



**WHO
WAS
JESUS
CHRIST**

Jesus Christ in his person, his life, and his teaching, was a radically new development in God's revelation of himself to mankind.

1. The Son of God

Jesus Christ claimed to be the Son of God, the Word of God in human form, in fulfilment of Old Testament scriptures such as:-

“Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel...”
- Isaiah 7:14

Immanuel means “God with us.”

It was this claim that the religious leaders of Jesus' day found so offensive that they sentenced him to death:-

*Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for **I find no fault in him.***
The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God. - John 19:4-7

So the Jewish Council condemned Jesus to death because they did not believe His claim to be The Son of God.

And God bore witness that Jesus was indeed his Son with many signs and wonders. For example, when Jesus died, the sun was turned into darkness for three whole hours. Secondly, when Jesus died the veil of the temple was ripped in two, from top to bottom, as a sign that God had now made a way for us to enter right into his presence, by taking away our sins. Thirdly, when Jesus died there was a great earthquake, and many saints arose from the dead. And fourthly, God raised Jesus himself from the dead, after three days, as Jesus had.

2. The Word of God

One of Jesus' closest disciples, the apostle John, expressed the person of Jesus Christ in the following way:-

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men....

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. - John 1:1-4,14

The Greek word “Logos” (translated into English as “The Word”) means both power and wisdom. God

created all things by his word: he spake, and it was so. And the more we study the things that God has created the more we can see God's great wisdom at work. And so in his creation we see both the power and the Wisdom of God.

In the creation we see the three persons of the Godhead at work.

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.... And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. - Genesis 1:1-3

*“And God said, Let **us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness:” - Genesis 1:26.*

Here we see the fatherhood of God, the word of God and the spirit of God all working together: Father, Word, and Holy Spirit, each expressed in different ways, yet perfectly one.

The apostle Paul, another major New Testament writer, expressed the person of Jesus Christ as follows:-

*“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest** [made known] **in the flesh...**” - 1 Timothy 3:16*

*“Giving thanks unto the Father...who hath... translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:...who is **the image of the invisible God..for by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: and he is before all things, and by him all things consist.**”*
- Colossians 1:12-17

3. The Christ

Jesus also claimed to be the Messiah (The Christ, The Anointed One) who had been promised over and over throughout the Old Testament (especially in the books of Isaiah and Daniel). This was another claim for which Jesus was condemned to death:-

*Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, **Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?***

And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. Then the high priest rent his clothes, and saith, What need we any further witnesses? Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? And they all condemned him to be guilty of death.
- Mark 14:61-64

There were two main aspects to this promised Messiah.

Salvation from Sin

The first, and most important aspect of Messiah is that he would save his people from their sins. The prophet Isaiah spoke of how Messiah would be rejected, how he would be whipped and killed, and how he would bear the sins of his people, like the Passover lamb and the scapegoat under the laws of Moses.

*... he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and **the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all for the transgression of my people was he stricken thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin he shall bear their iniquities.... he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.** - Isaiah 53:5-6, 8, 10-12*

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. - Matthew 1:21

This Jesus did, when he willingly died on the cross. He could easily have used his miraculous powers to

escape from his captors. Or he could have used his great wisdom to persuade his judges that he was innocent. But Jesus deliberately chose not to avoid such a shameful death, because he wanted to obey and to please his Father in Heaven. He also loved you and me, and he wanted to save us from our sin.

The Kingdom of God on Earth

The second aspect of the promised Messiah is that he would set up the kingdom of God on Earth and that this kingdom would last for ever.

*And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up **a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed** ... and it shall stand for ever.*

- Daniel 2:44

*I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: **his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.** ... Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most*

High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

*... And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, **whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.** - Daniel 7:13-14, 22, 27*

To the Jews in the time of Jesus, who were looking for a national salvation rather than a spiritual salvation, this meant that Messiah would free them from the domination of the Romans. But when Jesus made it clear that he had no intention of making war against the Romans, the Jews turned against him.

However, the kingdom of God that Jesus spoke of was a spiritual kingdom, the Kingdom of Heaven, composed of those who have willingly yielded to the kingship of God in their lives. This kingdom was set up in Jesus' day during the reign of the Kingdom of iron and has been in existence since that time.

However, there is a second fulfilment of these prophecies, which will come to pass in the last days during the reign of the Antichrist, also known as The Beast (the kingdom of iron and clay spoken of in Daniel 2.) At that time, Jesus Christ will return to this earth, in all his glory, to destroy the kingdoms of this

world and to set up an everlasting kingdom, with himself as king.

*And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. **And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron:** and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, **KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.***

- Revelation 19:11-16

And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire

burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh. - Revelation 19:19-21

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. - Revelation 20:4

All those who have willingly yielded themselves to the lordship of Jesus Christ during this life will rule and reign with him during that time. That kingdom will last for a thousand years on this Earth, and then for ever and ever in the New Heavens and the New Earth.

5. The Son of Man

Jesus frequently referred to himself as The Son of Man. By using this expression He was identifying himself as the Messiah spoken of in Daniel 7:13-14.

I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the

clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

- Daniel 7:13-14

And this identification of himself with The Son of Man in Daniel was one thing that brought down the wrath of the high priest, and all of the Jewish council on Jesus' head, so that they condemned Him to death.

*And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, **Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.***

Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy. What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death

- Matthew 26:63-66

This title, The Son of Man, also emphasized the fact that Jesus was truly a man, who went through trials

and tribulations just like we do, and therefore understands our weaknesses and needs as human beings.

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

- Hebrews 4:15-16

The apostle John, who knew Jesus as well as anybody, explained this by saying that the Word of God (the logos: the power and wisdom of God), who created this universe, had come down and dwelt on Earth as a man.

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

- John 1:14

Under the Old Testament, God was always so high and exalted that few men ever understood Him, or became close to Him, or even saw Him face to face. However, the prophet Jeremiah spoke of a time when this would change, and when all of God’s people would know Him personally:-

“But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

- Jeremiah 31:34

And what better way is there for people to get a better understanding of what God is like and how He wants us to live than for Him to appear on Earth in a human form and have his life and sayings recorded so that we can see how He handled the issues of life and do likewise?

This is what happened in the life of Jesus, the Son of God and the Son of Man. He received a fully human body from his mother, Mary, together with all the spiritual characteristics of God from his Heavenly Father. Thus we see him living a life free from sin, fearlessly proclaiming the truth, unselfishly giving himself to meet the needs of those around him, and diligently seeking God in order to receive the power of God in his life to work mighty miracles and convincing signs.

This is an example that we can truly follow, for by faith we also can experience victory over sin, the world, the flesh and the devil.

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.
- 1 Corinthians 10:13

... knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.... For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.... Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.... But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

- Romans 6:6, 14, 18, 22

Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.... Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

- 1 John 3:6, 9

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh

the world, even our faith....We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

1 John 5:4,18

Now we too can experience the power of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:12-13

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. - John 14:12-14

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. - Acts 1:8

Now we too can experience the love of God changing our hearts and working through us to meet the needs of other people.

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

- John 13:35

So under the New Covenant we can not only understand the will and the ways of God better by studying the life and teachings of Jesus, but we can also know God the Father for ourselves, and experience His power, and wisdom and love in our daily lives. This was not possible under the Old Testament.

6. The Saviour

Throughout the Old Testament, we see many types and shadows of the salvation that God would provide for His people in saving them from their sins. We see the blood sacrifices made by Abel, Noah, Abraham and others; we see the Passover lamb, the Scapegoat and the Day of Atonement. All of these sacrifices, which had to be repeated over and over, pointed forward to the one great and perfect sacrifice that Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, would offer, once and for all, for the sins of the whole world:-

...she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS [the Lord saves] for he shall save his people from their sins.

- Matthew 1:21

...we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: but this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God:... for by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

- Hebrews 10:10-12, 14

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

- John 3:14-17

So as far as salvation from sin was concerned, the Old Testament looked **forward** in faith to the salvation that would come through Jesus Christ, and the New Testament looks **back** in faith to what he has already done for us.

But salvation from sin is not just about being freed from the **penalty** of sin, but also from the **power** of sin and the **presence** of sin. The New Testament speaks of how, by entering into the death and resurrection of Christ by faith and through immersion in water, we can be freed from the power of sin in our daily lives:-

*Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: knowing this, that **our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.** For he that is dead is free from sin. - Romans 6:4-7*

*Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. **For sin shall not have dominion over you:** for ye are not under the law, but under grace. - Romans 6:11-14*

The New Testament also speaks of how, when Christ returns to Earth, he will take his followers with Him to heaven, to dwell in the perfect presence of God for evermore. In that day we will be saved, not only from the penalty for sin and from the power of sin, but also from the presence of sin:-

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away.... And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

-Revelation 21:1,27

This salvation from sin is for those who truly hate sin in this life. Such people will repent of their sin, be cleansed from their sin, and will seek God with all their heart in order to please Him in all things so that they sin no more.

Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

- Revelation 22:14-15

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