

# Reflections on Scripture

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DAWN CHRISTADELPHIANS

“SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS

RIGHTEOUSNESS” MATT 6:23

## OUR HIGH PRIEST

Paul wrote those profound words:

“You are My Son, Today I have begotten You” Heb 5:5.

Thus we see the greatness of the Lord Jesus Christ set before us and view with awe the principle of God-manifestation. With this in mind the Apostle Paul was moved to write:

“great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh” 1Tim 3:16

God was manifested in the flesh by His own Son, who being born of a woman was made like his brethren, thus having Adamic nature.

By nature we all manifest Adam in the flesh, but God's Son manifested his Father in the flesh. Therefore, having been raised and perfected he became the firstborn of all creation.

Having completed His ministry and being without sin, Jesus was able to declare:

“I have finished the work which You have given Me to do”

and to pray,

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You.”

Therefore, because of His complete obedience Jesus was raised to Divine nature.

Now, Melchizedek is recorded as being without father or mother, that is to say, his name was not written in the genealogies. He was not a priest by virtue of being the head of his house, but solely because of his righteousness.. So also it was with Christ, for in the days of his ministry he was born of the tribe of Judah, which had no title to the priesthood.

It was the sons of Aaron who were the priests by virtue of their hereditary descent. Yet this priesthood was granted regardless of their characters and personal merit.

But in the case of the Lord Jesus Christ it was his character that made him the perfect Lamb of God, a sacrifice that could take away sin.

Thus Paul writes:

“Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come—In the volume of the book it is written of Me—To do Your will, O God.’”

Now having been perfected, Jesus is uniquely qualified by virtue of an indestructible life to be our High Priest and mediator because:

“after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God” Heb 10:5-7, 12

Both Kingship and Priesthood are combined in perfect harmony in the Son of God. Therein lies our hope, for Christ is the first of his order. There will be others: those designated the sons of Zadok (meaning righteousness) who will be the future priesthood in that glorious Kingdom so soon to come

These priests are those who during their lives have striven to follow Christ, putting aside self and taking on the mind or character of their Lord (Phil 2:5).

Despite our failings we have a High Priest able to help us in our times of need. Let us therefore with the assurance of faith look forward to His return. Looking to that day when according to the mercy of God, we will walk through that great Temple — a House of Prayer for all nations — assisting our High Priest and King to restore all things.



### Commandments of Christ

**Give yourselves into his service without reserve recognising that you cannot serve God and Mammon (Matt 6:24; Rom 12:1)**

Jesus said: “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” Matt 6:24

Here the relationship between two mutually exclusive authorities is depicted. We can love one of them, but not both. To love God excludes selfish seeking after riches, because seeking after riches will lead away from God. The two masters are mutually exclusive. When baptised we committed to seeking God first and were bought at a great price (1Cor 6:20). Thus Paul exhorts that we should be holy, acceptable to God which is our reasonable service (Rom 12:1).

The world is an inescapable influence. There will be times when we fail to give the reasonable service required of us. Any compromise to follow the broad way of the world, then make it impossible for us to please God. We will be slaves to ‘mammon’, never satisfied, never at peace. Riches are deceitful (Mark 4:19) but the narrow way, forsaking self satisfaction, leads to life.

If we put God first in our lives and make the right choices in His service, then our faithful service will be counted as righteousness (Rom 4:22-24; Gal 3:6,9) and He will be pleased to graciously accept us into His Kingdom.



God said of Jesus:

**"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"**

### My Bible

*We've travelled together, my Bible and I,  
Through all kinds of weather,  
with smile or with sigh;  
In sorrow or sunshine, in tempest or calm;  
Thy friendship unchanging, my lamp and my psalm.*

*We've travelled together, my Bible and I,  
When life had grown weary,  
and death e'en was nigh,  
But all through the darkness of mist or of wrong,  
I found there a solace, a prayer,  
or a song.*

*So now who shall part us, my Bible and I?  
Shall "isms" or "schisms," or "new lights" who try?  
Shall shadow for substance, or stone for good bread,  
Supplant thy sound wisdom,  
give folly instead?*

*Ah, no, my dear Bible, exponent of light,  
Thou sword of the Spirit, put error to flight;  
And still through life's journey,  
until my last sigh,  
We'll travel together, my Bible and I.*

### SELF EXAMINATION

#### Question to consider:

- Do I just merely take the emblems each week, or do I sincerely reflect upon the Lord Jesus, living for Him, remembering that He died for me and rose again?

## SHEEP AND SHEPHERDS

The keeping of sheep was very important to Israel and had been done from the early time of Abel. Large flocks demanded plenty of attention and the shepherd had to be a dedicated and caring person, who led his flock to pasture and defended them against attack by wild animals. The sheepfold would have stone walls with only one entrance - "the door"- which the shepherd guarded. Sheep were talked to and given names, and they responded to both the shepherd's voice and their own names when called.

#### A farmer, writing in a daily newspaper, says:

- Sheep are intelligent; not only bright, but sociable too. They have good memories and can

recognise 50 faces, animal or human, and remember them for at least 2 years.

- Each sheep's "baa" is different and they can detect very small inflections in each other's voices.
- They can count to at least 3. If a mother has 3 lambs and only 2 are with her, she will wait until the third one comes before moving to new grass.
- When a TV crew comes to film his sheep, they will retreat to a safe distance and turn round to stare at the "strangers".
- Lambs have to find a shorn mother by smell and sound, not by looks!
- A lost lamb's "baa" sends its mother into a frenzy of concern.

- Some can undo knots in ropes on gates, or shoelaces.
- They can find a way out of a field, and get back in again.
- Cattle grids are no problem. They lie down and roll over them.
- Sheep can "write their own prescription". They find foods to ease tummy problems, and eat food to suit their state of health.

King David, who *was* once a shepherd himself, said:

"The LORD's my shepherd. I shall not want" and it is recorded that "the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went"

Are we clever enough sheep to respond to our shepherd's voice?

Sis D. Oakley

## THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

With all the fuss and the show of importance, with all the colour and apparent zest of pleasure-following, with all the display and honouring of one another, there is no true happiness in the world. Only the young are delighted, and they but for a short time. A cloud settles on all mortal things for the blithest and the most spirited. It must be so.

Though disfigured, we are in the image of the Elohim as a race. We are mentally constituted for friendship with God. It is impossible that we can have peace and joy in alienation from Him. "Vanity and vexation of spirit" must come of all attempts to employ existence without Him. The

world is not happy; it cannot be. It is of the Lord that the people weary themselves in the fires of vanity.

But in the Truth, we are reconciled to God, and if we are living in a state of reconciliation (that is, doing those things in which He has declared His pleasure), then we are living in a state of peace. There may be, there is, much deprivation to be endured, many crosses to be carried, many present advantages to be sacrificed as the result of trying to live the lives of saints in the present evil world; but, with all the drawbacks, we are happier in our activity, much more interested in existence, and can indulge in a more

effective manner in the pleasure of anticipation, than those who know not God and obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. The world has all the chafe and fretfulness of an evil state without any alleviations that come with the Gospel.

Therefore, let us realise that even now we are greatly favoured in knowing God, or rather in being known of Him, while as regards the measureless future of the ages that are to come, it is difficult to express, and impossible to exaggerate the glory of our standing as "fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God" (Eph. 2:19).

R. Roberts.