

Jesus! My Beloved, My Friend

I. The Lovesick Bride's Declaration

Son 5:8 I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, If you find my beloved, That you tell him I *am* lovesick!

Son 5:9 What *is* your beloved More than *another* beloved, O fairest among women? What *is* your beloved More than *another* beloved, That you so charge us?

Son 5:10 My beloved *is* white and ruddy, Chief among ten thousand.

Son 5:11 His head *is like* the finest gold;

Son 5:16 His mouth *is* most sweet, Yes, he *is* altogether lovely. This *is* my beloved, And this *is* my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem!

Son 6:1 Where has your beloved gone, O fairest among women? Where has your beloved turned aside, That we may seek him with you?

II. The Great Question

A. Who is this Beloved?

1. Matt 16:13-17 – Same question Jesus asked his disciples

B. Religions of the world all have an opinion and they are all wrong.

1. Islam
2. Hinduism
3. Buddhism
4. Judaism
5. Mormons
6. Jehovah's Witnesses
7. Multitude of other cults and false religions

C. World hates the name of Jesus

1. God is tolerated – he's generic- whatever deity you pray to
2. Allah is not Yahweh
3. To pray in Jesus name is tolerated less and less
4. Politically correct pressures
5. Oprah and others preach their own gospel
6. Deception concerning Jesus is rising

III. Her answer

A. My Beloved is radiant and ruddy! Outstanding among 10,000!

1. He's the God-Man!
2. Radiant – Dazzling – White
3. Ruddy – Red – Adam
4. No one compares – Ps 89:5-8; Ps 45:2

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B. He is fully God!

1. He has existed from eternity always with the Father
2. He was at creation
 - a) *John 1*
 - b) *Master craftsman at the side of the Father-Prov 8*
 - c) *He spoke the words - declaring the worlds into existence*
3. He is Yahweh,
 - a) *The one who walked with Adam in the garden*
 - b) *The one who spoke with Noah*
 - c) *The one who called Abraham his friend*
 - d) *The one who wrestled with Jacob*
 - e) *The one who appeared to and spoke with Moses*
 - f) *The one who promised to David an eternal throne*
 - g) *The one who sent the true prophets & judged Israel*
4. New Testament testimony
 - a) *Incarnation*
 - b) *Jesus' own words -*
 - (1) *Before Abraham was I am - John 8:48f*
 - c) *Baptism/Transfiguration - my Beloved Son*
 - d) *Seated at the Right Hand - Eph 1:20-23*
 - e) *He was God, yet became a man - Phil 2*
 - f) *He is the image of the invisible - Col 1:15-20*
 - g) *He is the coming King - Book of Revelation*

C. He is fully Man

1. Incarnation - the Word made flesh
2. He laid it aside - Phil 2
3. He experienced everything human
 - a) *Messy diapers*
 - b) *Hunger & thirst*
 - c) *Tiredness & Weariness*
 - d) *Growing pain*
 - e) *Sleep*
 - f) *Joy & Sorrow*
 - g) *Friendship & rejection*
 - h) *Beatings, Excruciating pain*
 - i) *Death*
4. He is a man forever

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IV. Discovering the Excellencies of Jesus

A. Prayer for discovering these excellencies

1. In Phil 1:9 Paul prays for the church in Philippi, asking that they would be filled with overflowing love so that they would be able to discover what is excellent and so be pure and spotless for the day of Christ. This word (often translated approve) means to discover by testing and determining the reality about what is being examined. Jesus is the excellent one and later in Philippians, Paul exhorts them to consider whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, whatever is excellent and worthy of praise - think on these things. What is there in the entire universe that can live up to that description except Jesus? We are called to set our mind on Jesus and seek to discover all that is excellent about Him.

B. A list of just some of the excellencies of Christ include:

His pre-existence – He is God and has always been God, with the Father from eternity past. He is the one who appears throughout the Old Testament. When Adam opened his eyes, he saw Jesus bent over him as He has just breathed life into him. Most occurrences where Yahweh appeared or spoke were Jesus before he was born of Mary.

His incarnation! – Word become flesh. This is the great mystery of godliness that Paul speaks of in 1 Tim. 3:16. That Yahweh would be born of a woman and permanently become a man?! What a wonder! Is there still awe in your heart at this event or has it become so mundane because we've heard the story since we were a child? No one can truly get their mind around this fact. It's not the foolishness of the Greek immortals. This is the one who is so far above creation that nothing in all of creation compares to Him, yet he came and became one of his own created.

His humility and meekness – “I am gentle and meek of heart” Restraining all his glorious power and submitting himself to the limitations of fallen humanity and the unrighteous rulers in 100% obedience to the Father

His sovereign power – He created and sustains everything

His tenderness and lovingkindness

His Joy

His holiness

His cross

His resurrection

His ascension

His kingship and leadership

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His judgments

His second coming

His millennial rulership & eternal kingdom

His many faceted character and multitude of attributes

Over 75 distinct attributes or character description in the first 5 chapters of Revelation alone.

C. How?

So how do we discover this Jesus? How do we fix our gaze upon him? We begin by diligently studying the Bible seeking the revelations of the glory of Christ found in this most amazing book. There are boundaries that we must not wander over, but stay within the safe confines. Paul and John tell us there are things they saw and heard that they were not allowed to reveal. It's important that we stay within the bounds of scripture in our pursuit of Jesus.

D. Warning

Beware, there is a false teaching that if all truth is from God, then if we find a kernel of truth in the mouth of a false teacher then it's ok to keep pursuing truth wherever we may find it. Jesus is the Truth period. His word is the revelation of Himself. There is no need to waste time trying to find something that appears to be truth elsewhere. A nugget of truth wrapped in a lie still carries with it the death of the lie. Consider what Satan said to Eve. So we want to take the Bible, diligently search for Jesus asking the Holy Spirit to breathe upon it and reveal Him to us.

E. Where to look?

- Direct descriptions of His glorious Person and incarnation
- Biblical prophecies, promises and clear instructions concerning Him, all leading our thoughts to behold His Glory.
- Sacred institutions of divine worship. Types and shadows representing his Person, office and work. (tabernacle, temple, most old testament events have reflections and foreshadowings Jesus.
- Psalms, hymns and poetry.