

THE DEITY OF CHRIST

(John Chap. 1)

Revealed as the word of God

How similar the opening verses of Genesis and John are, both start at the same point, "In the beginning" and continued by unveiling the infinite source of all creation — GOD. The latter book adds a new dimension to the old story; the WORD. Another besides the Father, who shares with God and is God. Not a god as some contend, but the one creating Elohim of Genesis chapter one. "All things came into being through Him; and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being" Jn 1:3. (Read also Col 1:15-17 and Heb 1:3). To think of our Saviour in these terms has the most profound implications for Him and as a direct result for us also, and like firecrackers soaring heaven-ward leaving in its trail sparks of colourful emotions and a thousand particles of light, so these thoughts dazzle and delight the Christian. That 'the Word' is Jesus cannot be doubted, verse fourteen says "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us." As the prophet had foretold, Matt 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call Him Immanuel, which translated means, God with us." Stop and think about that for a while, Deity embodied in the flesh. Yet in such perfect harmony that He was both "Son of God" and "Son of Man" at the same time! No, not a story from mythology but a definite historical event, the reality of which can be measured by any orthodox historical criteria.

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

Revealed as the light of God

Life and light are primal qualities of Godhood, the absence of which would disqualify any claimant. For Jesus these qualities had been (are) personal attributes, eternal possessions, "In Him was life." Humans like John the Baptist can only witness of the light, but Jesus is the true light which, coming into the world,

enlightens every man. Little did John and Andrew realise the full implication of calling Jesus, "Rabbi," (verse 38). Nathanael seems to have had better insight "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel" (verse 49). Rightly did Jesus say "For One is your Teacher" (Matt 23:8). The reason being "No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him" (Jn 1:18). Uniquely qualified, Jesus irradiated the glory of God through His life. That life of grace and truth was to be for all time, "The light of men" (verse 4).

Notice the stark contrast between the heavenly light of Jesus, and the earthly darkness of humanity. "And the light shines in the darkness; and the darkness did not comprehend it," (see also chapter 3:19-21). Our Saviour was no mere human groping in the darkness of sin. He was the One who, in the beginning, flooded the darkness with light, (Gen 1:3,) repeating on the moral plane, through His incarnation, the same astronomical act.

He not only possesses life and light but He dispenses them as well. "But as many as received Him, to them *He gave the right* to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name; who were born not of blood, nor of the will of flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (Jn 1:12-13). "I am the light of the world" Jesus says in Jn 8:12, "he who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." To Him be the glory forever. Amen!

Revealed as the Lamb of God

John the Baptist's witness, plays an important part in the life story of Jesus. To accept John's testimony was vital in recognising Jesus' authority and mission. Jesus Himself stressed this point, (Lk 20:1-8). Here is what John claims, "And I did not recognise Him, but in order that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptising in water." "He who sent me to baptise in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the one who baptizes in the Holy Spirit'" (Jn 1:29-33). On the strength of that sign John the Baptist points to Jesus as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." The first introduction to Him as a sacrifice. Not alone was He to be the sacrifice but the saviour also. Andrew told Peter his brother, "We have found the Messiah" verse 41. True God and true man, sacrifice and saviour, Jesus was the antitype of Jacob's ladder. He spanned the gulf between heaven and earth. He once again opened communications between men and God, verse 51. "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honour and glory and dominion forever and ever."

Revealed as the Son of God

The disciples of John the Baptist no doubt heard him exclaim "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me'" (Jn 1:15). When Nathanael first encountered the Lord he was so awestruck that he acknowledged Him to be the Son of God immediately, verse 49. Jesus is often referred as the "only begotten Son" as for instance in (Jn 1:18). Some translations have "only begotten God" but properly understood will be seen to amount to the same thing. C.S. Lewis in his book, "Beyond Personality" elucidates on the word "begotten." He masterfully re-introduces us to its meaning and implications. "We don't use the word begetting or begotten much in modern English, but everyone still knows what they mean. To beget is to become the father of; to create is to make. And the difference is just this. When you beget, you beget something of the same kind as yourself.

A man begets human babies, a beaver begets little beavers and a bird begets eggs which turn into little birds. But when you make, you something of a different kind from yourself. A bird makes a nest, a beaver builds a dam, a man makes a wireless set — or he makes something more like himself than a wireless set: say a statue. If he is a clever enough carver he may make a statue which is very like a man indeed. But

of course it's not a real man; it only looks like one. It can't breathe or think. It's not alive. Now that's the first thing to get clear. What God begets is God; just as what man begets is man" page 12. So applying this conclusion to Jesus, He as the "only begotten Son" is the "only begotten God."

"But these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, *the Son of God*; and that believing you may have life in His name" Jn 20:31. My Lord and my God!!

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