

GENERAL SUBJECT: THE VISION OF CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

Message One

Jesus Christ: The King-Savior and the Slave-Savior

The King-Savior in the Gospel of Matthew

- I. The King's antecedents and status**
 - A. The genealogy in Matthew proves that Jesus Christ is the King, the Christ of God
 - 1. The Son of David (Matt. 1:1)
 - a. Christ is the proper successor to the throne of David, as typified by Solomon (2 Sam. 7:12-13)
 - 1) Inherited the throne and kingdom of David (Luke 1:32-33)
 - 2) Spoke the word of wisdom (Matt. 12:42)
 - 3) Built the temple of God in the kingdom of God (I Kings 6:2)
 - B. The genealogy of Christ is composed of three sets of fourteen generations (Matt. 1:1-17)
 - 1. The fathers: from Abraham to David
 - 2. The kings: from David to the deportation to Babylon
 - 3. The civilians: from the deportation of Babylon "until the Christ"
 - C. The genealogy of Christ includes four women who were either remarried or sinful, and one who was a chaste virgin (v.16)
 - D. All the generations were directed to Christ and brought into Christ (v. 17)
- II. The King's origin**
 - A. He was a child of the Holy Spirit, His source was the Holy Spirit, and His element was divine (v. 18)
 - B. Through the virgin Mary He put on flesh and blood, the human nature, taking the likeness of the flesh (Rom. 8:3), the likeness of men (Phil. 2:7)
 - C. Born a God-man (Matt. 1:20)
- III. The King's name**
 - A. Called Jesus – "It is He Who will save His people from their sins" (v. 21)
 - B. Called by men, Emmanuel (v. 23)
- IV. The King's anointing**
 - A. For His ministry, the Spirit of God descended upon Him in the form of a dove, signifying the Lord Jesus ministered in gentleness and singleness, focusing solely on the will of God (3:16)
- V. The King's testing**
 - A. The Spirit led the anointed King to be tempted by the devil (4:1)
 - B. This temptation proved that He was qualified to be the King for the kingdom of the heavens (4:11)
- VI. The King's ministry**
 - A. The decree of the constitution of the kingdom of the heavens (5:1-7:29)
- VII. The King's rejection**
 - A. The climax of rejection (12:22-37)
 - B. Crucified
 - 1. Killed and mocked by men (27:37, 42)
 - 2. The effect of His crucifixion (v. 51-53)
- VIII. The King's victory**
 - A. Resurrected (28:6)
 - B. Reigning (v. 18)

The Slave-Savior in the Gospel of Mark

I. A Slave of God

- A. As prophesied in Isaiah
 - 1. God's choice and His delight (Isaiah 42:1)
 - 2. Growing up before God as a tender plant (53:2-3)
 - 3. His visage marred more than any man (52:14)
 - 4. Giving His back to the smiters and His cheek to the persecutors (50:6)
 - 5. Given the tongue of the instructed (v. 4)
 - 6. God laying on Him the iniquity of us all (53:6)
- C. Paul's word concerning Christ as a slave in Philippians (Phil. 2:5-11)
 - 1. Subsisting in the form of God (v. 5-6)
 - 2. Emptying Himself, taking the form of a slave (v. 7)
 - 3. Humbling Himself, becoming obedient unto death (v. 8)
 - 4. Highly exalted and given the Name which is above every name (v. 9)
- D. In the Gospel of Mark are the fulfillment of the prophecies in Isaiah concerning the Slave of Jehovah
- E. In Mark's Gospel are the details of the teaching in Philippians regarding Christ as the Slave of God.
 - 1. With no record of His genealogy or His status
 - 2. With a record mainly of His excellent deeds
 - a. These excellent deeds displayed His lovely humanity in its virtue and perfection
 - 1) His diligence in labor, His need of food and rest (Mark 3:20-21; 6:31)
 - 2) His anger (3:5)
 - 3) His groaning (7:34)
 - 4) His affection (10:21)
 - b. These excellent deeds displayed His deity in its glory and honor
 - 1) His lordship (2:28)
 - 2) His omniscience (v. 8)
 - 3) His miraculous power (2:11-12; 3:5)
 - 4) His authority to cast out demons (1:27; 3:15), to forgive sins (2:7, 10), to silence the wind and the sea (4:39)

II. The Slave-Savior of Sinners

- A. Mark 10:44-45 is the strongest expression stating that the Slave-Savior, as the Son of Man in His humanity, was a Slave of God to serve sinners even by giving His life.

III. The Slave of God is reproduced in His believers (Rom. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; James 1:1; II Pet. 1:1; Rev. 1:1)

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Message Two

Jesus Christ: The Man-Savior and the God-Savior

The Man Savior in the Gospel of Luke

- I. The preparation of the Man-Savior in His humanity with His Divinity – 1:5 – 4:13**
 - A. His conception – 1:26-56
 1. His humanity with the human essence and nature – 1:31
 2. His divinity with the divine essence and nature – 1:35; Matt. 1:18, 20
 - B. His birth – 2:1-20
 1. His genuine human birth according to the law of God's creation of man, that He might be a Man – Savior for the salvation of man – 2:7
 - C. His youth – 2:21- 52
 1. Circumcised and named – 2:21-24
 2. Growing and advancing in wisdom and stature and grace – vv. 40, 52
 - D. His inauguration – 3:1 – 4:13
 1. Introduced – 3:1-20
 2. Baptized – 3:21
 3. Anointed – 3:22
 4. His status (Genealogy) – 3:23-38
 - a. The Man-Savior's genealogy begins from man and traces back to God (vv.23, 38), stressing Christ's humanity to affirm His human-divine status. He was born a man to bring God to man that He might accomplish redemption to bring man to God. In Him God and man are joined together.
 5. His test – 4:1-13
- II. The ministry of the Man-Savior in His human virtues with His divine attributes**
 - A. In Galilee – 4:14 – 9:50
 1. Cleansing a man full of leprosy – 5:12-16
 2. Calling Levi, the despised tax collector – 5:27-39
 3. Teaching His disciples the highest morality 6:17-49
 4. Forgiving the sinning woman at Simon's house – 7:36-50
 5. The Good Samaritan – 10:25-37
 6. A Good Shepherd – 15:1-7
 7. A Woman seeking the lost coin – 15:8-10
 8. A Father receiving his son – 15:11-32
 9. Lodging in the house of Zaccheus – 19:1-10
 10. The thief on the cross – 23:32-43
- III. The Death of the Man-Savior – 22:47-23:56**
 - A. Arrested – 22:47-65
 - B. Judged – 22:66-23:25
 - C. Crucified – 23:26-49
- IV. In Resurrection the Man-Savior became the life-giving Spirit – 1 Cor. 15:45**
 - A. From the time of His resurrection, Christ as the life-giving Spirit has been living this kind of life within His believers – Gal. 2:20

The God-Man Savior in the Gospel of John

I. The Eternal Word Incarnated Coming to Bring God into Man – 1:1-13-13:38

A. Introduction to Life and Building – John 1:1-51

1. The Word in eternity past, who was God (1:1), through creation came as life and light (1:4) to bring forth the children of God (1:13).
2. The Word became flesh, with grace in fullness and with reality (1:14), to declare God in the only begotten Son (1:18).
3. Jesus as the Lamb of God (1:29), with the Holy Spirit as the dove (1:32), making the believers stones (1:42) for the building of the house of God with the Son of Man (1:51).

B. Life's principle and life's purpose – 2:1-22

1. Life's principle – to change death into life – 2:1-11
 - a. Christ coming in resurrection to the people in their enjoyment – 2:1-2
 - b. Their human life running out and their being filled with death – 2:3-7
 - c. Christ changing their death into eternal life – 2:8-11
2. Life's purpose – to build the house of God – 2:12-22
 - a. Christ cleansing the temple – 2:12-17
 - b. The body of Jesus, the temple, destroyed and raised up in resurrection – 2:18-22

C. Life meeting the need of every man's case 2:23-11:57

1. The need of the moral – life's regeneration (Nicodemus) – 3:1-13
 - a. Regeneration by the Spirit in the human spirit – 3:6
2. The need of the immoral – life's satisfying (The woman at the well) – 4:1-42
 - a. The way to take the living water – 4:15-26
 - 1) To make confession of sins – 4:15-26
 - 2) To contact God the Spirit in the human spirit and in truthfulness – 4:19-24
 - 3) To believe that Jesus is the Christ – 4:25-26
3. The need of those under the bondage of sin – life's setting free (The woman caught in adultery) – 7:53 – 8:59
4. The need of the dead – life's resurrecting (Lazarus) – 11:1-57
 - a. Life's resurrecting – 11:43-44

II. Jesus Crucified and Christ Resurrected Going to Prepare the Way to Bring Man into God, and as the Spirit Coming to Abide and Live in the Believers for the Building of God's Habitation – 14:1-21:25

- A. Jesus bringing the believers into the Father – 14:1-6
- B. The Father embodied in the Son seen among the believers – 14:7-14
- C. The Son realized as the Spirit to abide in the believers – 14:15-20
- D. The Triune God making an abode with the believers – 14:21-24

III. Life in Resurrection – 20:14-21:25

- A. Coming as the Spirit to be breathed into the believers – 20:19-25

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Message Three

Needing a Vision of the Church as the Desire of God's Heart

“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” (Matthew 16:18)

- I. **God's eternal purpose is to have the church, which is His heart's desire, and which is the center of His eternal economy (Eph. 1:9-10; 3:9-11)**
- II. **God's purpose and economy for the church is to express Himself through the sonship, to make His wisdom known to the enemy, and to head up all things in Christ (Eph. 1:5, 9-10; Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:5; Eph. 2:10; 3:10; 1:10)**
- III. **What the church is**
 - A. The church is the assembly of the called out ones—ekklesia (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 1:22; 1 Cor. 1:2)
 - B. The church is the Body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18; Rom. 12:5)
 - C. The church is the counterpart of Christ (Eph. 5:25, 32; Gen. 2:18)
 - D. The church is the house of God (John 2:16; 1 Tim. 3:15; Eph. 2:19, 22)
 - E. The church is the new man (Eph. 2:14-15; Col. 3:10-11)
- IV. **The constituents of the church—the believers in Christ who possess His life and are called saints (1 Cor. 1:2; Col. 3:4; Acts 5:14; 1 Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15; Philemon 2)**
- V. **The two aspects of the church (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:21; Matt. 18:17; Eph. 2:22)**
 - A. The church has a universal aspect (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:21)
 - B. The church has a local aspect (Matt. 18:17; Eph. 2:22)
- VI. **The designation of the church**
 - A. The church has no special name (Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 1:2; Rom. 16:16)
 - B. The church may be designated by the name of its locality (1 Cor. 1:2; Acts 8:1; 13:1; Rev. 1:4, 11; 2:1)
- VII. **The oneness of the Body of Christ (Eph. 4:4; 2:16; 1:23; Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 10:17; 12:12-13; Eph. 4:3, 13; John 17:11, 21-23)**

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Message Four

Taking Christ as Our Life and the Church as Our Living Practically for the Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ

“And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church.” (Matt. 18:17a)

“Therefore I will be ready always to remind you concerning these things, even though you know them and have been established in the present truth.” (2 Pet. 1:12; cf. Rom. 15:5)

“Practice these things; be in them” (1 Tim. 4:15a)

- I. We need to know Christ as our life and the church as our living (Col. 3:4; Num. 2:2; Rom. 8:10; 12:5)
- II. We need to know the mingled spirit and exercise it (1 Cor. 6:17; 2 Cor. 3:17; Rom. 8:9-10; 2 Tim. 4:22; 1 Timothy 4:7)
- III. We need to be revived every morning (Prov. 4:18)
- IV. We need to practice a daily prayer life (Acts 2:42; 1 Thes. 5:17; Eph. 6:18; Col. 4:2; Jude 20)
- V. We need to practice praising the Lord (Psalm 119:164)
- VI. We need to practice reading the Word of God regularly, consistently, and according to a schedule (Eph. 3:3-4; Psalm 119:147-148; Exo. 16:4; Matt. 4:4)
- VII. We need to practice calling on the Lord and pray-reading His Word (Rom. 10:12; Isa. 64:7a; Eph. 6:17-18; Jer. 15:16)
- VIII. We need to confess our sins to the Lord and practice keeping a short account, to maintain the fellowship of life and the sense of life, which guides us, governs us, controls us, and directs us (1 John 1:2-3, 7, 9; Acts 24:16; Rom. 8:6)
- IX. We need to practice singing to the Lord, to one another, and to ourselves (Psalm 51; 37; 133; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Psalm 103)

- X. We need to practice speaking, since we are believers (2 Cor. 4:13; 1 Cor. 12:2-3; Acts 5:20; Rom. 10:14-15; Eph. 5:18-19; 1 Cor. 14:1, 3, 24, 26, 31; Acts 20:20, 27, 31)**
- XI. We need to practice the meeting life—the Lord’s table meetings, prophesying meetings, prayer meetings, ministry meetings, gospel meetings, and home meetings (Heb. 10:25; John 10:16; Matt. 18:20)**
- XII. We need to practice the vital groups: twos and threes, clusters, small groups, etc. (Matt. 18:20; Heb. 10:25; 2 Tim. 2:22; Mark 2:1-5)**
- XIII. We need to practice being related to others, being built up with others, and living a “one another” life**
- A. “Members one of another” (Rom. 12:5)
 - B. “Love one another” (1 John 4:12)
 - C. “Serve one another” (Gal. 5:13)
 - D. “Confess your sins to one another” (James 5:16)
 - E. “Bearing one another” (Eph. 4:2)
 - F. “Admonish one another” (Rom. 15:14)
 - G. “Being subject to one another” (Eph. 5:21)
 - H. “Receive one another” (Rom. 15:7)
 - I. “The same care for one another” (1 Cor. 12:25)
 - J. “Be hospitable to one another” (1 Pet. 4:9)
 - K. “Pray for one another” (James 5:16)
 - L. “Love one another warmly” (Rom. 12:10)
 - M. “Take the lead in showing honor one to another” (Rom. 12:10)
 - N. “Greet one another” (16:16)
 - O. “Pursue...the things for building up one another” (14:19)
- XIV. We need to beware of offenses, and learn to forgive and forget (Matt. 18:23-35; Exo. 21:13; Luke 23:34)**
- XV. We need to beware of the self and opinions (Matt. 16:21-24)**
- XVI. We need to beware of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (Gen. 2:17)**
- XVII. We need to beware of individuality and independence (Rom. 12:5; Eph. 4:25)**
- XVIII. We need to pay attention to the growth in life, for the growth and building up of the Body of Christ (Eph. 4:12-16; 1 Cor. 3:6, 9; Eph. 3:17)**