

17. Jesus in Isaiah – Part 2

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It is bad enough for the majority of the earth's population is against Jesus because they love their sins and choose their sinful pleasure over Jesus to their last breath, but it is nothing more than utter disappointment and disgust for those who call themselves Christian Bible teachers and pastors to claim Jesus as someone less than what the Bible teaches.

The prime example of these heretics is Kenneth Copeland. During the Praise-a-Thon program on TBN in April, 1988, he said this on air:

"I was shocked when I found out who the biggest failure in the Bible actually is. The biggest one in the whole Bible is God. Now, the reason you don't think of God as a failure is He never said He's a failure. And you're not a failure till you say you're one."

He continued this heresy in one of his audio tapes, #01-1403, side 1 that was made in 1989:

"God's on the outside looking in. He doesn't have any legal entree into the earth. The thing don't belong to Him. You see how sassy the devil was in the presence of God in the Book of Job? God said, "Where have you been?" Wasn't any of God's business. He [satan] didn't even have to answer if he didn't want to. God didn't argue with him a bit! You see, this is the position that God's been in. Might say, "Well, if God's running things, He's doing a lousy job of it." He hadn't been running'em, except when He's just got, you know, a little bit of a chance."

In other words, according to Kenneth Copeland, our Almighty God is not really Almighty after all, because satan didn't have to answer to Him if he didn't want to. Jesus had to sneak into the earth without satan's knowledge to save mankind. What a demonic teaching he taught! And people still follow him and support him.

To Copeland's surprise, 2800 years ago, prophet Isaiah declared prophecies regarding Jesus Christ, not as a sneaking sorry-excused God, rather "Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

As I have a choice to believe between what the Lord declared through prophet Isaiah in the Bible and heretic Kenneth Copeland, my choice is obvious. I am sure that you will do the same.

A. JESUS IN A STUMBLING STONE

Isaiah 8:14 He will be as a sanctuary, But a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense To both the houses of Israel, As a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

This portion of the Scripture was quoted by apostle Paul in Romans and 1 Corinthians as well as by apostle Peter in his first epistle chapter 2. Instead of finding protection from the Lord, they will "trip" over Him, falling to destruction. Indeed, many among them shall stumble and they shall fall and be broken.

The Lord can be a great Friend we have in Jesus or the worst Enemy of a prideful human who rejects His invitation to salvation. As many unbelievers try to justify by saying, "The loving God will not send me to hell." It is absolutely true, but they are not finishing the rest of the line – "but I am sending myself to hell because of my stubbornness and pride.

Remember Simeon? When the parents of Jesus took him to the temple on the eighth day to have Him circumcised, this aged godly man held the Baby Jesus and said this:
Luke 2:34 Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against

B. JESUS IN A CHILD BIRTH

Isaiah 9:6-7 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

If you'd like to count the years jammed into these two verses, I'd say a minimum of three thousand plus years – from the birth of Jesus through the rapture, the Great Tribulation period, and into the Millennium, or even past that. It not only talks about the first coming of Christ, His birth, but also the Second Coming and His reign on the earth eternally.

I am sure that unbelievers would like to keep Jesus in a manger as a baby so that they can continue in their sins, but someday all of them will have to stand in front of His Judgment Seat that is known as the Great White Throne Judgment.

What an amazing mystery! Even the smart devil didn't figure out the plan of God. There is nothing more weak, more helpless, and more dependent than a baby. Theoretically, the Messiah could have come as a fully grown man, created as an adult even as Adam was created. But for Jesus to fully identify with humanity, and to display in His life the servant nature that is in God, made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men, our Lord Jesus went through everything a human goes through – from birth to death, with the exception of sinning against the Father.

Jesus has many names. We have five of them listed here. Please note that it is "Wonderful", not "Wonderful Counselor" as some Bible teachers teach. His name is wonderful and nothing dull about Jesus. As "Counselor," Jesus has the wisdom to discern everything justly. It is far more than a Dr. Phil moment.

As the "Mighty God," He has the power to execute His wise plans. Of course, Jehovah's Witness people claim that Jesus is not God. He used to be Michael the archangel before he lived on earth. On earth he was a man who lived a perfect life. He died on a stake, not on a cross, and later he was resurrected as a spirit.

If you ask those JW people about this verse, they would agree that this is about Jesus. Additionally, they would go on to say, "Jesus is a mighty God; his father, Jehovah, is the only Almighty God." Then, you ask them, "How many gods do you have?" They will quickly answer, "One." Obviously and sadly, they are very, very confused people. Scripturally, there is no distinction between "Mighty" and "Almighty", because both titles are used of Jesus, and Yahweh specifically. Almighty is applied to Jesus in Revelation 1:8 which the JWs reluctantly admit that the Book of Revelation chapter 1-3 is about Jesus, not the Father.

“Everlasting Father” does not suggest that the Son is also the Father, because each Person in the Trinity is distinct. “Father of Eternity” is a better translation. Among the Jews, the word “father” means “originator” or “source.” For example, satan is the “father [originator] of lies” in John 8. If you want anything eternal, you must get it from Jesus Christ, because He is the “Father of eternity.”

Jesus the “Prince of Peace” is the One who makes peace, especially between God the Father and man, our Atoning Sacrifice.

C. JESUS IN HIS LINEAGE

Isaiah 11:1-2 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

Jesse was the father of king David. Truly, Jesus was in the lineage of king David as we have the records in the Book of Matthew chapter 1 and Luke chapter 1. Since the last king of Judah Zedekiah in around 580 B.C., for almost 600 years, there was a vacancy in the royal line until Jesus came into the picture. So when Jesus was born, it was like a new green Branch coming forth from an apparently dead stump.

Revelation 5:5 But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”

In v2, we find a very important lesson about the nature of Jesus we must learn. We must understand that Jesus never stopped being God when He came to earth. He just added a human into Himself – 100% God and 100% Man. You might say, “That’s not possible.” Bingo, that’s why we are not gods, but He is.

1) The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him

Before Jesus started His earthly ministry, He got baptized by John the Baptist as you know from Matthew 3:

Matthew 3:16-17 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Though He was a very God Himself, Jesus submitted Himself to the Holy Spirit to come upon Him and fill Him. We should do that same thing, my brothers and sisters. As we open our eyes from the bed; before our feet hit the floor; before we grab the first cup of coffee; before we open the newspaper to see what awful things we humans do to each other, we need to pray to the Lord that He may fill our hearts with the Holy Spirit and guide us with His power throughout the day.

2) The Spirit of Wisdom upon the Messiah

From time to time, I am asked by some Christians if Baby Jesus knew everything from the beginning. It is hard to say. Of course, having deity within the humanity, I am sure that He knew everything, but I don’t think that He grew up any different than any other kids with the exception of doing bad things.

Through the anointing of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was wise in all things. We can be wise as well through our prayers and the Word of God. I highly recommend you to read the Book of Proverbs often. You will receive much God-given wisdom from it.

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

3) The Spirit of Understanding upon Jesus

I love this part of the nature of Jesus. Jesus is perfectly suited to be our sympathetic High Priest to intercede for us from heaven, because He was a human. Some people say, "God cannot understand what I go through." Yes, Jesus completely understands. There is not one single temptation, not one torment, and not one loneliness Jesus didn't face while He was on earth, especially from the Garden of Gethsemane to the cross.

*Hebrews 4:15-16 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.
16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

4) The Spirit of Counsel upon the Lord

It is important for us to receive wise and godly counsels from other godly people.

Proverbs 11:14 Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

But Jesus' counsel through His Word is 100% accurate and perfectly tailored for each situation because He knows all things. Jesus has both the wisdom and the understanding.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

5) The Spirit of Might upon the King Jesus

Many would help us if they could, but are powerless. Others may have the power to help us, but don't care about us. Jesus has both the love and the might to help us. He is all powerful God Himself.

2 Peter 1:3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.

6) The Spirit of Knowledge upon the Savior

Have you ever encountered the people around you who asked you the reason for living and serving Jesus? Because they didn't know what you know in Him. To them it was strange or even wrong. Like that, Jesus knows all things and we don't, but we shouldn't think that what He does is strange or wrong.

Psalms 139:1-3 Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up. You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

7) The Spirit of the Fear of the Lord upon the Mighty God

Though Jesus is God, He keeps Himself in a place of submission, respect, and honor to God the Father.

Proverbs 9:10 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

The Hebrew word for 'fear' is "yira". Its definition is more than mere 'fear'. It goes to "awesome reverence." That would be a great translation. If we have the same kind of awesome reverence to the Father in heaven like Jesus, we would sin and say wrong things far less than what we do, wouldn't you agree?

I am not saying that there are seven spirits within the Holy Spirit like heretic Benny Hinn once claimed that there are nine persons in the Trinity. These are the seven aspects of the many characteristics of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was filled by the Holy Spirit and led by Him.

D. JESUS IN THE MESSIAH CHARACTER

Isaiah 11:3-5 His delight is in the fear of the Lord, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; 4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist.

While Jesus was on earth, He was constantly in contact with the Father in heaven through prayers and obedience. We often find Jesus praying throughout the nights or gets up early so that He could be alone with the Father in prayer while His disciples were sawing logs. Nothing pleases Jesus more than doing the will of the One who sent Him. Oh, how we need to be more like Him everyday!

John 4:34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.

In v4, we see that Jesus will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth. Does it mean that Jesus will come down to earth with a big wooden rod in His mouth so that He can start to beat up the bad people with it? No, it is His Word. The power of His Word that was used to create the entire universe will be used to judge the ungodly as we will see at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ in the Book of Revelation:

Revelation 19:15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

E. JESUS IN THE AMAZING NEW WORLD

Isaiah 11:6-9 "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. 9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea.

We are living in the fallen world where we find violence among humans as well as nature. Some will say, "It's the survival of the fittest." But it all came from the original sin of mankind in Genesis 3. From that day, the entire creation is under the bondage of man's sin.

Romans 8:20-21 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Some day, we will see and live in these scenes that we just read in Isaiah 11, because there will be no more bondage of sin under the reign of the Messiah Jesus.

F. APPLICATIONS

1) A person cannot be confronted with Jesus and remain neutral; feigned neutrality is rejection, the same as open hostility to God.

- 2) The Lord can be a great Friend we have in Jesus or the worst Enemy of a prideful human who rejects His invitation to salvation.
- 3) If we have the same kind of awesome reverence to the Father in heaven like Jesus, we would sin and say wrong things far less than we do.