

There is a hymn entitled "More About Jesus Would I Know". Would that everyone would be sincere about its lyrics to learn and understand about Jesus - His words, His will, His love, His saving grace, and His kingship. Jesus has everything to do with your salvation and your future. He is the way. He will continue to do the will of His Father to bring many sons to glory.¹

Peter is speaking of Jesus, *"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."* - Acts 4:12

*Jesus said to him, **"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*** - John 14:6

There is a general lack of knowledge about Jesus. I confess that when I took a test in Sunday school at about age 10, I thought it was unfair that so many of the questions were about someone named Jesus Christ. I had not been paying attention very well, because I wondered why Jesus was so important. Since then, I have of course come to know more about Jesus than what they had tried to teach me. If you love Jesus, you should want to know everything you can find out about Him. The purpose of this article is to sketch an overview, and encourage further study.

Jesus is a member of the godhead, presently in Heaven.² He lived in human form on the earth around 2000 years ago for a period of 33 1/2 years. Before that, Jesus was the Lord of the Old Testament. He inspired its writing. His hands formed Adam and Eve, and before that, the entire universe. He appeared as Melchizedek, Priest of Salem, who met Abraham³; and is now our High Priest after the Order of Melchizedek, through whom we pray to God the Father.⁴ Taking human form, He was the Lord, along with two angels, who visited Abraham before they dealt with Sodom and Gomorrah.⁵ Importantly, Jesus will return to the earth one of these days.⁶

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I. - John 14:27-28

Jesus will return to rule the earth as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. After 1000 years, His Father, greater than He as He stated, will also come to the earth to live with the eternal children added to the God family. And at that time, there will be a new heaven and a new earth. It will no doubt be awesome and amazing. Jesus will then deliver the Kingdom to His Father.

Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all. - 1 Cor 15:24-28

While Christ has performed much work, anything made had first to be envisioned and designed. And of course the Father is key to accomplishing His great vision. Still more creative work is yet to be seen, such as the new heavens, new earth, and new Jerusalem. Ongoing is the great spiritual creation of the God family in the hearts of mankind.

More About Jesus

page 2

*But Jesus answered them, “**My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.**”*
- John 5:17

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.”

- Rev 21:1-3

Many individuals and denominations believe that the Old Testament, which makes up a full 77% of the Bible, is done away. And they generally think of the Lord in the Old Testament as a mean God, only demanding strict obedience to commandments. But they think of Jesus as being kinder and gentler. Yet, Jesus is the same personage - the Lord who dealt with mankind, beginning with Adam. Closer study reveals the same personality traits for the Lord in the Old Testament and His mission as Jesus in the New - mercy, compassion, and the same desire for men to keep the commandments with a right heart, and in turn receive the benefits of doing so.

...For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. - Ex 20:5-6

For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings. But like men they transgressed the covenant; there they dealt treacherously with Me. - Hosea 7:6-7

Truly God is good to Israel, to such as are pure in heart. - Psa 73:1

Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God. - Matt 5:8

And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. - Deut 30:6

And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these. - Mark 12:30-31

Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever! - Deut 5:29

If you love Me, keep My commandments. - John 14:15

...But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments. - Matt 19:17

For I am the LORD, I do not change... - Mal 3:6

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. - Heb 13:8

More About Jesus

page 3

This single being - the Word, the Lord of the Old Testament, and our Savior Jesus Christ of the New Testament, is clearly kind and compassionate, but also firm when appropriate.

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. - Psa 145:8

And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. - Matt 14:14

Jesus wants us to benefit from keeping His commandments. Further, He desires that our hearts are sincere. Jesus made possible the New Covenant - God's laws written in our minds and hearts.

*Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "**This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.**" - Luke 22:20*

Some imagine Jesus as a type of wimpy hippy. We should not have that image in our heads. The scriptures tell us that He had short hair and was not as good looking as that painting one sees in almost every church building.⁷ Jesus demonstrated the character to fast for 40 days and yet stand up to Satan; to condemn the hypocrisy and harmful traditions of Jewish leaders to their face with cutting sarcasm; to twice drive the money changers out of the temple with a whip; and finally to endure terrible torture and crucifixion without complaint. Clearly, Jesus was strong, outspoken and demonstrative, in addition to having kindness and compassion.

I encourage you to read all of John chapter 1, Hebrews chapter 1, and Colossians chapter 1 for descriptions of Christ's pre-existence. And while there are many other scriptures bearing on this subject, here is a sampling.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. - John 1:1-5 (NIV)

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. - John 1:14 (NIV)

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 - Heb 1:1-2

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. - Col 1:15-18

For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.
- John 6:38

More About Jesus

page 4

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

- Phil 2:5-8 (ESV)

And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. - John 17:5

“Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.” - John 17:24

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ - Eph 3:8-9

The Sabbath and holy days of the Lord⁸ are often called Jewish. Commanded to be kept forever by the Lord, who later lived as Jesus, they all foreshadowed His future role and work. For example, Jesus was crucified on the Passover, and scripture refers to Him as our Passover Lamb.⁹ Certainly, this brings great meaning to the Passover. The killing of a real lamb in the past only foreshadowed Christ. Instead of killing a lamb, we are now at His instruction asked to take the bread and wine as symbols of His broken body and shed blood.¹⁰

Jesus' disciples continued to keep the Sabbath and holy days after His death and resurrection. Large portions of the New Testament are devoted to explaining their deeper spiritual Christ-centered meanings. Several more scriptures make it clear that Jesus was the Lord who escorted the Israelites, and that He was the I AM - the Eternal.

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. - 1 Cor 10:1-4

And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” Moreover God said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.’” - Ex 3:14-15

Jesus answered, “If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God. Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, ‘I do not know Him,’ I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.” Then the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, ***“Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”*** - John 8:54-58

More About Jesus

page 5

To know still more about Jesus, one must read all that He said and did in the pages of the Bible. Just remember that Jesus was and is God, and from the very beginning until now, He has had the same vision and goal. He desires that we seek Him and eternal life in the Kingdom of God.¹¹ He wants the best for us - to live life as it should be lived - forever. Jesus' words, and the words He inspired others to write, are there for our benefit, if we will read them and take them to heart.

There is continuity between the Old and New Testament portions of the Bible, because Jesus was the Lord who created and dealt with mankind in the Old, and came to be a sacrifice for their salvation in the New. The religion of the Bible is the religion of God. God the Father, and Jesus as our High Priest, with unity of vision, are happy to hear all that is on our minds by way of our sincere prayers.¹² They look forward to our salvation, and coming to live with us on the earth.¹³ Jesus is a reflection of His Father. Learn as much more as you can about Jesus.¹⁴

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. - Matt 7:7-8

* NKJV - New King James Version NIV - New International Version ESV - English Standard Version

FOOTNOTES

- 1 Gal 1:3-5, Heb 2:10-11
- 2 John 16:28, Heb 10:12, Rev 1:12-18, 1 Tim 6:13-16
- 3 Gen 14:18-20
- 4 Heb 6:19-20; 7:1-28; 10:19-22, Matt 27:50-51
- 5 Gen 18:1-32
- 6 Matt 24:27, 1 Thes 4:15-17, Rev 11:15; 22:12-14
- 7 Isa 53:2, 1 Cor 11:14
- 8 Ex 31:13, Lev 23:4
- 9 John 1:29, 1 Cor 5:6-8, Rev 13:8
- 10 Matt 26:26-29, 1 Cor 11:23-25
- 11 Deut 4:29, Psa 119:2, Isa 55:6, Heb 11:6
- 12 Psa 55:17, John 14:13, Rom 12:10-13, Phil 4:6, 1 Thes 5:17, James 5:16
- 13 John 14:23
- 14 2 Tim 2:15; 3:16-17

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