

Dear Friend

Continuing our reflections on the nature of God the Holy Trinity, we turn today to the Person of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is interesting to notice that it is in the beliefs about Jesus Christ that the sects and cults differ from orthodox - literally right, or straight doctrine - Christianity. So once again it is vital for us to have a right understanding of who Jesus is if we are to remain on the straight path.

Of course many volumes of erudite theology have been written on this subject, and I don't want to keep you too long - you have the day to be getting on with after all! So here is a brief canter through the scriptures which I hope will whet your appetite to go a bit further and deeper into who we believe was the most important person ever to have drawn breath.

I'm going to focus solely on the Old Testament, because by doing so we are reminded that Jesus came into the world in order to fulfil all the prophecies relating to the Jewish Messiah. It is easy for us to forget that Jesus was a Jew and that the Old Covenant has not been replaced by the New, rather the promises God gave to his people Israel are still applicable and available. We are adopted children, grafted into the vine which is Israel. Paul in Romans chapter 11 makes this crystal clear.

So, from the Jewish scriptures, let us ponder this Man who is God. Throughout the Old Testament it is possible, if we have eyes to see, the pre-Incarnate Christ, from the conversation within the Godhead at the creation - "Let us make human beings..." (Genesis 1.26), to when the Lord walked in the Garden of Eden in the cool of the day, (Genesis 3.8), to God wrestling with Jacob (Genesis 32.22), to the Angel of the Lord appearing to Moses in the burning bush (Exodus 3), barring the way of Balaam's donkey (Numbers 22), to the fiery furnace from which Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were rescued (Daniel 3). There are many more!

But the key scriptures are prophecies which look forward, centuries before the event, to the coming of the Messiah in order to fulfil God's wonderful plan of saving the human race, and indeed the whole of creation. Here is a list, by no means exhaustive!

- Bethlehem to be his birthplace - Micah 5.2.
- That he is to be anointed by the Spirit of God to do his work of proclaiming good news, binding up the broken-hearted and so on - Isaiah 61.1-3.
- That the Messiah is to be the Servant of the Lord called to bring both the people of Israel and all the nations back to God - Isaiah 49.6.
- That this Servant will suffer rejection, affliction, piercing and death, and through his death the punishment we deserve is placed upon him - Isaiah 53, Psalm 22 among others.
- That his body will be placed in a tomb with the rich - Isaiah 53.9.

- That he will be raised to life, never to experience decay - Psalm 16.

I hope this will encourage you to know that this Jesus is indeed the Christ, the Son of the living God, and everything he did, he did for you, because you are a precious child of God, created in his image and named and known from before the creation of the world. He loves you and desires nothing less for you than to partake in his life and glory for eternity.

Hallelujah! What a Friend and Saviour!

May you stay blessed today and always, no matter what you are facing today, as you stay on the straight and narrow path.

With much love and prayers

Simon

Something to help you keep smiling!

