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| The One who is God incarnate | Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Psalm 100  Ephesian 1:15-23 **Matt 25:31-46** |

2020 11 22 THE ONE WHO IS GOD INCARNATE

MESSAGE (draft)

I read in a commentary that God has revealed Himself to us over time only as much as we were capable of comprehending – from the beginning, the garden of Eden, God showed creativity, “the heavens declare the glory of God and the earth shows Gods handywork”[[1]](#footnote-1) – God showed care, closeness, friendship and rules and consequences. Over time it narrowed down to rules and sacrifices and short-term forgiveness until when the fulness of time was come God sent[[2]](#footnote-2) Jesus to show us the reality of who he is – the One who is God incarnate.

If we look at Jesus we see Gods character and why the human race has not been wiped out. God is Love[[3]](#footnote-3) and God created us to love us. But then there is “And the LORD said, My spirit **shall not always strive** with **man**, for that he also is flesh” [[4]](#footnote-4)

When the ten commandments[[5]](#footnote-5) definite lines were laid down, there could be no doubt as to the fundamentals for our lives that God required. There was a system of offerings and punishments which would bring a temporary cleansing but the guilt was never fully cleared away and us humans did not have the power to totally control our mind and body and feelings – and so the fallen part of living continued.

God is to ‘big’ to be, to even begin to be understood by us humans – “how can the pot say to the potter who made it – why did you make me this way?”[[6]](#footnote-6)

When heaven is described, it is in human terms of what we see and understand and value: gold, sapphires, blinding light etc, all things that do not begin to even touch the reality. The nearest one that I have read in the bible is “like a sea of glass mingled with fire.”[[7]](#footnote-7)

Some might call this blasphemy but how can God show who He is to humans who only sometimes are drawn into the wonder of a sunset or … the wonder of a bee or even what may be seen in a slum. God is just big beyond imagination and our ability to grasp – the bits that we do grasp make us even more aware that God is unimaginably holy.

Can we comprehend eternity – a universe that has no edges or time and continually stretches out in, in what human beings cannot exist – nothingness. How can there be a God who fills even the nothingness of space beyond every star? And yet at the same moment knows how many hairs are on my head,[[8]](#footnote-8) and notices the death of every sparrow![[9]](#footnote-9)

God shows himself in His Spirit being with us, in speaking of His being God, of His being a father – fathers who care and protect and provide for and train and love and give. Yet the revelation is still not the relationship that God created us to have with His eternal being – God wants to show more of Himself, of His character - **and so – He is the radiance of God of His glory and the exact representation of His nature,”[[10]](#footnote-10)**  In John 1:1-18 Jesus is the ‘Light’, the ‘Word’ and “the Word was God” and again in Hebrews 1:3 “He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power”, and Jesus was born one of us. In Jesus we see who God is, what we call His character. Jesus is also called ‘the Word of God’ God speaking to us; in maybe a modern term – in 3D – please do not take that too far.

Jesus is God incarnate – God born into the world that He created – our world – subject to temptation and joy and made of love – Jesus, with the purity of a full human being as God intended us to be – unspoilt, not chained and diminished by self even though he had the ability to choose self as we do and have.

Consider the force of the temptations recorded at the beginning of his public three years. Tempted to satisfy his needs by unauthorised, unacceptable means – 1) turning stones into bread 2) putting himself in deliberate danger thus proving that God the Father/ God the Source would keep His word and could be relied upon and 3) taking a short cut to achieve His purpose of bringing the world into Gods Kingdom. Is there anyone who has not run ahead of God? And the most terrible of all; on the night of his arrest in the garden – knowing what was coming, the physical agony - yes but the terrifying knowing that the Godhead would be ripped apart when he took the sin of the world into himself. **Quote the two sections of in the garden and on the cross ……………**

*The One who is God incarnate* – consider the titles of this man born of a woman: “ a child will be born and he will be called - **Heavenly Father, Prince of Peace, Lord of Lord, Almighty God …. “ Isiah**

Looking at what the specified readings tell us “This One” who 2000 years ago walked this same earth as we do, we read of who he is in eternity present: “He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is, not only in this word but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet”.[[11]](#footnote-11)

God – one God.

What of the Holy Spirit or what I understand and draw strength peace from – The Presence of God among us, in each believer our companion and guide and the One who brings Jesus to us.

The Ephesians reading tells us that is the Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead and that the power and presence of Gods Spirit is with each of us individually.

“The surpassing greatness of His power to us who believe is the same power which raised Jesus from the dead”[[12]](#footnote-12) we can trust this power to strengthen and guide to be the power that is with us in choosing to enter, or not to enter into temptation – our choice!

“I will care for My sheep and will deliver them from all the places to which they were scattered on a cloudy day.”[[13]](#footnote-13)

Psalm 100

*Joyful response from us*

“Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth.

Serve the Lord with gladness;

Come before the Lord with joyful singing.

Know that the Lord Himself is God;

It is He who has made us, and not ourselves (link with Romans 1)

We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Enter His gates with thanksgiving

And His courts with praise.

Give thanks to Him, bless His name

For the Lord is good;

His lovingkindness is everlasting

And His faithfulness to all generations.”

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*The One who is God Incarnate.*

As Father, Son and Spirit were all individually shown at the Lord Jesus’ baptism[[14]](#footnote-14): the Father spoke, The Spirit in the visual form of a dove and Jesus, the son of man/ the Son of God were all individually present – our God is unimaginably present everywhere (omnipresent) yet can be identified in one place at the same time.

Thinking of the words, that the Lord Jesus is the radiance of Gods glory[[15]](#footnote-15) and thinking of the sun – the core of the sun and the fire it emits and the radiance that we see and feel are all present at the same time – as is our One God.

**DRAFT *notes on readings***

Matthew 25:31-46

Son of man -glorious throne – separates nations good and bad – what was the criterium

The King – Jesus will say to one group – come – you who cared for and loved one of My brothers – because you did it unto me.

Our faith must show in our lives.

Ephesians 1:15-23

One of the most glorious sections on the Christian care for each other and our requests to God for each other.

v17 “I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ/Saviour. The Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the true knowledge of Himself.

V18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you will know what is the hope of His calling,, what are the riches in glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power to us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is, not only in this word but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

God the I AM will personally search us out

V2 do we feel like this some days? “I will care for My sheep and will deliver them from all the places to which they were scattered on a cloudy day.”

God will feed us V15 “I will feed my flock and I will lead them to rest”

V16 “I will seek the lost, bring back the scattered, bind up the broken and strengthen the sick; but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with judgment.”

V17-20 judgement on those who tread down and foul things for others.

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Ephesians 3 17

f…**17**so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. Then you, being rooted and grounded in love, **18** [will have power,](https://biblehub.com/greek/1840.htm) [together with](https://biblehub.com/greek/4862.htm) [all](https://biblehub.com/greek/3956.htm) [the](https://biblehub.com/greek/3588.htm) [saints,](https://biblehub.com/greek/40.htm) [to comprehend](https://biblehub.com/greek/2638.htm) [the](https://biblehub.com/greek/3588.htm) [length](https://biblehub.com/greek/3372.htm) [and](https://biblehub.com/greek/2532.htm) [width](https://biblehub.com/greek/4114.htm) [and](https://biblehub.com/greek/2532.htm) [height](https://biblehub.com/greek/5311.htm) [and](https://biblehub.com/greek/2532.htm) [depth](https://biblehub.com/greek/899.htm) **19**of the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.…

8 Verses 38 to 39. [38] For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, [39] Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, **shall** be able to **separate us from the love of God**, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

[Rom.8 Verses 38 to 39 - Bible, King James Version](https://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/k/kjv/kjv-idx?type=citation&book=Romans&chapno=8&startverse=38&endverse=39" \l ":~:text=8%20Verses%2038%20to%2039,in%20Christ%20Jesus%20our%20Lord.)

1. Psalm 19:1 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Galatians 4:4 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. 1 John 4:7,8 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Genesis 6:3-5 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Exodus 20:2-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Romans 9:20,21. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Revelation 4:6, 15:2 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Matthew 10:30. Luke 12:17 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Matthew 10:29 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Hebrew 1:3 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Ephesians 1:22. 1 Corinthians 15:27. Hebrews 2:8 [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Ephesians 1:19 [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Ezekiel 34:12 [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Matthew 3:13-17 [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Hebrews 1:3 [↑](#footnote-ref-15)