

THE PRESENT TRUTH

Pastor Stephen D. Lewis

The Impure Virgin

As one who understands his subject, John ascribes all power to Christ, and speaks of His greatness and majesty. He flashes forth divine rays of precious truth, as light from the sun. He presents Christ as the only Mediator between God and humanity.

The doctrine of the incarnation of Christ in human flesh is a mystery, "even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations." It is the great and profound mystery of godliness. "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." Christ took upon Himself human nature, a nature inferior to His heavenly nature. Nothing so shows the wonderful condescension of God as this. He "so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son." John presents this wonderful subject with such simplicity that all may grasp the ideas set forth, and be enlightened.

Christ did not make-believe take human nature; He did verily take it. He did in reality possess human nature. "As the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same." He was the son of Mary; He was of the seed of David according to human descent. He is declared to be a man, even the Man Christ Jesus. "This man," writes Paul, "was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honor than the house."

But while God's Word speaks of the humanity of Christ when upon this earth, it also speaks decidedly regarding His preexistence. The Word existed as a divine being, even as the eternal Son of God, in union and oneness with His Father. From everlasting He was the Mediator of the covenant, the One in whom all nations of the earth, both Jews and Gentiles, if they accepted Him, were to be blessed. "The Word was with God, and the Word was God." Before men or angels were created, the Word was with God, and was God. . . .

God and Christ knew from the beginning of the apostasy of Satan and of the fall of Adam through the deceptive power of the apostate. The plan of salvation was designed to redeem the fallen race, to give them another trial. Christ was appointed to the office of Mediator from the creation of God, set up from everlasting to be our substitute and surety. Before the world was made, it was arranged that the divinity of Christ should be enshrouded in humanity. "A body," said Christ, "hast thou prepared me." But He did not come in human form until the fullness of time had expired. Then He came to our world, a babe in Bethlehem {Review and Herald, Apr. 5, 1906}

Jesus = Joshua meaning "Jehovah is salvation"

Christ = "anointed"

Abraham = "father of a multitude" or "chief of multitude"

Isaac = "to laugh" root: to mock

Jacob = "heel-catcher or supplanter" root: circumvent, assail insidiously, Definition of supplant: to take the place of (another), as through force, scheming, strategy, or the like.

Judas = Judah = "praised"

Phares = Pharez = "a breach or break forth" {Twin brother Zara = "a rising (as the sun)"}
Salmon = "raiment: a garment"

Esrom = "enclosed" root: court, enclosure root: settled abode, settlement, root: to sound a trumpet

Aram = "high" or "exalted"

Aminadab = Amminadab = root: "my kinsman is noble" Definition of noble: Great; elevated; dignified; being above everything that can dishonor reputation; as a noble mind; a noble courage; noble deeds of valor.

Naasson = Nahshon = "enchanter" Definition of enchanter: One who enchants; a sorcerer or magician; one who has spirits or demons at his command; one who practices enchantment, or pretends to perform surprising things by the agency of demons.

Salmon = "raiment: a garment"

Booz = Boaz = Fleetness, root: "in him is strength", strength of riches, power, virtue, and grace;

Obed = "serving"

Jesse = "wealthy"

David = "beloved" Definition of beloved: Loved; greatly loved; dear to the heart.

Solomon = "peaceful"

Roboam = Rehoboam = "enlarger of the people" Definition of enlarger: expanding; making free or liberal; speaking diffusively.

Abia = Abijah = "my father is Jehovah"

Asa = "physician, or cure"

Josaphat = Jehoshaphat = "whom Jehovah judges" root: "Jehovah has judged"

Joram = Jehoram = "whom Jehovah has exalted"

Ozias = Uzziah = "strength of Jehovah" root: "my strength is Jehovah"

Joatham = Jotham = "Jehovah is upright" root: "Jehovah is perfect"

Achaz = Ahaz = "possessor" root: "he has grasped"

Ezekias = Hezekiah = "the might of Jehovah"

Manasses = Manasseh = "forgetting" root: "causing to forget" root: to forget, deprive

Amon = "builder" root: artificer, architect, master workman, skilled workman

Josias = Josiah = "whom Jehovah heals"

Jechonias = Jechoniah or Jehoiachin = "whom Jehovah establishes"

Salathiel = Shealtiel = "I have asked of God"

Zorobabel = Zerubbabel = "born at Babel" = root: "sown in Babylon"

Abioud = Abihud = "father of reknown or famous" root: "my father is majesty"

Eliakim = "raising up by God" root: "God raises" or "God sets up"

Azor = "a helper," root: Azur or Azzur = "he that assists" root: to help, succour, support

Sadoc = "just" root: Zadok = "righteous" root: to be just, be righteous

Achim = "the Lord will establish" {his name is not mentioned in the Old Testament}

Eliud = "God his Praise"

Eleazar = "help of God" root: "God has helped"

Matthan = "gift"

Jacob = "heel-catcher or supplanter"

Joseph = "Jehovah has added"

Miriam = "rebellion"

Let no one suppose that conversion is the beginning and end of the Christian life. There is a science of Christianity that must be mastered. There is to be growth in grace, that is constant progress and improvement. The mind is to be disciplined, trained, educated; for the child of God is to do service for God in ways that are not natural, or in harmony with inborn inclination. Those who become the followers of Christ find that new motives of action are supplied, new thoughts arise, and new actions must result. But they can make advancement only through conflict; for there is an enemy that ever contends against them, presenting temptations to cause the soul to doubt and sin. Besides this ever vigilant foe, there are hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil that must be overcome. The training and education of a lifetime must often be discarded that the Christian may become a learner in the school of Christ, and in him who would be a partaker of the divine nature, appetite and passion must be brought under the control of the Holy Spirit. There is to be no end to this warfare this side of eternity, but while there are constant battles to fight, there are also precious victories to gain, and the triumph over self and sin is of more value than the mind can estimate. The effort put forth to overcome, though requiring self-denial, is of little account beside the victory over evil. {Christian Education Pg. 122}

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