

The Christ of the Bible

More than 1900 years ago there was a Man born contrary to the laws of life. This Man lived in poverty and was reared in obscurity. He did not travel extensively. Only once did He cross the boundary of the country in which He lived and that was during His exile in childhood. He possessed neither name, wealth, nor influence. His relatives were inconspicuous, uninfluential, and had neither training nor education. In infancy He startled a king; in childhood He puzzled the doctors; in manhood He ruled the course of nature, walked upon billows as if pavements, and hushed the sea to sleep. He healed the multitudes without medicine and made no charge for His Service.

He never wrote a book, and yet all the libraries of the country could not hold the books that have been written about Him. He never wrote a song, and yet He has furnished the theme for more songs than all the songwriters combined. He never founded a college, but all the schools put together cannot boast of having as many students. He never practices medicine, and yet He has healed more broken hearts than all the doctors far and near. He never marshaled an army, nor drafted a soldier, nor fired a gun, and yet no leader ever had more volunteers who have, under His orders, made more rebels stack arms and surrender without a shot being fired.

He is the Star of astronomy, the Rock of geology, the Lion and Lamb of the zoological kingdom. He is the Revealer of the snares that lurk in the darkness; and Rebuker of every evil thing that prowls by night; the Quickener of all that is wholesome; the Adorner of all that is beautiful; the Reconciler of all that is contradictory; the Harmonizer of all discords; the Healer of all diseases; and the Savior of all mankind. He fills the pages of theology and hymnology. Every prayer that goes up to God goes up in His name and is asked to be granted for His sake. Every seventh day the wheels of commerce cease their turning and multitudes wend their way to worshipping assemblies to pay homage and respect to Him.

The names of the past proud statesmen of Greece and Rome have come and gone. The names of the past scientists, philosophers, and theologians have come and gone; but the name of this Man abounds more and more. Though time has spread 1900 years between the people of this generation and the scene of His crucifixion, yet He still lives. Herod could not kill Him. Satan could not seduce Him. Death could not hold Him. He stands forth upon the highest pinnacle of heavenly glory, proclaimed of God, acknowledged by angels, adored by saints, and feared by devils, and the living, personal Christ. This Man, as you know, is Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

A study of the Bible reveals Christ as its central subject and great theme. What the hub is to the wheel, Christ is to the Bible. It revolves around Him. All its types point to Him, all its truths converge in Him, all its glories reflect Him, all its promises radiate from Him, all its beauties are embodied by Him, all its demands are exemplified by Him, and all its predictions are accepted by Him.

Abel's lamb was a type of Christ. Abraham offering Isaac on Mount Moriah was a type of God giving Christ, His only Son, on Mount Calvary. The Passover lamb in Egypt was a type of Christ. The brazen serpent in the wilderness was a type of Christ - He told Nicodemus so Himself. The scapegoat typified Him bearing our sins. The scarlet thread that the harlot Rahab hung in the window of her home in Jericho typified Him. Joseph, pictured to us by the Bible without a flaw, was a type of Christ "who did not sin, neither was guile found in his mouth."

In the Old Testament He is spoken of as "the angel of the Lord," and as such He appeared unto men. He was with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. He was with Abel in his death. He walked with Enoch. He rode with Noah in the Ark. He ate with Abraham in his desert tent. He pled with Lot to leave wicked Sodom. He watched Isaac reopen the wells that his father Abraham had dug. He wrestled with Jacob at Peniel. He strengthened Joseph in his time of temptation, protected him in prison, and exalted him to first place in the kingdom.

He watched over Moses in the ark of bulrushes, talked to him from the burning bush, went down into Egypt with him, opened the Red Sea for him, fed him on bread from heaven, protected him with a pillar of fire by night, and after 120 years of such blessed companionship that they left no marks of passing time upon Moses, led him up from the plains of Moab unto the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, let him take one long, loving look at the Promised Land, and then kissed him to sleep, folded Moses' hands over his breast, and buried his body in an unmarked grave, to sleep in Jesus till the morning of the great resurrection day.

He was the Captain of the Lord's host to Joshua, led him over the swollen stream of Jordan in flood tide, around Jericho, in conquest of Ai, helped him conquer Canaan, divide the land, and say good-bye to the children of Israel. He was with Gideon and his famous 300. He was with Samuel when he rebuked Saul. He was with David when he wrote the twenty-third psalm. He was with Solomon when he built the first temple. He was with good king Hezekiah when Sennacherib invaded the land.

He was with Josiah in his great reformation that brought the people back to the law. He was with Ezekiel and Daniel in Babylon. He was with Jeremiah in Egypt. He was with Ezra when he returned from Babylon, and with Nehemiah when he rebuilt the wall. In fact, He was with all those "who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens."

Abraham saw His day and rejoiced. Jacob called Him the "Lawgiver of Judah." Moses called Him the "Prophet that was to come." Job called Him "My Living Redeemer." Daniel called Him the "Ancient of Days." Jeremiah called Him "The Lord our Righteousness." Isaiah called Him "Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

All of this in the Old Testament? Yes, and much more besides. "To Him give all the prophets witness." Micah tells of the place of His birth. Jonah tells of His death, burial, and resurrection. Amos tells of His second coming to build again the tabernacles of David. Joel describes the day of His wrath. Zechariah tells of His coming reign as King over all the earth. Ezekiel gives us a picture of His millennial temple.

In fact, my friends, it matters little where we wander down the aisles, avenues, byways, or highways of the Old Testament. Jesus walks beside us as He walked beside the two disciples on that dusty road to Emmaus on that glorious resurrection day long, long ago. Its types tell of Him, its sacrifices show Him, its symbols signify Him, its histories are His-stories, its songs are His sentiments, its prophecies are His pictures, its promises are His pledges; and our hearts burn within us as we walk beside Him across its living pages!

When we open the New Testament, the Word which was in the beginning with God becomes flesh and dwells among us, and we behold His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. There are four personal histories of His earthly life written in the New Testament. One is by Matthew, the redeemed publican, and signified His lineage; one is by Mark, the unknown servant, which magnifies His service; one is by Luke, "the beloved physician," and tells of His humanity; and one is by John, "whom Jesus loved," and it tells of His deity. He is Christ the King in Matthew, the Servant in Mark, the Man in Luke, and the Incarnate Word in John. Concerning His royal lineage we learn that He was born in Bethlehem, the Seed of Abraham, the Son of David, the Son of Mary, the Son of God; and was acknowledged as "King of the Jews," "Christ the Lord," "God's Son," "The Savior of Men," by angels, demons, shepherds, and wise men; and that He received tribute of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Concerning His service we learn that He labored as a carpenter, opened eyes of the blind, unstopped deaf ears, loosed dumb tongues, cleansed lepers, healed the sick, restored withered hands, fed the hungry, sympathized with the sad, washed the disciples' feet, wept with Mary and Martha, preached the Gospel to the poor, went about doing good, and gave His life as a ransom for many.

Concerning His humanity we learn that He was born of a woman, as a little babe was wrapped in swaddling clothes, grew up and developed as a child in wisdom, stature, and in favor with God and men. He worked with His hands, He grew weary, He hungered, He thirsted, He slept, He felt the surge of anger; knew what it was to be sad, shed tears, sweat drops of blood; was betrayed, went through the mockery of a criminal trial, was scourged had His hands and feet pierced; wore a crown of thorns, was spit upon, was crucified, was wrapped in a winding sheet, and was buried in a borrowed tomb behind a sealed stone, and was guarded by Roman soldiers in His death.

Concerning His deity we read that He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, spoke matchless words, stilled storms, calmed waves, rebuked winds, multiplied loaves, turned water to wine, raised the dead, foretold the future, gave hearing to the deaf, sight to the blind, speech to the dumb, cast out demons, healed diseases, forgave sins, claimed equality with God, arose from the dead, possessed all authority both in heaven and in earth.

He was both God and Man; two individuals united in one personality. "As a man, He thirsted; as God, He gave living water. As a man, He went to a wedding; as God, He turned the water to wine. As man, He slept in a boat; as God, He stilled the storm. As man, He was tempted; as God, He sinned not. As man, He wept; as God, He raised Lazarus from the dead. As man, He prayed; as God, He makes intercession for all men."

This is what Paul means when he writes, "Without controversy great is the mystery of godliness; God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." He was made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. He is the Light of this world. He is the Bread of Life. He is the True Vine. He is the Good Shepherd. He is the Way. He is the Life. He is the Door to Heaven.

He is the faithful Witness, the First Begotten of the dead, the Prince of the kings of the earth, the King of Kings, and the Lord of lords, Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the ending, the Lord who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty. "I am He that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of hell and of death."

He is the theme of the Bible from beginning to end: He is my Savior; let Him be your Savior, too!

He is Abel's Sacrifice, Noah's Rainbow, Abraham's Ram, Isaac's Wells, Jacob's Ladder, Issachar's Burdens, Jacob's Sceptre, Balaam's Shiloh, Moses' Rod, Joshua's Sun and Moon that stood still, Elijah's Mantle, Elisha's Staff, Gideon's Fleece, Samuel's Horn of Oil, David's Slingshot, Isaiah's Fig Poultrice, Hezekiah's Sundial, Daniel's Visions, Amos' Burden, and Malachi's Sun of Righteousness.

He is Peter's Shadow, Stephen's Signs and Wonders, Paul's Handkerchiefs and Aprons, and John's Pearly White City.

He is Father to the Orphan, Husband to the Widow, to the traveler in the night He is the Bright and Morning Star, to those who walk in the Lonesome Valley He is the Lily of the Valley, the Rose of Sharon, and Honey in the Rock.

He is the Brightness of God's Glory, the Express Image of His Person, the King of Glory, the Pearl of Great Price, the Rock in a Weary Land, the Cup that runneth over, the Rod and Staff that comfort, and the Government of our life is upon his shoulders.

He is Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of the living God! My Savior, my Companion, my Lord and King!

Author unknown

In Genesis *He* is the Seed of the Woman
 In Exodus *He* is the Passover Lamb
 In Leviticus *He* is our High Priest
 In Numbers *He* is the Pillar of Cloud by day and the Pillar of Fire by night
 In Deuteronomy *He* is the Prophet like unto Moses
 In Joshua *He* is the Captain of our Salvation
 In Judges *He* is our Judge and Lawgiver
 In Ruth *He* is our Kinsman Redeemer
 In 1 & 2 Samuel *He* is our Trusted Prophet
 In Kings and Chronicles *He* is our Reigning King
 In Ezra *He* is the Rebuilder of the broken-down walls of human life
 In Esther *He* is our Mordecai
 And in Job *He* is our Ever-Living Redeemer, "For I know my redeemer lives."
 In Psalms *He* is our Shepherd
 In Proverbs and Ecclesiastes *He* is our Wisdom
 In the Song of Solomon *He* is our Lover and Bridegroom
 In Isaiah *He* is the Prince of Peace
 In Jeremiah *He* is the Righteous Branch
 In Lamentations *He* is our Weeping Prophet
 In Ezekiel *He* is the wonderful Four-Faced Man
 In Daniel *He* is the Fourth Man in Life's Fiery Furnace"
 In Hosea *He* is the Faithful Husband, "Forever married to the backslider."
 In Joel *He* is the Baptizer with the Holy Ghost and Fire
 In Amos *He* is our Burden-Bearer
 In Obadiah *He* is the Mighty to Save
 In Jonah *He* is our great Foreign Missionary
 In Micah *He* is the Messenger of Beautiful Feet
 In Nahum *He* is the Avenger of God's Elect
 In Habakkuk *He* is God's Evangelist, crying, "Revive thy work in the midst of the years."

In Zephaniah *He* is our Savior
 In Haggai *He* is the Restorer of God's lost heritage
 In Zechariah *He* is the Fountain opened to the house of David for sin and uncleanness
 In Malachi *He* is the Sun of Righteousness, rising with Healing in His wings
 In Matthew *He* is the Messiah
 In Mark *He* is the Wonder-Worker
 In Luke *He* is the Son of Man
 In John *He* is the Son of God
 In Acts *He* is the Holy Ghost
 In Romans *He* is our Justifier
 In 1 & 2 Corinthians *He* is our Sanctifier
 In Galatians *He* is our Redeemer from the curse of the law
 In Ephesians *He* is the Christ of unsearchable riches
 In Philippians *He* is the God who supplies all our needs
 In Colossians *He* is the fullness of the Godhead, bodily
 In 1 & 2 Thessalonians *He* is our Soon-Coming King
 In 1 & 2 Timothy *He* is our Mediator between God & man
 In Titus *He* is our Faithful Pastor
 In Philemon *He* is a Friend that sticks closer than a brother
 In Hebrews *He* is the blood of the Everlasting Covenant
 In James *He* is our Great Physician, for "The prayer of faith shall save the sick."
 In 1 & 2 Peter *He* is our Chief Shepherd, who soon shall appear with a crown of unfading glory.
 In 1, 2 and 3 John *He* is Love
 In Jude *He* is the Lord coming with ten thousands of his saints
 And in Revelation *He* is the King of kings and Lord of lords