

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XXXIV

June 30, 2024

No. 26

Jesus: God – Man

Jerry Fite

Paul opens his letter to the Romans emphasizing the dual nature of Jesus, the Son of God: “concerning His Son, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, who was declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness by the resurrection from the dead; even Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 1:4).

God’s prophets of old had promised that God’s Son would appear. “According to the flesh,” God’s Son would be born of the lineage or seed of David. This occurred in Bethlehem (Matthew 1:17, 2:1). But when you examine Him, “according to the spirit,” this same Jesus is “God’s Son.” The clear distinction from God to assure us of this fact was the miraculous sign of “the resurrection from the dead,” which occurred out of Joseph of Arimathea’s tomb (Matthew 27:57-60, 28:6).

Jesus is unique to human history, for being born of the lineage of Abraham and David, He could accurately say that He existed before Abraham (John 8:58). How could He say this? He was more than human, being born of the flesh. According to the spirit, He was Deity or

eternal, always existing as the “I Am” (cf. Exodus 3:14).

Deity occupied the body of flesh in the existence of Jesus. When He walked on earth, Jesus was weary and thirsty from a journey (John 4:6-7). But this same person offered the Samaritan woman the gift of “living water” which beyond the material elements of hydrogen and oxygen, would satisfy forever (John 4:10, 14). Only God could offer this quality of a gift. That midday at the well, Jesus did not hide His humanity, nor did He hide His deity from the woman of Samaria.

The Devil approached Jesus as both God and man when he tempted Him in the wilderness. Jesus had fasted for forty days and nights and was hungry. At this critical moment, the devil challenged Jesus to turn stones to bread (Matthew 4:1-3). “If thou art the Son of God, command that these stones become bread” was the Devil’s tempting approach. Satan was not approaching Jesus as just a man, like you and me, for who among us can “command” stones to become bread to satisfy our hunger. But the Devil as approaching one who like us was hungry but was at the same time was unlike us with the

miraculous power of an oral command.

On this occasion, Jesus was tempted in all points as we are: *the lust of the flesh* (satisfying hunger), *the lust of the eyes* (shown all kingdoms of the world with their glory), and the *vain glory of life* (jumping off the pinnacle of the temple to be gloriously saved from the fall by God’s angels (Hebrews 4:15, I John 2:16, Matthew 4:1-11). But Jesus was not tempted as merely a man. The devil tempted Jesus, recognizing that Jesus was uniquely God – man.

When one reads the New Testament, he comes away understanding that Jesus is both God and man. At the early age of 12, Jesus knew His unique relationship with God, the Father, and astonished teachers with His questions and answers (Luke 2:46-47). While Jesus was politely hearing the teachers, He was not asking questions to merely learn truth from God, but was teaching the elder teachers. They were amazed with His probing questions and following answers.

While being in the flesh as man, Jesus knew the secret thoughts of others (Matthew 9:4). Only God knows our unexpressed thoughts. We must believe that Jesus was Deity who literally occupied flesh (John 8:24, I John 4:2).