

ESCHATOLOGY

TALK 1

The Role of the Holy Spirit

NOT AN ADDENDUM

Christian eschatology (belief in the second coming of the Lord in glory; the establishment of the Kingdom of God in its fullness; the judgment; new heavens and new earth) is

NOT

an Addendum or Appendix to
Christian faith

The second coming of the Lord Jesus
in

glory belongs to

- the Good News of the Gospel
- * the foundational creed of the Church

It is at the heart of the hope of the
Church.

WHAT HAPPENED AT BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Jesus is living Lord today

- He acts, He speaks, He heals, He
guides

Resurrection becomes central

Scriptures come alive

Praise springs up from our hearts

Desire to evangelize

But also

- Hope comes alive
- * We cry out Marana tha! Come, LORD Jesus!
- We long and groan for full salvation
- The Bride longs for the Bridegroom

THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER

- “Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you, but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are clothed with power from on high.” (Luke 24: 49).
- “He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father” (Acts 1: 4).

What is it?

- The Promise of the Father is

THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE HOLY SPIRIT and THE HOPE

The Holy Spirit creates and forms the living hope within each Christian.

“Through him [Jesus] we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God.” (Rom. 5: 2).

“God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.” (Rom. 5: 5).

THE HOPE THE SPIRIT CREATES

- for full salvation with the resurrection of the body
- to see Jesus face to face (see 1 John 3: 2)
- for an end to suffering, persecution, temptation, and above all an end to death;
- redemption of the whole creation (Rom. 8: 21-22)
- the reign of Jesus in righteousness

THE HOPE OF ISRAEL

“And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers. To this promise our twelve tribes, earnestly serving God night and day hope to attain.” (Acts 26: 6 - 7).

“For this reason therefore I have called for you, to see you and speak with you, because for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.” (Acts 28: 20).

FAITH, HOPE & THE PROMISES

Biblical faith is always the conviction that God has spoken and acted, and faith in what God has promised.

OT example: Abraham, the father of those who believe (Rom. 4: 11)

NT example: Mary (Luke 1: 31 - 33; Luke 1:45)

FAITH IN THE HUMANLY IMPOSSIBLE

Abraham: faith that he would have a son by Sarah

“No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what He had promised.” (Rom. 4: 20 - 21)

Mary: faith that she could have a son through the Holy Spirit (Luke 1: 34 - 38).

Jesus transforms the Hope of Israel

- By expanding the promises
- By teaching about the kingdom of God (heaven) closely linked to his person
- By revealing the resurrection from the dead and entry into the glory of the Father

Faith in the Resurrection

Christian faith is above all faith in the resurrection of the body:

- the resurrection of Jesus

“if you ... believe in your heart that God raised him

[Jesus] from the dead, you will be saved.” (Rom. 10: 9)

- the promise of our resurrection on the last day (the humanly impossible)

A Gospel without our bodily resurrection on the last day is less than half a Gospel.

It is not proclaiming our total salvation. It is missing the full glorification of human beings and human society with the glory of all creation

GIFT OF HOLY SPIRIT AS 1stFRUITS

“we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit (*aparchē*), groan inwardly as we wait for the adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.” (Rom. 8: 23)

A different use of *aparchē* in 1 Cor. 15: 22: Jesus is the “first fruits” of those who have fallen asleep.

- With the gift of the Holy Spirit, our inner being is oriented towards the coming Kingdom and its glory.
- We are wholly oriented to God's coming Kingdom, like an arrow pointing to the target
- “he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away“ (Is. 49: 2b)

GIFT OF SPIRIT AS DEPOSIT

“he has ... given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee (*arrabōn*) [deposit] (2 Cor. 1: 22; 5: 5)

When I make a deposit on a purchase, I contract obligations and the object purchased becomes mine.

With the gift of the Holy Spirit, God makes a deposit, we both contract obligations, and we become His property.

GIFT OF HOLY SPIRIT AS SEAL

“God has set his seal upon us ...” (2 Cor. 1: 22)

See Ephesians 1: 13 - 14

“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” (Eph. 4: 30)

JESUS WILL COME TO CLAIM HIS OWN

On the last day, the Lord Jesus will come to claim

- all those marked with His seal (image)
- all those in whom is His deposit
- all those who have become his property

CATHOLIC CATECHISM on LITURGY

- “The Holy Spirit’s transforming power in the liturgy hastens the coming of the kingdom and the consummation of the mystery of salvation.” (para. 1107)
- “Since the apostolic age the liturgy has been drawn toward its goal by the Spirit’s groaning in the Church: *Marana tha!*” (para. 1130)

THE OUR FATHER

“In the Eucharist, the Lord’s Prayer also reveals the eschatological character of its petitions. It is the proper prayer of ‘the end-time,’ the time of salvation [between Pentecost and 2nd Coming]

(para. 2771)

Thy Kingdom Come: “This petition is ‘*Marana tha*,’ the cry of the Spirit and the Bride: ‘Come, Lord Jesus.’” (para. 2817)

QUESTIONS

1. How does this teaching confirm elements in your own experience of baptism in the Holy Spirit?
2. What is new for you in this teaching?
3. What particularly touched your heart in this teaching?