

# God's Self-revelation

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James K. Vallance

## God has spoken in His Son Hebrews chapter 1

Heb 1:1-5

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

## Careful guidelines:

Deut 29:29

29 The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law. (KJV)

Matt 11:27

27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

The truth of the Fatherhood is a mystery revealed in Christ: the truth of the Sonship remains an unrevealed mystery which transcends reason, but which faith accepts. (Sir Robert Anderson)

## Examples:

God the Father reveals the Son.

Matt 16:17

17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

God jealously protects the Son from being compared to the best of men.

Matt 17:4-8

4 Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

6 And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.

7 And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid.

8 And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.

We must keep to the very words in which it is revealed. An incident in the French Chamber is an example. Trouble was caused in a certain district through the general in command having communicated a War Office order in his own words. When the Minister of War was challenged in Parliament for punishing Him, his answer was, "He committed an offence, and I removed him; he paraphrased an order which it was his duty only to read". ( Sir Robert Anderson)

## Hebrews chapter 1

### How has God revealed himself through His Son?

As Son of God, he is the perfect representation of God, because he has the same character as God himself, and every word and expression in creation and redemption is simply a revelation of God.

### His Credentials - A Sevenfold Presentation from Eternity to Eternity

#### He is God's appointed heir.

The source, heir, depository of all wealth, riches and blessing.

Temporal and eternal.

Cattle upon a thousand hills (Psalm 50:10)

Treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Col 2:3)

Unsearchable riches of Christ. (Eph 3:8)

Riches in glory. (Phil 4:19)

All things. (John 3:35)

All authority. (Matt 28:18) Absolute, sovereign, rights of the firstborn,

#### He is the creator of all things.

Temporal and eternal

The world that then was...is now. (2 Pet 3:6,7)

New heavens and new earth. (2 Pet 3:13)

Ages were framed - arranged in order-(Heb 11:3)

#### He displays God's Glory.

Radiance *apaugasma*- effulgence - radiating his own essential glories

a) shining forth; used of a light coming from a luminous body (Vine)

b) out-raying (Vincent)

#### He reveals God's character

Because he is the perfect imprint and exact representation of the nature and essence of God in time and space. (MacArthur)

#### He upholds, sustains, and regulates all things by his word

By his word, he not only created things and systems, but he provides the power to sustain them and the laws to control them.

#### He has by himself made purification for sins

*Gal 2:20*

*I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

*Eph 5:2*

*hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour.*

*Eph 5:25*

*25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

*Heb 7:27*

*27 Who needeth not daily,... for this he did once, when he offered up himself.*

*Heb 9:14*

*14 through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God,*

The universe was created and is maintained by the power of his word, but redemption required his substitutionary sacrifice upon the cross.

#### He is seated in the place of honor and accomplishment - on the right hand of the Majesty on high.

## **Other features found in Hebrews chap 1**

### **His Incomparability and Supremacy**

The relationship of Son with the Father is uniquely his, and always will be.

### **His Immutability**

As creator of the universe, he is greater than the creation itself. The creation is subject to change and decay, but the Son of God is immutable and eternal. Change and decay are characteristics of creation, and the present world will exist for its appointed time and then will pass away. (2 Peter 3:10)

In contrast, the Son of God is always the same. 'Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever' Heb 13:8

### **His Sovereignty**

He is destined to have real and manifested universal dominion in the 'world to come'. (Heb 1:13,14, 2:5) The exaltation of Christ spoken of in Heb 1:3 contemplates a "world to come" which is the subject of chapter 2, where the Lord Jesus is presented as the Son of Man who is presently crowned with glory and honor, and awaiting the day of manifestation. As Son of Man, he came to liberate and redeem mankind who, as the seed of Abraham, would receive him by faith.

## **John chapter 1**

John presents the Lord Jesus in chapter 1 as the Word of God, (v1) as the Son of God, (v18) and as the Lamb of God. (v29)

### **The Word of God.**

v1 tells us of:

His pre-existence before the beginning of things. He 'was'

His distinct personality. 'with God'

His Deity. 'was God'

v3 - All things were created by him.

v4 - He is the Author of life. It exists in him essentially, and is bestowed by him upon his creatures.

In nature, life in its full activity depends upon light.

In spiritual matters, it is reversed. The Life is the Light. We do not receive spiritual life because Christ is the Light. He brings light into our darkness because he brings life, the life that becomes ours when we are born of God, that is to say, when we receive Christ by faith. (v12) - (W E Vine)

### **The Son of God**

v18 *No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.*

'Only begotten' This term does not refer to generation in respect of His Humanity. *Monogenes* speaks of that relationship as Son in which he stands alone, co-equal and eternal with the Father, yet distinct in personality as the Son. The term expresses both uniqueness and endearment as in Gen 22:2. (W E Vine)

## **His Credentials - A Sevenfold Display of His Divine Power**

Seven miracles or signs as he manifested His glory. (John 2:11)

(MacArthur Study Bible)

Turns water into wine (John 2:1-12)	He is the source of life
Heals a nobleman's son (John 4:46-54)	He is master over distance
Heals a lame man at Bethesda (John 5:1-17)	He is master over time
Feeds 5000 (John 6:1-14)	He is the bread of life
Walks on water, stills the storm (John 6:15-21)	He is master over nature
Heals a man blind from birth (John 9:1-41)	He is the light of the world
Raises Lazarus from the dead (John 11:17-45)	He has power over death

## **The Lamb of God**

### **Identified by John**

*John 1:29*

*The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*

### **Foreordained by God**

*1 Pet 1:19-20*

*19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

*20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,*

### **Promised through Abraham**

*Gen 22:8*

*And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.*

### **Typified in the Paschal Lamb** (Ex 12)

10<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> day(5 days)      A period of scrutiny and evaluation.

John 12 tells us that the Lord Jesus entered Jerusalem 5 days before the Passover.

It fulfilled the period indicated in Exodus 12      5 days

It fulfilled the manner indicated in Zechariah      On a donkey's colt

Kill it between the two evenings. (Newberry margin)      (Ex 12:6)

'At even' the Lord kept the last passover      (Matt 26:30)

'At even' the Lord was buried      (Matt 27:57)

Neither shall ye break a bone thereof      (Exod 12:46)

John 19 tells us that the soldiers determined that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but pierced his side with a spear.      (John 19:33-37)

It fulfilled the requirement of Exodus 12:46

It provided for the fulfillment of Zech 12:10

## **Other ways in which John shows how the Lord Jesus reveals God.**

*John 14:7-9*

*7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.*

*8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.*

*9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?*

It was specifically a father's trial in Genesis 22, and by that symbolic act God instructed Abraham in His ways and showed how only by the severest trial and suffering to the Father could the promised blessing come. Was the infinite love of God to men such as could ever lead him to yield up His own beloved Son? It was, and

amidst all the groans and anguish brought in on account of sin, infinitely the greatest sufferer was God himself. W R Lewis

He reveals the Father's love.

For Himself as the beloved Son.

*John 3:35*

*The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.*

For Himself as the obedient Son.

*John 10:17*

*Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.*

For us who believe in Him

*John 16:27*

*27 For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.*

### **Colossians chapter 1**

The kingdom of the Son of His Love. (v13)

#### **His Credentials - A Sevenfold Presentation of God's Purposes for His Son**

He is the image of the invisible God

He is both the representation and the manifestation of all that God is - He is God

He is the firstborn (head) of all creation

As firstborn he rightfully assumes headship and pre-eminence.

He is the creator of all things

All things were created by Him and for Him.

Assigned authorities emphasize His headship in administration.

He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

His pre-existence to all created things.

Christ is the personal means by which all the parts of the universe are maintained in cohesion. (W E Vine)

He is the Head of the body, the Church.

His headship is seen in relation to the church as it was in creation.

He is the Beginning.

*Arche* denotes the source, the originating power, and the active cause; it also involves the ideas of priority in time and of dignity of position. (W E Vine)

The new creation derives its existence, design, and purpose from Him.

The Firstborn from the dead.

*Prototokos* He rose 'out from' the dead, to die no more. He rose triumphantly, and in a glorified body, and assumes the same role as head of the new redeemed creation that he had in the original creation. "that in all things He might have the pre-eminence" indicates that the entire universe, for all eternity is subject to Him.

#### **Other Features Presented in Colossians 1**

Reconciliation

*Apokatallasso* signifies to reconcile completely, that is, to remove enmity, and leave no impediment to unity and peace, thus restoring to a condition from which sin had caused a falling away. (W E Vine)

"Every knee shall bow". (Phil 2:10) There will be total, universal, subjugation to Christ, but reconciliation does not extend to infernal beings and unrepentant sinners who are classified in Philippians as 'things under the earth'.

## Revelation 1

Not only has God spoken through the life and death of the Lord Jesus by sending His Son into the world, but has also spoken through the exaltation of the Lord in glory in the revelation given to John.

*Rev 1:7*

*7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.*

*Matt 24:30*

*30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

The main thrust of the Revelation is to show how the Lord Jesus is engaged in fulfilling the purposes of God in relation to the world. Rev 1:7 gives a brief look at His coming in glory, and chapters 6 through 19 tell us of the events leading up to His manifestation.

*Rev 1:19*

*19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;*

Three time periods are covered:

- 1, The things which thou hast seen. - looking back to having seen the one standing in the midst of the seven golden lampstands. (Rev 1:12-18)
- 2, The things which are. - The lampstands representing assembly testimony in this present age - both real and prophetic.
- 3, The things which shall be hereafter - events following the period of church testimony which will usher in the Day of the Lord.

The last three chapters take us into the eternal state.

All this history and prophecy can only be understood as they relate to the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Conclusion:** Only the person of the Son of God, infinite in wisdom, power, and holiness could adequately reveal the truth as to the nature and purposes of God.

Socrates once said that truth could never be known because every man has his weaknesses and prejudices which put boundaries and limits on his understanding. How wonderful, that the Lord Jesus Christ has no such limits, but came into this world in amazing humility and lowliness to display in his life and teaching, all the truth of God, and to die a vicarious death to put away sin, and by that “one offering hath perfected forever them that are sanctified” (Heb 10:14)