciples BEFORE He was taken up, that He did not yet have a spirit body, for “a

spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have (Luke 24:39).”

- Yeshua remained alive when He was taken up to heaven 40 days after His resurrection, as He rode on the clouds and was once again given a glorious spirit body to dwell in. Thus He remains with our Father to this day.

One of the great truths of Yeshua’s only sign that He would give the doubters was that just as Jonah was three days *AND* three nights in the heart of the earth, actually in Sheol (Jonah 2:2) before he was raised back to life in his same physical body; so it would be for the Son of Man. Yeshua too died. After three days and three nights, He too was raised back from Sheol to the live in His same physical body – for He still bore the signs of the wounds to His hands and feet and in His side (Luke 24:38 – 39, John 20:27). We have seen that Jonah died and thus went to Sheol (Jonah 2:2). When the great fish vomited up the corpse of Jonah on dry land, God restored His life back into his physical body again. Thus Messiah was also resurrected back to His physical body. He was then transformed 40 days later, to a spirit body and a heavenly abode (see Matt 12:40, Acts 1:3,9). This is why He calmed the disciples and told them He was not (yet) a spirit, and is why He was

able to show them the scars and wounds of His crucifixion. 40 days later He rose to a glorious spiritual existence as our High Priest, with His mission of redemption fully accomplished.

An honest exegesis of the scriptures leaves no doubt that Yeshua had several “out-of-body” experiences and trans-body experiences. As He lived, Yeshua moved from a glorious body into the physical body of His mother Mary, then into His own physical body, then out of His physical body at death, then back into His physical body at His resurrection and then back to His glorious heavenly spirit body as He rode the clouds back into the heavens.

In the next chapter we’ll examine a few passages that have confused some and shine some more light on this very personal and interesting mystery – the life of our souls after death.