

1 Corinthians 15:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

Analysis

And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul (οὕτως καὶ γέγραπται, Ἐγένετο ὁ πρῶτος ἄνθρωπος Ἀδὰμ εἰς ψυχὴν ζῶσαν)—Paul quotes Genesis 2:7 (LXX). God breathed neshamah (נְשָׁמָה, "breath of life") into Adam, who became nephesh chayyah (נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה, "living soul/being"), psychēn zōsan (ψυχὴν ζῶσαν) in Greek. Adam's life was psychikos—natural, earthy, mortal.

The last Adam was made a quickening spirit (ὁ ἔσχατος Ἀδὰμ εἰς πνεῦμα ζωοποιοῦν)—Christ is ho eschatos Adam (ὁ ἔσχατος Ἀδάμ, "the Last Adam"), the second head of humanity, inaugurating new creation. The phrase pneuma zōopoion (πνεῦμα ζωοποιοῦν, "life-giving Spirit") indicates Christ's resurrection body, animated and empowered by the Spirit, imparts resurrection life to believers. Christ doesn't merely have life; He gives life (John 5:21, 6:63).

Historical Context

Adam-Christ typology is distinctively Pauline (Romans 5:12-21). Jewish theology had no 'Last Adam' category. Paul's innovation: Christ reverses Adam's curse, inaugurating new humanity. Adam brought death; Christ brings life. Adam's body was psychikos; Christ's resurrection body is pneumatikos. Believers, united to Christ, will share His resurrection body type.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Christ as 'Last Adam' reverse the First Adam's legacy of sin and death?
2. What does it mean that Christ is 'life-giving Spirit'—how does He impart resurrection life?
3. How does Adam-Christ typology demonstrate Scripture's unified storyline from Genesis to Revelation?

Interlinear Text

οὕτως	καὶ	γέγραπται	Ἐγένετο	ὁ	πρῶτος	ἄνθρωπος	
so	And	it is written	was made	G3588	The first	man	
G3779	G2532	G1125	G1096		G4413	G444	
Ἀδὰμ	εἰς	ψυχὴν	ζῶσαν	ὁ	ἔσχατος	Ἀδὰμ	εἰς
Adam	was made	soul	a living	G3588	the last	Adam	was made
G76	G1519	G5590	G2198		G2078	G76	G1519
πνεῦμα	ζωοποιοῦν						
spirit	a quickening						
G4151	G2227						

Additional Cross-References

John 5:21 (Parallel theme): For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.

Genesis 2:7 (Parallel theme): And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Romans 8:2 (Spirit): For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

John 14:6 (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 6:63 (Spirit): It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

John 6:33 (Parallel theme): For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

John 6:57 (Parallel theme): As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.

John 6:54 (Parallel theme): Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

Revelation 22:1 (Parallel theme): And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

Revelation 22:17 (Spirit): And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.