

5. The nature of Jesus

August 10, 2014

In May 16th, 1981, my family came to the United States. I was 25 years old and just became a father of a brand new baby girl Michelle. I had no idea how to be a daddy and had no job or connection in this country. To make the matter worse, I was not a Christian and didn't care to be one. I thought that I was good enough to go to heaven when I die, since I hadn't committed a crime. I was ignorant and self-righteous.

In 1987, the Lord Jesus extended His grace and mercy toward me and saved me. He revived my dead soul and gave me a new life in Him. He showed me how sinful I was and how lost I was without Him. Like all of you who are born-again Christians, I was spiritually dead though I was alive physically.

Just like you and I didn't before Christ saved us, the majority of the world population don't ever feel the need for salvation. Instead, they think that their lives are fine, and come to God for a little bailout when they feel they are in tight corner. But they never see themselves as drowning men in need of rescue, or see themselves as one-way hell-destined sinners in desperate need of salvation.

Many insist that they cannot believe Christ because they cannot see Him. If they are truly honest with themselves, the right phrase should be "I don't want to believe in Him, because He reveals my sins." In other words, their unbelief is their own choice; it is a self-infected disease; it is a crime to their own souls; it is a terrible source of misery to themselves. Worst of all, they insist on being the enemies of the God of truth.

It was the job description of Jesus to rescue us. But He didn't do it, because He was told by His God the Father, rather He wanted to do it because He loved us. It is the nature of Jesus. I believe that the Holy Spirit who filled the heart of Jesus with understanding will fill our hearts as well this morning.

A. THE LORD CUT DOWN HAUGHTY ASSYRIA

Isaiah 10:28-34 He has come to Aiath, He has passed Migron; At Michmash he has attended to his equipment. 29 They have gone along the ridge, They have taken up lodging at Geba. Ramah is afraid, Gibeath of Saul has fled. 30 Lift up your voice, O daughter of Gallim! Cause it to be heard as far as Lashish-- O poor Anathoth! 31 Madmenah has fled, The inhabitants of Gebim seek refuge. 32 As yet he will remain at Nob that day; He will shake his fist at the mount of the daughter of Zion, The hill of Jerusalem. 33 Behold, the Lord, The Lord of hosts, Will lop off the bough with terror; Those of high stature will be hewn down, And the haughty will be humbled. 34 He will cut down the thickets of the forest with iron, And Lebanon will fall by the Mighty One.

The listed cities here at the end of chapter 10 were from the north to the south on the way to Jerusalem. They were in the course of the Assyrian invasion. This is as far as the prideful Assyrian army came against the southern kingdom Judah. The Lord took them out overnight, literally.

2 Kings 19:35-36 And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the Lord went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses--all dead. 36 So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went away, returned home, and remained at Nineveh.

B. THE REIGN OF JESSE'S OFFSPRING

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.

The Lord cut down the proud tree Assyria in chapter 10, we now see a little tender shoot from a seemingly dead stump, the family of Jesse. 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 unto 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, He 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 boy with the exception of doing bad things. Can you imagine being Jesus' brothers and sisters?

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 By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.

6) The Spirit of Knowledge upon the Savior

Have you ever encountered the people around you who asked you the reason for what you did? Because they didn't know what you knew. To them it was strange or even wrong. Jesus knows all things and we don't, so 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 do and say far less than what we do, don't you agree?

I am not saying that there are seven spirits within the Holy Spirit like heretic Benny Hinn 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.

C. THE PERFECT CHARACTER OF THE MESSIAH

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.

D. 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 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.

E. A HYMN OF PRAISE

Isaiah 12:1-6 And in that day you will say: "O Lord, I will praise You; Though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me. 2 Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; 'For Yah, the Lord, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.'" 3 Therefore with joy you will draw water From the wells of salvation. 4 And in that day you will say: "Praise the Lord, call upon His name; Declare His deeds among the peoples, Make mention that His name is exalted. 5 Sing to the Lord, For He has

done excellent things; This is known in all the earth. 6 Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion, For great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!"

When you think about what kind of future we have in Christ, it is not difficult to burst out with praise and adoration for our Lord Jesus. That is what's happening in chapter 12. Prophet Isaiah was receiving all these prophecies regarding the future reign of the Messiah. It is only fitting for him to praise the Lord.

The Lord will never forsake His people. No matter how difficult the days may be now, or how long the nights, for the people of God, the best is yet to come.

F. APPLICATIONS

- 1) Being filled with the Holy Spirit each day should not be limited to those who serve the Lord professionally. Rather, it should be every believer's desire.
- 2) Being filled with the Holy Spirit starts from daily reading of the Word of God and prayers.
- 3) Being filled with the Holy Spirit requires our constant obedience to His Word.