

# BEHOLDING HIS GLORY

~ a biblical portrait of the Lord Jesus Christ ~

## The Word Made Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not comprehend it.<sup>1</sup> Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel,<sup>2</sup> which translated means "God with us."<sup>3</sup> For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.<sup>4</sup>

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; because he was of the house and lineage of David: To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace; good will toward men." And they came with haste [to Bethlehem] and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.<sup>5</sup> And he called His name Jesus,<sup>6</sup> for it is He who will save His people from their sins.<sup>7</sup>

And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.<sup>8</sup> And [so] the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.<sup>9</sup> [For] God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature.<sup>10</sup>

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east, and have come to worship Him."<sup>11</sup> And having heard the king, they went their way; and lo, the star, which they had seen in the east went on before them, until it came and stood over where the Child was. And when they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And they came into the house and saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell down and worshiped Him; and opening their treasures they presented to Him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh.<sup>12</sup>

And the Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.<sup>13</sup>

## Son of God ~ Son of Man

There came a man, sent from God, whose name was John. He came for a witness, that he might bear witness of the light, that all might believe through him.<sup>14</sup> He said, "I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness. Make straight the way of the Lord."<sup>15</sup> "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."<sup>16</sup> And [John] saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"<sup>17</sup> Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him.<sup>18</sup> And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and John saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Jesus, and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."<sup>19</sup>

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.<sup>20</sup> For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.<sup>21</sup>

And Jesus was going about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.<sup>22</sup> And great multitudes followed Him.<sup>23</sup> And seeing the multitudes, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd.<sup>24</sup>

And the Pharisees and their scribes began grumbling at His disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with the tax-gatherers and sinners?" And Jesus answered and said to them, "**It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.**"<sup>25</sup> "**For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost**"<sup>26</sup> It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.<sup>27</sup>

And it was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God. And when day came, He called His disciples to Him; and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles:<sup>28</sup> And Jesus said to them, "**Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.**"<sup>29</sup>

## Sermon on the Mount

And when He saw the multitudes, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him, and opening His mouth He began to teach them, saying:

**"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.  
Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.  
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.  
Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."**<sup>30</sup>

**"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."**<sup>31</sup> **"Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened."**<sup>32</sup> **"Enter by the narrow gate; for**

the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it.”<sup>33</sup>

And He was also teaching them many things in parables, and was saying to them in His teaching:<sup>34</sup> “Everyone who comes to Me, and hears My words, and acts upon them, I will show you whom he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation upon the Rock; and when a flood rose, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who has heard, and has not acted accordingly is like a man who built a house upon the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great.”<sup>35</sup> “He who has ears, let him hear.”<sup>36</sup>

## Who do you say that I am?

And it came about that when Jesus had finished these parables, He departed from there. And coming to His hometown He began teaching them in their synagogue, so that they became astonished and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom, and these miraculous powers? “Is not this the carpenter's son?”<sup>37</sup> And there was much grumbling among the multitudes concerning Him; some were saying, “He is a good man”; others were saying, “No, on the contrary, He leads the multitude astray.”<sup>38</sup> So there arose a division in the multitude because of Him.<sup>39</sup> But Jesus, aware of this, began asking His disciples, saying, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”<sup>40</sup> And they said, “Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah, but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” And Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”<sup>41</sup>

And Jesus said, “My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me.”<sup>42</sup> “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”<sup>43</sup> “And if anyone hears My sayings, and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.”<sup>44</sup> [But] “If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”<sup>45</sup>

“I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal, and kill and destroy: I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”<sup>46</sup> “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.”<sup>47</sup>

“You shall love the Lord your God with all you heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”<sup>48</sup> “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>49</sup> “Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.”<sup>50</sup> “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”<sup>51</sup> [For] “I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life.”<sup>52</sup> “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”<sup>53</sup> “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die.”<sup>54</sup>

For this cause therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.<sup>55</sup> And [so] Jesus took the twelve aside and said to them, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished. For He will be delivered to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and mistreated and spit upon,

and after they have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and the third day He will rise again.”<sup>56</sup> “For even the Son of Man, did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life, a ransom for many.”<sup>57</sup>

## Jerusalem

On the next day the great multitude who had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took the branches of the palm trees, and went out to meet Him, and began to cry out, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel.”<sup>58</sup>

[And Jesus said to the disciples,] “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.”<sup>59</sup> “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.”<sup>60</sup> “Little children, I am with you a little while longer.”<sup>61</sup> “Where I go, you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow later.”<sup>62</sup> [So] “Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many places to dwell, if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way where I am going.”<sup>63</sup> “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.”<sup>64</sup>

“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you.”<sup>65</sup> “And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment.”<sup>66</sup> “He will guide you into all the truth;”<sup>67</sup> and He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you.”<sup>68</sup>

“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. After a little while the world will behold Me no more; but you will behold Me; because I live, you shall live also. In that day you shall know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.”<sup>69</sup> “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. [So] Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”<sup>70</sup> “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.”<sup>71</sup> I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”<sup>72</sup>

If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”<sup>73</sup> [And] “This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.”<sup>74</sup> By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”<sup>75</sup> For God is love.”<sup>76</sup> “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. [And] you are My friends.”<sup>77</sup>

## The Last Supper

Then came the first day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. And [Jesus] sent Peter and John saying, “Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it.”<sup>78</sup> Now when evening had come, He was reclining at the table with the twelve disciples. And as they were eating<sup>79</sup> Jesus became troubled in spirit and testified, and said, “Truly, truly I say to you, that one of you will betray Me.”<sup>80</sup> [Jesus therefore said] to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot,<sup>81</sup> “What you do, do quickly.”<sup>82</sup> And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” And in the same way, He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.”<sup>83</sup> Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”<sup>84</sup>

And after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.<sup>85</sup> And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and<sup>86</sup> these things Jesus spoke; lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said,<sup>87</sup> “Now

My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour?' But for this purpose I came to this hour."<sup>88</sup> "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done."<sup>89</sup> "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that Your Son may glorify You, even as You gave Him authority over all mankind, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. This is eternal life that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was."<sup>90</sup>

## The Arrest

Judas then, having received the Roman cohort, and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Jesus therefore, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." He said to them, "I am He."<sup>91</sup>

And those who had seized Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were gathered together.<sup>92</sup> Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus in order that they might put Him to death; and they did not find any, even though many false witnesses came forward.<sup>93</sup> And the high priest stood up and said to Him, "Do You make no answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?" But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest said to Him, "I adjure You by the living God, that You tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said it yourself." Then the high priest tore his robes saying, "He has blasphemed! What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of death."<sup>94</sup>

Now when morning had come, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put Him to death; and they bound Him, and led Him away, and delivered Him up to Pilate the governor.<sup>95</sup> Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor questioned Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?" And Jesus said to him, "It is as you say."<sup>96</sup> Then Pilate said to Him, "Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?" And Jesus did not answer him with regard to even a single charge, so that the governor was quite amazed. Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the multitude any one prisoner whom they wanted. And at that time they were holding a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. When they were therefore gathered together, Pilate said to them, "[Well], whom shall I release for you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?"<sup>97</sup> And they said, "Barabbas."<sup>98</sup> [So] Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?"<sup>99</sup> "I find no guilt in Him."<sup>100</sup> And they all said, "Let Him be crucified!"<sup>101</sup> [So] he released Barabbas for them; but after having Jesus scourged, he delivered Him to be crucified.

## The Cross of Christ

And they stripped Him, and put a scarlet robe on Him. And after weaving a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they knelt down before Him and mocked Him saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spat on Him, and took the reed and began to beat Him on the head. And after they had mocked Him, they took His robe off and put His garments on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him.<sup>102</sup>

He was oppressed and He was afflicted. Yet He did not open His mouth. Like a lamb that is led to slaughter. And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers. So He did not open His mouth.<sup>103</sup> They took Jesus therefore and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified Him and with Him two other men, one on either side, and Jesus in between.<sup>104</sup> "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; that whoever believes may in Him have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten

Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him.”<sup>105</sup>

But Jesus was saying, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”<sup>106</sup> And one of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him. But the other answered, rebuked him and said,<sup>107</sup> “Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!” And Jesus said to him, “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.”<sup>108</sup> When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” Then He said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!”<sup>109</sup> Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?”, that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”<sup>110</sup>

“I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint. My heart is like wax; it is melted within Me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue cleaves to My jaws; and You lay Me in the dust of death. For dogs have surrounded Me; a band of evildoers has encompassed Me; they pierced My hands and My feet. I can count all My bones. They look, they stare at Me; they divide My garments among them. And for My clothing they cast lots.”<sup>111</sup>

Surely our griefs He Himself bore. And our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken. Smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions. He was crushed for our iniquities: The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him. And by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray. Each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.<sup>112</sup>

And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.<sup>113</sup> For God made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.<sup>114</sup> [And] Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.<sup>115</sup>

And Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled said, “I thirst.”<sup>116</sup> When Jesus therefore had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!”<sup>117</sup> And the sun being obscured<sup>118</sup> and the veil of the temple was torn in two and the earth shook and the rocks were split.<sup>119</sup> And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit!” And having said this, He breathed His last,<sup>120</sup> bowed His head, and gave up His spirit.<sup>121</sup>

## He is not here!

Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been laid. Therefore on account of the Jewish day of preparation, because the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.<sup>122</sup>

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb.<sup>123</sup> And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it.<sup>124</sup> And the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come see the place where He was lying. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going before you

into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you.” And they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy.<sup>125</sup>

When therefore it was evening, on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.” And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples therefore rejoiced when they saw the Lord.<sup>126</sup> And Jesus said to them, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.”<sup>127</sup> “As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”<sup>128</sup>

## Beholding His Glory

Later, the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain Jesus had designated.<sup>129</sup> And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”<sup>130</sup> And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.<sup>131</sup>

Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.<sup>132</sup> Wherefore God also has highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth. And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.<sup>133</sup> [For] worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.<sup>134</sup>

[Jesus is saying,] “Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.”<sup>135</sup> “And I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”<sup>136</sup>

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.”<sup>137</sup> Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.”<sup>138</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God<sup>139</sup>: And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”<sup>140</sup>

And then the Lord will be King over all the earth; in that day the Lord will be the only one and His name the only one.<sup>141</sup> [And] there will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace. On the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore.<sup>142</sup> And we shall see His face,<sup>143</sup> and He shall wipe away every tear from our eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away. And He who sits on the throne will say, “Behold, I am making all things new.”<sup>144</sup> I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.”<sup>145</sup>

## Benediction/Invitation

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.<sup>146</sup>

Great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, was vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, [and] taken up in glory.<sup>147</sup> Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!<sup>148</sup>

[For He] saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,<sup>149</sup>

"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>150</sup>

[Oh] that Christ [would] dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.<sup>151</sup>

He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly."<sup>152</sup> [And] while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior,<sup>153</sup> [we say,] "Come, Lord Jesus."<sup>154</sup>

And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books which were written;<sup>155</sup> but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.<sup>156</sup>

Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.<sup>157</sup>

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.<sup>158</sup>



## Scripture References

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