

# The Greatest Story Ever Told

The Beloved Son

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# ASCRIBE PUBLICATIONS

— Matt. 13:44-52 —

“BECAUSE I WILL PUBLISH THE NAME OF THE LORD:  
ASCRIBE YE GREATNESS UNTO OUR GOD”

## “The Beloved Son”



*“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life...” (John 3:36)*

Jesus Christ is undeniably the most famous person to ever walk the earth. Never has a name inspired so many hearts with love, hope, and peace on the one side, and fear, contempt, and hatred on the other. His claims may be denied, but His name cannot be ignored. The Scriptures testify...

*“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him (Jesus), and given him a name which is above every name:” (Philippians 2:9)*

Christ asked a very significant two-part question to His disciples in His lifetime. Questions which are still being discussed and debated to this very day. Every individual born to earth will be tasked with deciding their answer to these questions, which will affect the course of their life in this world, and determine the outcome of their eternal destiny.

*“When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.” (Matthew 16:13-14)*

There are many today who echo this same sentiment in one form or another. Some say Jesus was just a prophet, one in the line of many others. Others say, Jesus was an ordinary man, who received enlightenment, just as many

other “ascended masters” who existed prior to Him. Still others say Jesus was an exceptional teacher, and a remarkable man of great piety, but His followers exaggerate His reputation to unwarranted proportions. These answers are a very clever way of dishonoring Christ under the guise of showing Him a degree of honor, which in reality demotes Him far beneath His highly exalted station. The underlying error which binds these various opinions together into a common thread is, “Christ did not exist until He was born to earth through His mother.” A fatal deception.

Jesus unmoved by the widespread false opinions of Him circulating in the minds of the disinterested masses of people, asks the second part of His question more pointedly...

*“He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?” (Matthew 16:15)*

His true disciples then and now, who have had personal acquaintance with Him, answer this question giving due honor to His highly exalted name. He is the beloved Son of the heavenly Father, the Creator of the heavens and earth. This is the testimony of three of His most prominent.

*“Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (Matthew 16:16)*

The apostle John states...

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-3, 14)*

The apostle Paul states...

*“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath... translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son... Who is the image of the invisible God... For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible...all things were created by him, and for him: And He is before all things, and by him all things consist.” (Colossians 1:12-17)*

Jesus was no ordinary man who simply achieved “nirvana.” He is the Son of the living God, who was with the Father prior to anything being created, and it was by Him that all things were created. The Beloved Son is an eternal self-existing Being, who’s everlasting existence is beyond finite comprehension.

*“For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself.” (John 5:26)*

When challenged by Jewish leaders that His existence began with His birth into this world, Christ boldly stated that His existence predates Abraham who was the beginning of the existence of the Jewish nation.

*“Then said the Jews unto Him... Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?... Jesus answered...Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily; verily; I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.” (John 8:52-58)*

The Beloved Son is not one in a line of many prophets, it was He who was imparting light through the prophets of the Bible. It was to His arrival on earth, that all the prophets were pointing to. The Scriptures of the Old Testament were written to foretell His coming. And the Scriptures of the

New Testament were written as a record testifying that He had come. All throughout the Old Testament, it is Christ the Son who is speaking in the name of God the Father.

*“No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.” (John 1:18)*

*“Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me (Christ)... For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. (John 5:39, 46)*

*“Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently; who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify; when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.” (1 Peter 1:10-11)*

*“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil... To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.” (Acts 10:38, 43)*

In the phrase quoted above, “healing all who were oppressed of the devil,” we have a clue as to the mysterious purpose of why Christ, the Beloved Son, the Creator all things, came to earth. The manner in which He came however, being born through a woman, can be very puzzling at first, but makes perfect sense when the various objectives to be achieved by His special assignment are pieced together.

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)*

The most well known objective of Christ is revealed in the most well known verse of the New Testament. The Beloved Son came that humanity might not perish under death penalty of sin, but have access through Him to everlasting life.

*“He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.” (1 John 3:8)*

*“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh...” (1 Timothy 3:16)*

*“God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh..” (Romans 8:3)*

*“Forasmuch then as the children (humanity) are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself (Jesus) likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them (humanity) who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage... Wherefore in all things it behoved him (was necessary to) be made like unto his brethren...to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.” (Hebrews 2:14-15, 17)*

These verses convey another objective in connection to the first. In order to deliver humanity from the bondage of sin inflicted upon them by satan, the Beloved Son must conquer satan for man, as a man. Being that it is mankind's destiny to ultimately overthrow satan's government, Jesus was required to give us a demonstration in sinful flesh the particulars of how that is done.

Jesus Christ, the Beloved Son, was sent on special assignment by the Heavenly Father, to free humanity from the hold of satan and his celestial army of fallen angels. Yet



this task was not a simple war of aggression. The chains of mankind's captivity, though much stronger than iron, are invisible to the natural eye.

*“His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.” (Proverbs 5:22)*

The power of sin does not simply fetter the wrists and ankles, in reality, sin shackles the mind and heart, and enslaves the thoughts and feelings. Mankind needs to be freed not only from the outward acts of unrighteousness, but from the inward motives which prompt them. Without an actual example of righteous principles, lived out under the same conditions they are in, true freedom would be impossible. For this purpose it “behoved” Christ, meaning it was necessary for Christ to be born as a baby through a woman of earth, to demonstrate a living example of righteous principles at every stage of development from infancy to adulthood.

Being born through a woman, allowed the Beloved Son to enter the frontline of the conflict directly, and accomplish several objectives at once. First, He would enter into mankind's circumstances, inheriting from His mother the “sinful flesh” of the fallen nature, with all its frailties of hunger, thirst, exhaustion, and subjection to death. Under these conditions, Jesus could give humanity a perfect example of how to live a holy and righteous life, in spite of having a sinful nature and existing in a sinful environment. This would have to be done without exercising His own Divine power. Christ would have to deny His Divine self, and place His total dependence on His Father's power through the Holy Spirit, while trusting completely in the Father's providence in all things. Even as we who received Christ as our Savior, have to deny our sinful self, and place our total dependence upon Christ's power through the Holy Spirit, while trusting completely in His providence in all things.

*“Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost.” (John 20:21-22).*

The life of Jesus was to be a demonstration to humanity of the magnitude of blessings possible, when the free will is fully surrendered to operate in harmony with the will of God. Listen to the example of the world’s Redeemer..

*“For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.”*

*“And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.”*

*“For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.” “The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.” (John 6:38; 8:29; 12:49; 14:10)*

Christ the Beloved Son, equal in power and authority with the Father, came to earth and gave us the example of what it means to truly worship God. True worship as demonstrated by Jesus means to yield one’s free will to the point, that the only words spoken, and the only things done, is that which pleases the Father. By denying Himself the use of His Divine power no matter the circumstances, Christ would demonstrate to humanity, the true nature of the conflict they were in. And after a lifetime on earth of denying Himself in this way, He would bid those who receive Him as Lord and Savior, to follow His example. To deny themselves by submission of their free will, to only perform the will of their Creator.

*“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but*

*whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.” (Luke 9:23-24)*

“Whosoever will save his life, shall lose it,” meaning whosoever shall live their life the way they please in this world, not regarding the will and purpose of their Creator, will forfeit eternal life. “Whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it,” meaning whosoever shall acknowledge the sovereign right of their Creator to dictate what is right and wrong in His creation, and thereby subject their free will in this life to governed by the will and power of God, and thus doing only what pleases God, will prove themselves worthy of eternal life in His kingdom where all is obedience and peace.

This leads us into one of the objectives which was mentioned earlier, exposing the true nature of the conflict we are in. The demonstration of Christ, the omnipotent Son of God, “denying Himself” the use of His Divine power, regardless of the circumstances, is also how He would “destroy the work of the devil.” The work of the devil is ultimately sin, transgression of God’s law (1 John 3:4). But humanity must come to understand the nature of transgression is any deviation in the slightest degree from the express will of God. Only in light of this fact, can one correctly understand the true nature of temptation, and the confrontation between Christ and satan in the wilderness.

Satan understood the plan of redemption, and looked forward to this phase of the conflict when the Beloved Son would subject Himself to be born as a man with all the weaknesses of the fallen nature. No one born under those circumstances had ever resisted his temptations without failing at least one time. If the plan for redeeming man could only be accomplished by a “spotless offering,” meaning a “sinless sacrifice,” then to convince Christ to deviate from the Father’s will one time, in any instance would mean Christ’s ultimate defeat, and satan’s ultimate victory. One

can only imagine with horror what would have been the result of Christ yielding to temptation, and what that would mean for earth, and all the universe in the light of the following Scripture verses.

*“To whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness.” “.for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.” (Romans 6:16; 2 Peter 2:19)*

With this in mind, let us analyze the confrontation between these two opposing generals, so that we who must choose to enlist to defend the principles of one, and by default work to overthrow the principles of the other, may understand the strategies involved in this mysterious conflict.

*“Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He was afterward an hungred. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.” (Matthew 4:1-3)*

Christ was to fast in the wilderness for forty days, just as Israel after leaving Egypt “fasted” in the wilderness having their diet “restricted” to manna for forty years (“a day for a year” Numbers 14:33-34). Christ however was to eat no food at all during this forty day period, and must deny Himself the use of His Divine power to satisfy His human hunger, or to ease the pangs of that hunger. No matter how strong the urge to do otherwise, He must wait in submission to the Father’s will to satisfy His need.

Knowing that after forty days of fasting the human nature of Christ would be desperately craving to have even a morsel of food, satan’s temptation was to urge Him to satisfy

His hunger by using His Divine power to turn stones to bread, contrary to the will of the Father.

That is all it would take for Satan to win the war against Christ. One decision to exercise His free will and use His power, contrary to the will of the Father, would mean His defeat. Christ's answer to this temptation shows the principle by which those who would choose to enlist in His cause would overcome in their experience.

*"But He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4)*

Not according to one's feeling, not following one's own heart, but living by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Trusting God's infinite wisdom, even when in our finite understanding we can't comprehend His requirements, is the standard erected by the Beloved Son.

*"Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone." (Matthew 4:5-6)*

Satan displays here that he too has a knowledge of the Scriptures, and has mastered the strategy of using them to justify behavior of which God disapproves. The Scripture the adversary quoted from in Psalms 91 does promise God's protection, but nowhere does it say to throw one's self into danger. How many having read scriptures which speak of God's love and His willingness to forgive sin, have been convinced by Satan to throw themselves into lustful passions and other forbidden indulgences. Christ's answer to this temptation implies that a foolish understanding of God's word will prove fatal.

*“Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.” (Matthew 4:7)*

Christ demonstrates for us the correct use of Scripture. Understanding the nature of the conflict, the challenge for those who will live for the honor of God is to remain within God’s will. Satan may interpret a promise that angels will keep you from being dashed to pieces upon stone, as an invitation to jump from a height in faith of this scripture, but the end result of that experiment would reveal most quickly how dangerous a misinterpretation of scripture can be. Sadly it is common today for many to interpret the words of Scripture in a suicidal way, or as Peter said “to their own destruction.” (2 Peter 3:16).

*“Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.” (Matthew 4:8-9)*

Understanding the nature of the conflict is the submission of the will to God and His government, and on the opposing side the principle of satan’s government which is the exercise of the free will for selfish purposes, this temptation appears desperate. To worship actually means to yield your will to obey. Satan is basically saying if you surrender your will to me, I will surrender the earth to you without a fight. This is of course a lie. If Jesus had yielded to satan even in the slightest degree, Jesus would lose the earth and much more.

*“Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.” (Matthew 4:10)*

Unfortunately however, many yield to satan's offer, even among those who wear the name Christian. For fame, fortune, and other temporal enticements, many have said things and done things a follower of Christ should never say or do.

*“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” (Mark 8:36)*

Man is not in a conflict of simple aggression. The contest is centered upon who influences and governs the decisions we make. This is the true nature of temptation, and we can trace its footsteps all the way back to the garden of Eden. The will of God was that our first parents should eat of every tree except for the one particular tree which would result in death. Satan suggested of that same tree, to eat would make life more fulfilling. Based on the influence of satan's words, Eve yielded her will to obey his suggestion, and Adam obeyed satan's suggestion through the voice of Eve.

*“To whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness.” “..for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.” (Romans 6:16; 2 Peter 2:19)*

It only took one deviation from the will of God for Adam in his sinless state to corrupt his character, and lose his dominion over the paradise of earth to satan's control. So were the stakes concerning the second Adam, Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:45-47). The Beloved Son was born in the flesh and lived as man, to show mankind the way back to the paradise we lost is perfect submission of the free will to perform the perfect will of God. If mankind could be empowered to do this, the work of satan would be destroyed.

*“As many as received him (Christ), to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.” (John 1:12)*

The Beloved Son lived a life of perfect obedience to the will of God to show humanity “the way” (John 14:6). Then He died to pay the penalty for the sins we committed. But this is not all. God knew that humanity in their fallen condition, so use to yielding to satan’s masterful temptations, could never resist in their own human strength. For this reason Jesus not only died, but rose again in power to give humanity access to the omnipotent power of God through the Holy Spirit. In speaking to His disciples of His soon coming death and departure, the Beloved Son said these words.

*“But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.” (John 16:6-7)*

It was by the Holy Ghost that Christ was conceived and “born again” from heaven to earth through Mary, and lived the life of obedience that He did. By faith in Christ we too can be “born again” of the Spirit from an earthly life of sin, to a heavenly life of obedience. The character developed under the influence of God’s Spirit will remake us in the image of the Beloved Son, a law abiding citizen of the kingdom of heaven.

*“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God...Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. Whosoever committeth sin*



*transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not... Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.” (1 John 3:1-7)*

*“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.” (Romans 8:18-19)*

The Heavenly Father said of Jesus...

*“This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased,” (Matthew 3:17)*

But why is the Father so pleased with Christ? Because obedience to God’s law (the performing of God’s will) is at the center of the conflict, it was prophesied of Jesus..

*“The Lord is well pleased for His righteousness' sake; He will magnify the law, and make it honorable.” (Isaiah 42:21)*

To magnify the law, and make it honorable in a world where the law of God is despised, was another objective of the Beloved Son which will be the focus of the next installment of this series.

Will you take the simple step of asking God to give you the Holy Spirit to guide you into all the truth of the Bible, and investigate if the things you have just read are true?

Yes? \_\_\_\_\_

*“These were more noble...in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily; whether those things were so.” (Acts 17:11)*

*Or No?\_\_\_\_\_*

*“Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34)*



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