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Blessing

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## Jesus, Before and After

Many assume that Jesus came down from heaven to mankind. However, the Being who came down was not then Jesus, but was transformed to become 'Jesus' in the act of being born of the flesh. A quite different thing. That He had a pre-human existence is borne out by His declaration, "Before Abraham was, I am." How therefore are these seemingly contradictory statements to be reconciled?

The name Jesus means, Saviour, and appropriately it was only when the redemptive work began that this name with all it signifies, was applied. Before His change He was definitely in no wise a man, or else He could not have been made a little lower than the angels, which the state of mankind occupies. He had been a spiritual being though, through whom all things were originally created; for without Him nothing was made which was made. He did not make anything of Himself alone, for all things are of the Father through the Son. It was the Father who did the work, but by the Son.

None of these stupendous works of creation were done in the capacity of a man; neither did heaven know any Jesus, for no such figure had been formed. The Holy One which was born of Mary, became the firstborn of a 'new creation', who was destined to bring many sons to glory. This was the beginning of Jesus, who constituted a specific expression of the One who was with the Father in the very beginning of His creative works, having been the very first brought forth of the Creator. Proverbs 8:22-31, "Moffatt's" version makes this crystal clear.

The Father sent the Son, He came not of Himself, but in obedience laid aside all the glory He had with the Father. He, as a Lamb, submitted to His life being transferred from His wonderful position in heaven as a spirit being, and to re-appear, begotten in a physical organism, and grow up into a man. This He acknowledged in referring to Himself as the bread of God which came down from heaven, to give life unto the world. It was the Being who was the Word of God which was made flesh and dwelt among us, and who afterwards was put to death in the flesh, but was raised again as a spirit by the power of the Father.

He had given His body of flesh in exchange for the life of the world, but the crucified Word of God rose triumphantly. Because of His obedience unto death, the Father highly exalted Him to a position higher than He had before, above all principalities and powers, and obtained a better name which is above every name, that all must bow to and confess that Christ Jesus is Lord.

There are a great number of names and titles which are vested in the Son of God; each one testifies to a particular function and role of His relationship to every creature. The anointed Saviour, which is what Christ Jesus means, being among them. This was acquired, and remains His, He having fulfilled the conditions.

This same Word which was in the beginning came as Jesus; and it is this same Jesus which comes back again as the Word. But how? He spoke much about His new Body as being the Church - a spiritual organism - for He has no fleshly hands or feet or voice, but those of His

disciples who shine as lights in the world, since His resurrection to the spiritual nature. As His first body had to grow physically to maturity to be fully empowered, so does His second body, the true Church of many members, have to grow to spiritual maturity to be fully empowered also. So the life of an overcoming close-follower of the Word of Life, must themselves also experience a transferred life, but in the reverse manner, and also become able to operate the Word of God, as a member of the Body of Christ.

The occupancy of the kingdom by Satan is not surrendered voluntarily, but is wrested by the exertions of the saints, who by faith take by degrees territory usurped by the enemy. It does not matter that it has been held under *foreign occupation* for thousands of years; what matters is that we understand the time has come in God's plan for its take over by the saints. As the adversary took it by power of deceit, and did not ask permission, neither need we. The Ancient of days has come and judgement is given to the saints of the most High to persevere to take possession of the Kingdom. "Until the Ancient of days came, and judgement was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom." Please read Daniel 7:18 & 22.

It is the work of the Father to set up the Kingdom. This He is doing through the hands of His Christ, Head and Body. Through the Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing, the work proceeds apace. The wide scope in the re-making of the earth requires many voices to speak words in all climes, spheres, regions, and realms of the whole world. We read in Revelation 10:1&2 "And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: And he had in his hand a little book open; and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth." And thus the rule of the Christ is being established. He must reign until He has put all enemies under His feet; the feet of the spoken Word's authority.

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"If you think you are not qualified to be used by God, start changing the way you think! When Elijah called Elisha he was ploughing. When Jesus called Peter he was fishing. To follow God, Elisha had to leave farming and Peter had to leave fishing. Can you imagine a disciple's wife saying, 'How are we going to pay the bills?'

Following God is like stepping out on tissue paper and discovering solid rock underneath. But you'll never discover the rock unless you are willing to step out onto the tissue paper. When God asks you to walk away from a security base that's been part of your life, you take your talents with you. Matthew, an accountant, took his pen and wrote the first book of the New Testament. When David went to Saul's palace he took his harp, and went on to write psalms we still sing today. That's why it's important to know that it is God that is calling you, and to have it confirmed by trusted leadership. If you run before the starter fires the gun you'll be disqualified from the race.

When God calls you, keep these four things in mind: 1) There is a price to be paid. If you are willing to pay it you can have God's best. 2) There is a path to be walked. Each step is a step of faith. 3) There are principles to be observed. You have got to do God's will, God's way, in order to be blessed. 4) There's a promise to sustain you, '...do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go' (Joshua 1:9 NIV).

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