

“SON OF MAN AND SON OF GOD”

The readings for the months of July, August, and September include the book of John. In the 17th chapter of this book John records the prayer of Jesus the night before he was crucified. Jesus prayed that God would complete his work in him, he prayed for his disciples, and he prayed for all those who would believe in him through his disciples' message. He began his prayer with these words:

... "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You...And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."- John 17:1-3 NKJV

It is crucial that we know the one true God as Jesus prayed, but it is also crucial that we know the Son. In the April 2019 Newsletter we learned a little about the only true God. In this newsletter we write about Jesus Christ and some things to consider and meditate about concerning him.

It is very difficult to truly understand who Jesus is. He is a completely unique individual. Many times throughout the gospel records Jesus refers to himself as "Son of Man" and this is literally true. He was born of a woman. Yet he had no earthly father. Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit as recorded in Luke 1 and so he is also truly the "Son of God". So whereas God the Father has never been seen (John 1:18), Jesus was seen by all. Whereas God cannot be tempted (James 1:12-13), Jesus was tempted in every way that we are tempted (Hebrews 4:15), and whereas God cannot die (1

Timothy 6:16), Jesus died (John 19:28-30). So how do we understand who this unique individual is?

Behold the Lamb of God:

These are the words of John the Baptist who prepared the way for Jesus. Isaiah wrote about the one to come who would be as a lamb that is slain to be an offering for sin.

And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. ... Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. - Isaiah 53:4-7, 10 NKJV

From the gospel record written by John the Apostle, we learn about this Lamb of God who willingly gave his life in love and obedience to his Father and in love for those seeking God.

Worthy is the Lamb: In the book of Revelation it is recorded that Jesus is worthy to be praised, not because he is the exalted king but because he is the lamb that was slain.

And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and

people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." - Revelation 5:9-10 NKJV

Jesus, because he humbled himself and became obedient to death, has been exalted by his Father. He is now seated at his Father's right hand and is worthy of all praise and honor.

Behold Your King. When Pilate asked Jesus "Are you a king?", Jesus answered him that for this reason he was born. Mary was told that her son would be given the throne of his father, David. Yes, Jesus was born to be King—king over all the earth. The angels promised that Jesus would return to the earth. Jesus promised that he would return in power.

"Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. "Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near." - Luke 21:27-28 NKJV

Jesus is the Lamb that was slain but he is also the Good Shepherd. He is our Master and Lord but also our Friend and loving Brother. He is the humble man who had no place to lay his head but now he is King of all the world. He is a man who was tempted in all ways as we are, yet he never sinned even when faced with death. He died, yet he now lives forever. He is Son of Man and Son of God.

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“BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD”

With these words a young man by the name of John introduced Jesus to the world. "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! "

A little later this same John, known as the Baptizer, testified that this Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus, Lamb of God and Son of God. The word Lamb seems to signify weakness and powerlessness, but Son of God signifies power and majesty. How can both these titles be given to the same person?

The gospel of John, written not by the young man known as John the Baptist but by one of Jesus' apostles, records the life of Jesus on earth. The other three gospel records, though they do deal with the earthly ministry of Jesus, are more a recording of historical events and conversations. John, however, records much more of the thoughts and heart of Jesus, his beloved Lord, through his unique portrayals and commentary and vignettes revealing the deepest soul of Jesus.

Near the end of his gospel record John states his purpose in writing:

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. - John 20:30-31 NKJV

While reading the Gospel of John during this quarter's readings, remember John's purpose in writing: that you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. As

you read ask yourself the question; What would convince me that Jesus is the Son of God?

What does John record that helps one know the real Jesus, the Lamb and the Son? According to John, what does Jesus say about himself? Consider these examples and notice how over and over again Jesus tells us that all things come from his Father.

Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner." John 5:19 NKJV

"For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. ... I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me." John 5:26-27, 30 NKJV

"As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down from heaven--not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever." - John 6:57-58 NKJV

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. ... Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life

that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father." - John 10:11, 17-18 NKJV

Over and over again Jesus tells us that of himself he can do nothing. All life and power was given to him by his Father. It is in this humble attitude and complete, loving submission to his Father, that he is able to see and know the Father.

He is able to share with us what his Father looks like, what his purpose is, and how great his love is. So through Jesus, we not only see him but we also see his Father. The writer to the Hebrews states it this way:

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. - Hebrews 1:1-4 NKJV

Jesus has revealed his Father. He has become heir of all things.

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“Behold the Lamb of God”

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He has overcome the flesh and purged sins. And he has been exalted to his Father’s right hand on high. He was born the Son of God but Paul notes that he is now the Son of God with Power:

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, - Romans 1:1-4 ESV

Going back to the verses from the gospel of John, did you notice that Jesus not only received life and love from his Father, but he also has passed that on to us if we will come to him.

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. ... You are my friends if you do what I command you. - John 15:9-11, 14 ESV

Jesus is the Son of God and he wants us also to become the children of God, to know God and to become one with the Father as he is. There is forgiveness of our sins in the name of Jesus but there is also much more. He leads us to become like him in humble, loving submission to him and to our heavenly Father. As you read through the gospel of John, notice and meditate on these thoughts:

But to all who did receive

him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who 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 ESV

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. - John 17:20-23 ESV

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“WORTHY IS THE LAMB”

In the prophecy of Revelation chapter four there is a vision of a throne room and the one who sits on the throne is praised as the Lord God Almighty. In chapter five there is described a scroll that the Lord God holds in his hand but no one is found worthy to open it, that is until Jesus.

And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to

look thereon. ... And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. ... And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; - Revelation 5:2-3, 5, 9 KJV

Jesus, the Lamb, is worthy.

Why? Because he has prevailed. He has conquered. But what has he conquered? What has he overcome?

Paul in his writing to the Philippian church tells us why Jesus has been exalted. In chapter 2 Paul tells the believers to have the same mind as Jesus. Even though Jesus was the Son of God, he did not try to be equal with God. He humbled himself as a servant and submitted himself to his Father. He obeyed even to the point of death. And because of this, God has exalted him:

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“Worthy is the Lamb”

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He humbled himself, by becoming obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross! As a result God exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow - in heaven and on earth and under the earth - and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. - Philippians 2:5-11 NET

Many people believe that Jesus must be God because only God can save us. Interestingly, the Bible tells us that Jesus had to be made like us, human and subject to all the temptations that we are. It was only through overcoming or conquering the temptation to sin that Jesus could bring salvation. James tells us very clearly that God cannot be tempted with evil. (See James 1.) And yet it was necessary for fleshly temptation to sin to be overcome. That could only be done by someone in the flesh who was tempted.

For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through suffering. For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have all one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brethren, ...

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ...

Therefore he had to be made like his brethren in every re-

spect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted. - Hebrews 2:9-11, 14, 17-18 RSV

Jesus was made with the same nature as we are. He was tempted in every way that we are. He could have given into temptation and sinned otherwise it would not have been real temptation. His triumph over sin would be a hal-low victory. Notice also from these verses that Jesus was made perfect through suffering. Like us he had to learn obedience.

How did Jesus, made like us, actually overcome temptation? We can't seem to do it, at least consistently. Yet Jesus day in and day out, with every choice and decision he made he chose to obey his Father. He chose to give up his own will and do what God wanted him to do even to the point of a terrible death. How did he do that?

Read carefully the gospel records. In his temptations he turned to God's word in the Old Testament and he spent a lot of time in prayer. Remember his agonizing prayer all night in the Garden of Gethsemane just before his arrest and crucifixion. (Found in Matthew 26.) As we learned from John's gospel record, Jesus knew that of himself he could do nothing. He turned to his Father for help each step of the way.

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard for his god-

ly fear. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and being made perfect he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, - Hebrews 5:7-9 RSV

Yes, Jesus is the Lamb that is Worthy. Through the power of his Father, he learned obedience and conquered and overcame temptation. Now he is able to help those who come to God through him. Through God's grace we are forgiven when we fail. But God doesn't want us to keep failing. God in his amazing grace has given us his Son to help us in our time of need, in our time of suffering and temptation. In Jesus we have the power to overcome.

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. - Hebrews 4:14-16 RSV

Trusting in Jesus, one day we will see Him. One day we will sing the song of the Lamb.

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!" - Revelation 5:12 NKJV

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“BEHOLD YOUR KING”

Above the cross of Jesus the indictment was written “JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS”. Jesus hardly looked like a king with his naked, bloodied body hanging on that cross.

What no one seemed to understand at that time was that Jesus had just won the greatest battle ever fought. He had overcome every temptation of human flesh and with that battle won the grave could not hold him. But even more than that the grave cannot hold those who belong to him.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be de-

stroyed is death. - 1 Corinthians 15:20-26 RSV

Notice from these verses that Jesus was the first to rise from the dead but at his coming, those who belong to him will also rise from the dead. Notice also that Jesus is to reign as king until every enemy is destroyed including death.

Mary, Jesus' mother had been given a promise that her Son would inherit the throne of his Father David. That he would rule over the house of Jacob forever. (Luke 1:30-35) Jesus is the promised Messiah of Israel, the promised King. There are many prophecies about this King who will rule, not just over Israel but over all the earth.

The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."

He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision.

"Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."

"I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You

are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. (From Psalm 2 NKJV)

The angels have promised. Jesus has promised. He is returning to the earth with power and great glory. He will rule over the earth in power.

These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful. Revelation 17:14

And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." - Revelation 5:9-10 NKJV

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**WHEN WILL JESUS RETURN TO THE EARTH?
CHRIST IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**



Daily Bible Readings for July, August and September
Read the Entire Bible in One Year

JULY			AUGUST			SEPTEMBER		
DAY	Old Test	NewTest/Psa	DAY	Old Test	NewTest/Psa	DAY	Old Test	NewTest/Psa
1	II Sam 15, 16	II Corinth 13	1	Isaiah 49, 50	John 1	1	II King 14, 15	Psalm 97
2	II Sam 17, 18	Psalm 74	2	Isaiah 51, 52	John 2	2	II King 16, 17	I Thess 1
3	II Sam 19, 20	Galatians 1	3	Isaiah 53, 54	John 3	3	II King 18, 19	i Thess 2
4	II Sam 21, 22	Galatians 2	4	Isaiah 55, 56	John 4	4	II King 20, 21	I Thess 3
5	II Sam 23, 24	Galatians 3	5	Isaiah 57, 58	Psalm 85	5	II King 22, 23	I Thess 4
6	Song Sol 1-3	Galatians 4	6	Isaiah 59, 60	Psalm 86	6	II King 24, 25	I Thess 5
7	Song Sal 4-6	Galatians 5	7	Isaiah 61, 62	John 5	7	Jonah 1-4	Psalm 98
8	Song Sol 7, 8	Galatians 6	8	Isaiah 63, 64	John 6	8	Micah 1-3	Psalm 99
9	Isaiah 1, 2	Psalm 75	9	Isaiah 65, 66	John 7	9	Micah 4, 5	Psalm 100, 101
10	Isaiah 3, 4	Psalm 76	10	I King 1, 2	Psalm 87, 88	10	Micah 6, 7	II Thess 1
11	Isaiah 5, 6	Ephesians 1	11	I King 3, 4	John 8	11	Nahum 1-3	II Thess 2
12	Isaiah 7, 8	Ephesians 2	12	I King 5, 6	John 9	12	I Chron 1, 2	II Thess 3
13	Isaiah 9, 10	Ephesians 3	13	I King 7, 8	Psalm 89	13	I Chron 3, 4	Psalm 102
14	Isaiah 11, 12	Ephesians 4	14	I King 9, 10	John 10	14	I Chron 5, 6	Psalm 103
15	Isaiah 13, 14	Ephesians 5	15	I King 11, 12	John 11	15	I Chron 7, 8	Psalm 104
16	Isaiah 15-17	Ephesians 6	16	I King 13, 14	John 12	16	I Chron 9, 10	I Timothy 1
17	Isaiah 18-20	Psalm 77	17	I King 15, 16	Psalm 90	17	I Chron 11, 12	I Timothy 2
18	Isaiah 21, 22	Psalm 78	18	I King 17, 18	John 13	18	I Chron 13, 14	I Timothy 3
19	Isaiah 23, 24	Psalm 79	19	I King 19, 20	John 14	19	i Chron 15, 16	I Timothy 4
20	Isaiah 25, 26	Philippians 1	20	I King 21, 22	Psalm 91	20	I Chron 17, 18	I Timothy 5
21	Isaiah 27, 28	Philippians 2	21	Joel 1, 2, 3	John 15	21	I Chron 19, 20	I Timothy 6
22	Isaiah 29, 30	Philippians 3	22	Amos 1-3	John 16	22	I Chron 21, 22	Psalm 105
23	Isaiah 31, 32	Philippians 4	23	Amos 4-6	John 17	23	I Chron 23, 24	Psalm 106
24	Isaiah 33, 34	Psalm 80	24	Amos 7-9	Psalm 92	24	I Chron 25, 26	Psalm 107
25	Isaiah 35, 36	Colossians 1	25	Obad, II King 1	John 18	25	I Chron 27, 28	II Timothy 1
26	Isaiah 37, 38	Colossians 2	26	II King 2, 3	John 19	26	I Chron 29 Hos I	II Timothy 2
27	Isaiah 39, 40	Colossians 3	27	II King 4, 5	Psalm 93, 94	27	Hosea 2-4	II Timothy 3
28	Isaiah 41, 42	Colossians 4	28	II King 6, 7	John 20	28	Hosea 5, 6	II Timothy 4
29	Isaiah 43, 44	Psalm 81	29	II King 8, 9	John 21	29	Hosea 7, 8	Psalm 108
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31	Isaiah 47, 48	Psalm 84	31	II King 12, 13	Psalm 96	31		