

DAZZLE TEACHING RESOURCES

# EMMANUEL

HOW & WHY?

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# CHAPTER ONE

## *God With Us.*

Genesis 3:15 (NKJV)

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

This summarizes WHY EXACTLY the incarnation of Jesus was necessary. Man had just sinned and would receive the consequences of his actions – death.

Genesis 2:16-17 (NKJV)

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

But God makes a promise of redemption, irrespective of man's misdeeds. He says "I will." This portrays the personal nature of the task at hand; God wouldn't send a delegate, He would come BY HIMSELF. He would put enmity (a separation) between man and the devil. Sin had created a bondage

John 8:34-36 (NKJV)

34 Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin IS A SLAVE OF

SIN. 35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. 36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Man would need the Son (the Seed of the woman) to be set him free.

Now, the Old Testament Scriptures (Genesis to Malachi) are to explain how exactly this plan would be executed (2 Timothy 3:15). Notice that God took responsibility immediately; He will save! This is not a decision, like He "chose" to save us, implying that He could have done otherwise. No, there was NO CHOICE – love will save ALWAYS! So from Eden till Jesus, the spirit of prophecy kept indicating what God would do

1 Peter 1:10-11 (NKJV)

10 Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, 11 searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

The Scriptures testified of Him

John 5:39 (NKJV)

39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

Luke 24:25-27 (NKJV)

25 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Luke 24:44-45 (NKJV)

44 Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

So in the Old Testament Scriptures, we would find foreshadowings concerning the work of Christ in Redemption.

A few include:

Deuteronomy 18:15-19 (NKJV)

15 "The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, 16 according to all you desired of the Lord your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.'

17 "And the Lord said to me: 'What they have spoken is good. 18 I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. 19 And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.

The Saviour would be the Prophet raised up from amongst the Jews.

Genesis 22:18 (NKJV)

18 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

The Seed here is explained in Galatians 3:16 as the Christ

Galatians 3:16 (NKJV)

16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as

of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.

Just by reading this, even as an unbeliever, you would realize that Someone was prophecised about who would come to save. This is VERY clear. His lifetime was spoken ahead of time.

Now, who sinned? It was man. Who would save? God and God alone. How would He do so? By becoming a Man, only then could GOD save MEN – He would have to take upon Himself the state of man.

Ezekiel 22:30-31 (NKJV)

30 So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. 31 Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads," says the Lord God.

Now, it's key to not take EVERYTHING here hook, line and sinker. The Old Testament misrepresented God's character a lot. It was never God destroying but sin. Death was the reward of man's sin, not a punishment from God!

Romans 6:23 (NKJV)

23 For the wages OF SIN is death, but the gift OF GOD is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:12 (NKJV)

12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and DEATH THROUGH SIN, and thus DEATH SPREAD to all men, because ALL SINNED

But an important fact to observe in the text (Ezekiel 22:30-31) is that a MAN was needed to prevent the destruction that came with sin and none was found. Hence, God would need to become a Man.

Isaiah prophecies about His incarnation in Isaiah 7:14

Isaiah 7:14 (NKJV)

14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

"Immanuel" in the Hebrew is a compound noun. (Compound words in lexical analysis are those that are composed or made up of two or more other words. These words serve as the fundamental stems or roots of the compound word). It is made up of two other Hebrew words: "Im" (which means "with," a term of companionship) and "el" (God). So properly, it means "with us is God." This implies a SPECIFIC presence (as we will see later in this study).

In the first chapter of Matthew's synoptic Gospel, he quotes from this same text

Matthew 1:22-23 (NKJV)

22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

Now, the word "with" as used here is translated from the Greek preposition "meta." In the original language, it carries the force of an after-effect (a change), that is, it is better translated "after with." This implies that God WITH man is not just a mere presence but actually God AFTER the likeness of men. In context, God WITH man is GOD AFTER man – there is a change of state.

John 1 echoes this

John 1:1 (NKJV)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.



"Word" as used here is translated from the Greek word "Logos." It implies a thought pattern, the intent behind what was said. This is in reference to the fact that Jesus is the Logic (or reason) of God behind the Scriptures. They were inspired by God to be written because of Him. The "Word" here is therefore personified in reference to Jesus expressing the thoughts of the Father.

"..and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

The word "with" as used here is translated from the Greek word "pros." Contextually, it means "pertaining to." (same word is used in 2 Peter 1:3 – "pertain to"). That is, the Logic is about (pertaining to) God.

Then he goes on:

"..and the Word was God."

Actually the grammatical construct in the Greek reads: "And God was the Word." "And" here being the copulative "kai" ("that is"). So John wasn't making reference to different personalities. The Word is GOD.

Now, observe verse 14 of the same chapter

14 And the Word BECAME flesh and DWELT AMONG us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

The word "became" as used here is translated from the Greek word "ginomai." It means "manifested as; that is, to change condition, state or position to." So, the Word (who was God) changed His state to flesh (man's form)

"..and dwelt (skénoó – to dwell in a tent) among (en – inside, within, in the realm or sphere of) us,

This is in reference to Jesus' incarnation; Him "becoming flesh" is Him dwelling in the same realm as us i.e in a body like ours. Simply put, Jesus is God that became a Man.

Hence, He is called the "only begotten" of the Father

"..and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

The term "only begotten" must be understood within the overall context of the text (John 1). It is not in reference to conception but incarnation. That's the discourse so far. The word translated "only begotten" is the Greek word "monogenés." It means "unique, single of its kind." Referring to the fact that before Jesus, God's image was NEVER visible to man. Him being "the Son of God" or "only begotten" is figurative verbiage to portray the incarnation. The Jews understood this.

John 5:18-19 (NKJV)

18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said THAT GOD WAS HIS FATHER, making HIMSELF EQUAL WITH GOD. 19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son CAN DO NOTHING OF HIMSELF, but what He sees the Father do; FOR WHATEVER HE DOES, the Son ALSO DOES IN LIKE MANNER.

The terms "father" and "son" had varied meanings to the Jewish mind. They could be used for literal conception or to describe a perfect representation of another, having equal standing and likeness. The latter is implemented in this case.

The term "Son of God" or "only begotten" used to qualify Jesus is to indicate a oneness, likeness and perfect representation of God in the incarnation.

Colossians 1:15 (NKJV)

15 He is THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD, the firstborn over all creation.

### Hebrews 1:1-3 (NKJV)

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the BRIGHTNESS OF HIS GLORY and the EXPRESS IMAGE OF HIS PERSON, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

So, we can safely replace the term "son of God" used to qualify the Christ with: "God became a Man."

This shows us a uniqueness about the incarnation of Jesus. God has ALWAYS been with His people (see Numbers 14:13-14, Numbers 16:3, Numbers 35:34, Deuteronomy 7:21, Deuteronomy 23:14, Joshua 22:31, Psalm 46:5-7, Zephaniah 3:15, Joel 2:27 & Numbers 11:19-20). So this "being with" would be unique – God would take upon the very likeness of men.

He was born a human being. He grew up as a human being & most importantly, He demystified every form of misconception which previously had been believed about the character of God.

### John 1:18 (NKJV)

18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, HE HAS DECLARED HIM.

The word "declared" as used here was translated from the Greek word "exégeomai." It is the root of the English term "exegete" and "exegesis." It means "to explain, unfold, narrate." That is, Jesus is the exegesis of God; He has brought to light the most accurate description of the Father.

Contrary to popular presuppositions, God became a Man and COULD stand the presence of sin and sinners. His earthly mother carried Him in her womb (a holy God in an unholy womb)

### Matthew 1:24-25 (NKJV)

24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

He ate sinner's meals

Luke 19:5-7 (NKJV)

5 And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." 6 So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. 7 But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner."

His closest friends were sinners, He rebuked none except the self-righteous

Matthew 9:10-13 (NKJV)

10 Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. 11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" 12 When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Luke 15:1-2 (NKJV)

15 Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. 2 And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them."

Jesus came to seek the sinner. Religion is an endless search for God but the story of the Gospel is that God came to find men!

Observe the woman in Luke 7:36-50

She was referred to as "a sinner"

Luke 7:37 (NKJV)

37 And behold, a woman in the city WHO WAS A SINNER, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil,

Bible scholars have argued that the word "sinner" ("hamartólos" in the Greek) used to qualify her implies that she was a well known prostitute in Israel at the time while some say that it meant she was a Gentile (the Gentiles were called "sinners" & "uncircumcised" by the Jews)

Either way, the text clearly points to a detestable trait/conduct that was obvious to the people, YET she stood in His presence and was not consumed by "fiery indignation." She received forgiveness without ANY blood offering. This contradicts the Old Testament practices. Amazing!

Jesus had such an intimate relationship with sinners. EVERYONE He healed in His earthy ministry were sinners. He was contagious love in motion. The woman with the issue of blood (Mark 5:25-34) was already condemned by the Law (Leviticus 15:19-30). In her days, having bled for 12 years, she would have been referred to as a "niddah" – a term used by the Jews to describe a ceremonially unclean woman. Everything and everyone she touched would be pronounced unclean as well. But she heard of Jesus, not the laws. She heard of Him who heals and forgives FREELY without any conditions. She touched this SAME God who supposedly gave those discriminant laws in the first place and instead of punishment, she was made clean! Under the Law, she was supposed to make Him unclean by so doing but rather, she caught His cleanliness!

We see Jesus forgive people freely without needing an offering of blood sacrifices (Matthew 9:1-7, Luke 7:48, Luke 5:20)

Jesus showed us something VERY key – God NEVER needed an offering to forgive man! His nature will forgive freely!

In John 8:1-2, He advocates for a woman caught in adultery. According to the Law that He was thought to have given, she should have been stoned! Jesus revealed Himself to humanity without any sacrifice or High Priest. Man NEVER needed that to approach Him! God became a Man and dwelt amongst sinners and they were not destroyed. They were loved, healed and forgiven instead!

Note also that Jesus was FULLY man. He was not putting up a facade. He was actually FLESH in EVERY ramification.

He became flesh and blood

Hebrews 2:14 (NKJV)

14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of FLESH AND BLOOD, HE HIMSELF LIKEWISE SHARED IN THE SAME, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

He was tempted

Hebrews 4:18 (NKJV)

18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

Jesus slept

Mark 4:38 (NKJV)

38 But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

Although God doesn't sleep.

Psalm 121:4 (NKJV)

4 Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

He made Himself so vulnerable because of us. He took upon Himself ALL of our qualities. He was omniscient as God (Jeremiah 23:24, Psalm 33:13-15, Psalm 44:20-21). But as a Man, He needed to be told certain things (John 11:1-4). Jesus put aside His diety in order to save Man. He was COMPLETELY Man. It was not an act.

Philippians 2:5-8 (NKJV)

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

The phrase "consider it robbery" (as used in verse 6) is translated from the Greek word "harpagmos." It simply means that He did not retain to equality with God; He didn't cling to the benefits of same.

The word "equal" is "isos" in the Greek. It means "equivalent, identical to." Jesus, as a Man, did not retain His identity as God.

Vs. 7

7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

The phrase "of no reputation" as used here carries the idea in the Greek of "depriving of content, rendering void, valueless, without recognition."

Jesus laid aside His equality with God. He striped Himself of His "God-ness." God became manifest in the flesh!

1 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV)

16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:

God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.

God promised (in Genesis) and He would fulfill His promise – as a Man! Jesus is not "the Son of God" in the manner many think today. That title simply means that He confined Himself to the sphere of men – that was God!

2 Peter 1:1 (NKJV)

1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God AND Savior Jesus Christ:

Titus 2:13 (NKJV)

13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God AND Savior Jesus Christ,

Applying Granville Sharp's "kai" rule to the above texts, we realize that the authors were not referring to two different personalities i.e God AND then Saviour (a conjunction). The word "and" as used in both texts is translated from the Greek word "kai." This word carries a dual function in the Greek: conjunction and copulation.

As a conjunction, it separates two distinct entities. But as a copulative, "kai" is to link two same entities together. In this case, it would be better rendered as "that is, which is, who is, even" (further explaining the previously mentioned). The latter is the case for both texts.



Hence, they are better put:

2 Peter 1:1

1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of God WHO IS our Savior Jesus Christ

Titus 2:13

13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God WHO IS OUR Savior Jesus Christ,

Describing the Saviour as our great God! This Saviour is Jesus Christ who is God that became a Man.

Jesus is identified as a Man in genealogy (Matthew 1:1-17). This genealogy is to point to His humanity as the Seed of the woman. If men are being counted, Jesus would be as well – He is a Man!

Romans 8:3 (NKJV)

3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,

The "likeness of sinful flesh" reflects his humanity.

Acts 2:22 (NKJV)

22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by

miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—

"Man" here is "aner" in the Greek. It means "a fellow (someone like you)."

Acts 17:31 (NKJV)

31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

"Man" here is the same word "aner." Jesus is a Man! There is ABSOLUTELY NOTHING you will see in man that wouldn't be seen in Him.

Notice Jesus was called a Man both in His incarnation and His Resurrection — God cannot be resurrected, only man. So Jesus resurrected as a Man.

Jesus also followed the due process of growth.

He grew in wisdom

Luke 2:51-52 (NKJV)

51 Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

He was at the Temple asking questions

Luke 2:46 (NKJV)

46 Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.

He was hungry and thirsted

John 4:7-8 (NKJV)

7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." 8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

He felt tired

John 4:6 (NKJV)

6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

He wept

John 11:35 (NKJV)

35 Jesus wept.

He was surprised

Matthew 6:6 (NKJV)

6 And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.

His temptation was real (Matthew 4:1-11 & Luke 4:1-13)

It was a temptation because He had an option, if all He could do was right, then He was not a Man.

Jesus had the capacity to do wrong, although He was God

Hebrews 4:15 (NKJV)

15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Temptation is common to MAN

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NKJV)

13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

Jesus had the will of a man. He prayed, God doesn't.

Luke 5:16 (NKJV)

16 So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.

John 11:41-42 (NKJV)

41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. 42 And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me."

That means that ALL His suffering for humanity was a product of His own will. What Jesus did was called obedience (Romans 5:19). Obedience shows an act of your will. It was planned that He would die (God's intent in salvation). But as a Man, to show His humanity, He had a will. His yielded His will to God's plan.

Again in Hebrews 5:5-8 (NKJV)

5 So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him:

“You are My Son,

Today I have begotten You.”

6 As He also says in another place:

“You are a priest forever

According to the order of Melchizedek”;

7 who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, 8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

His sacrifice was called "obedience."

Now, obedience to what?

See Matthew 5:17-18

Matthew 5:17-18 (NKJV)

17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

The word "fulfill" (as used in vs. 17) is translated from the Greek word "pléroó." It means "to carry out a task (requirement), to discharge an obligation."

Jesus came to fulfill the Old Testament Scriptures (that is, Genesis to Malachi). His humanity was to fulfill the Law and the Prophets as a Man. Jesus is called the "Logos" (John 1:1 – Reason) behind the Scriptures. He precedes them, they were written because of Him.

ALL that Jesus did were spoken of already

His birth (Matthew 2:16, John 7:42) was preplanned (Micah 5:2)

The Virgin birth (Matthew 1:20-23) fulfilled Isaiah 7:14 & Isaiah 9:6-7

Him in Egypt (Matthew 2:14-15) fulfilled Hosea 11:1

The massacre of children (Matthew 2:16-18) would happen in His birthplace (Jeremiah 31:15)

At His baptism, He was declared the Son of God.

Matthew 3:17 (NKJV)

17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

God did not need to speak from Heaven, in fact, there was NO God in Heaven. He was on the

Earth as a Man – Christ Jesus.

So, what happened?

God already said so in the Scriptures

Matthew 3:17 was a fulfilment of 1 Chronicles 17:13 & 1 Chronicles 22:10.

The supernatural affirmation of the Christ as the beloved Son was ALREADY preplanned by the power of God in the Holy Scriptures.

Just like His entire lifetime was ALREADY preplanned.

Jesus would bring light to the Gentiles (Matthew 4:13-16). This was prophesied already in Isaiah 9:1-2.

Even Him speaking in parables (Matthew 13:10-15, 34-35) was prophesied in Psalm 78:2-4, Isaiah 6:9-10)

Little children praising Him (in Matthew 21:15-16) was prophesied in Psalm 8:2

The things He said, did and what happened around Him were ALL to fulfill Scriptures.

Notice that as a Man, He needed to be anointed

Acts 10:38 (NKJV)

38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about

doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

How did God anoint Him? By simply speaking in the Holy Scriptures about that.

The word "Messiah" means "Anointed One." By calling Jesus "the Messiah" in the Old Testament, He fulfilled the reality in His incarnation.

In Luke 1:26-38, the angel brought report of Jesus' birth to Mary. Now, it is key to note that the angel wasn't bringing "hot news." He was simply reiterating what God had said already about His incarnation in the Word.

Now, observe vs. 37

Luke 1:37 (NKJV)

37 For with God nothing will be impossible."

"Nothing" here in context refers to what was said earlier in vs. 30-33 (the incarnation of Jesus Christ)

The word "nothing" was translated from the Greek word "rhéma." It refers to what is spoken.

"Impossible" is "adunateó" in the Greek. It means "weak, lacking strength or ability."

So, the better rendition from the Greek should have been:

No word spoken by God lacks strength or ability to accomplish what He says.



Isaiah 55:10 (NKJV)

10 "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

In God's Word is ability to accomplish what it says; God doesn't need to cause it to happen, what He says has power IN ITSELF!

The Old Testament Scriptures contain utterances about what God would do as a Man.

It is not as though God was in Heaven accomplishing/or causing things to happen through Christ. That's not what was happening! God was ON the Earth the whole time. God did not lack ability to do anything as Man; His Word which He had spoken about Himself beforehand was what was being accomplished. His Words were accomplishing themselves! He was simply fulfilling them. From His incarnation to His Resurrection, Jesus was discharging obligation by obedience.

Man tried to obey the Scriptures but He couldn't. Why? Because they were not for him to obey; they were for JESUS to obey.

Romans 5:19 (NKJV)

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Jesus lived in obedience FOR us; His obedience was ours!

Paul got this from Isaiah 53:4

Isaiah 53:4,11 (NKJV)

4 Surely He has borne our griefs and carried OUR sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

So, in the work of Christ is a substitution. He takes our place.

# CHAPTER TWO

## *The Miracle of Redemption.*

As a Man, Jesus had a role to play and that would be to save His people from their sins

Matthew 1:20-21 (NKJV)

20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

Notice His function is specific; He will save from sin! That is the duty of the Saviour.

Christmas makes sense because He came and succeeded in the plan of Redemption. In same, His great love for us is revealed

Romans 5:8 (NKJV)

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Jesus became a Man for the sole purpose of taking the consequence of our sin — death.

He went through terrible sufferings physically.

Matthew 27:30-31 (NKJV)

30 Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. 31 And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.

Now, it is quite easy to get engrossed with the sufferings of Christ (the spitting, beating and mockery) that you lose sight of what really matters. Remember, sin had man in His dominion; only a payment of life would effect a release.

God had to become a Man (Jesus) in order to pay that ransom. Sin demanded death, first spiritually then physically.

Genesis 2:16-17 (NKJV)

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Now, when Adam sinned, he died. Where did He die? In his spirit i.e sin was introduced into his spirit. THAT was the death God referred to in Genesis 2:17. It could not be physical because we see Adam live 930 after he disobeyed God (Genesis 5:5). Hence, the death God referred to was spiritual – physical death was just a by-product.

So, this means that the physical death of Jesus ALONE (Him dying on the Cross) could not have saved mankind. In fact, it was irrelevant if He did not die spiritually first i.e He was made sin for us. So really, it was not the physical events that saved us but the spiritual.

Isaiah explains it thus

Isaiah 53:9 (NKJV)

9 And they made His grave with the wicked— but with the rich at His death, because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.

"Death" here is "ba-mō-tāw" in the Hebrew. It is actually in the plural. Hence, it should read "But with the rich at His deaths." (Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary)\*

Jesus died more than once, from what we see in Genesis 2:17; first spiritually then physically.

Now, HOW did Jesus die spiritually?

2 Corinthians 5:21 tells us

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

At the Cross, Jesus became sin for us. At that moment, he submitted Himself to the authority of sin and death. Then He died bodily.

John 19:30 (NKJV)

30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Now this does not qualify to be called "the finished works of Christ." That would be reading our meaning into what was said. Jesus did not fulfill ALL at the Cross. In fact, the work has just begun. The Cross cannot be the final place of Redemption

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NKJV)

3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

"According to" means "in agreement with." Jesus wasn't buried neither was He raised on the Cross. The phrase "It is finished" (in John 19:30) is relative. All that was spoken about THIS (the Cross, Him fulfilling the sacrifices of the Old Testament and forever ending them) is accomplished.

– When Jesus was tempted, it was finished (everything concerning THAT was accomplished)

– When He healed the sick, it was finished.

– When He was betrayed, it was finished etc.

He was simply fulfilling Scriptures!

Jesus goes to the Cross to fulfill ONE of MANY things. On the Cross, He fulfilled Scriptures ("It is finished") but not ALL the Scriptures. Jesus' death on the Cross is not enough, He would need to be buried and resurrected again in order to actually "finish" Redemption. Also, it is His spiritual death (Him becoming sin) that saves, not His physical death. Several people had died PHYSICALLY before Jesus, they could as well have qualified as our Saviour if physical death is all that was needed.

Now, after Jesus dies physically, where does He go?

It cannot be Heaven. He is spiritually dead and spiritually dead people do not go to Heaven.

Luke 23:39-43 (NKJV)

39 Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." 40 But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." 42 Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

43 And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Verse 43 seems to imply that Jesus meant that the criminal would be with him THAT DAY in Heaven ("Paradise"). But going back to the originals helps to clear up every misconception.

The word "today" (used in vs.43) is translated from the Greek word "sémeron." It means "now; this present moment."

So, the text is better rendered:

43 And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you now, you will be with Me in Paradise."

Referring to a future promise after the Resurrection, not a present moment fact. Jesus would not go to Paradise IMMEDIATELY.

The next question would be: Where then did Jesus go?

Where Jesus would go would be His first or spiritual burial. His second/physical burial was in Joseph of Arimathea's tomb (Matthew 27:57-61).

So, there are three days and nights which the four Gospel accounts (Matthew, Mark, Luke & John) veil from view. In those days, Jesus is fulfilling Scriptures. That means that we will find where Jesus went to in the Scriptures (Genesis to Malachi)

Jesus gives us a lead on this in Matthew 12:38-40

Matthew 12:38-40 (NKJV)

39 But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

"Heart of the earth" here does not refer to the sepulchre. Jesus is giving us a pointer. We will find where He went in Jonah.

Jonah 2:1-2 (NKJV)

2 Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the fish's belly. 2 And he said:

"I cried out to the Lord because of my affliction,

And He answered me.

"Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and You heard my voice.

"Sheol" in Hebrew refers to "the place of the dead."

Jonah was in the whale's belly but by the Spirit of prophecy, He speaks out/testifies concerning the Christ — Jesus would go to the place of the dead.

Peter, using Jesus' teaching during the 40 days, explains what happened in the three days.

Acts 2:25-33 (NKJV)



25 For David says concerning Him:

'I foresaw the Lord always before my face,  
For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken.

26 Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad;  
Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope.

27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades,  
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

28 You have made known to me the ways of life;  
You will make me full of joy in Your presence.'

29 "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, 31 he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. 32 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. 33 Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

His soul went to Hades (hell)

Paul also in

Romans 10:6-7 (NKJV)

6 But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down from above) 7 or, "'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

"Abyss" here is translated elsewhere as "bottomless pit" (Revelation 9:1, 11:7 & 20:1), believed by the Jews to be the receptacle of the dead.

And in Ephesians 4:8-9

Ephesians 4:8-9 (NKJV)

8 Therefore He says:

"When He ascended on high,  
He led captivity captive,  
And gave gifts to men."

9 (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?

Jesus descended into the place of the dead ("the lowest parts of the earth") for us. When Jesus died bodily, His Spirit was carried to the place where the sinner's spirit goes when he dies. This was His first burial. The spiritual burial which saved us. He went to hell in our place.

But notice something salient which Jesus says before He dies physically.

Luke 23:46 (NKJV)

46 And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'" Having said this, He breathed His last.

He is quoting from Psalm 31:5.

Psalm 31:5 (NKJV)

5 Into Your hand I commit my spirit;

You have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.

He is fulfilling Scripture.

The word "hands" used in Luke 23:46 is translated from the Greek word "cheiras," the plural form of "cheir." Now, it was used in the New Testament portion of the Bible both literally (see Matthew 5:30, 8:15, 9:18, 9:25, 12:10, 13 & 26:23) and figuratively.

Figuratively, it refers to an instrument i.e something a person uses to accomplish their purpose (intention or plan). It refers to ability.

We see the word "cheir" used in this manner in Galatians 3:19.

Galatians 3:19 (NKJV)

19 What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.

Moses was the instrument by which the Law was given.

So, back to Luke 23:46. Jesus is saying, "I commit my spirit into Your ability (what you use to get things done).

Now, what is Jesus referring to?

Isaiah 55:10-11 (NKJV)

10 "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

The word of God! Particularly, the promises in the Scriptures concerning His Resurrection! So although God AS A MAN (Christ Jesus) is now under capitulation to sin and death, His Word remains potent. The Word of God has enough power to do what it says even though God is not there! The Word of God (His utterances) is just AS POWERFUL as God Himself! That's the word of power! So although Jesus will go to the place of the dead (hell) as the ransom for sin, He is not left defenseless! He has the Word!

Jesus is saying, " I entrust the outcome of things to what I have already said about Myself in the Word (the Scriptures)!"

Hence, the term "Father" used by Jesus here is in reference to a function (God, who beforehand had spoken). So Jesus dies spiritually (He becomes sin for us) and His Spirit goes to hell three days and three nights to pay the ransom for man's sin.

Now, observe that Jesus did not go to hell as a Victor but as a victim. He went in OUR place. Sin's hold ends in hell, that was the fullness of the ransom, so He went there. Him going to hell is Him completing the ransom for us. In hell, Jesus bore the full wrath of sin in our place. Sin ravaged him, three days and three nights. The torment is recorded in Psalm 22 & Isaiah 53. He was afflicted.

Whilst Jesus was suffering for us in hell, what was He doing?

What He always did. He kept the Word on His lips. Remember, all the words Jesus said were already spoken ahead of Him. God, as a Man (Jesus), kept saying what He had said about Himself as God. He kept speaking about His Resurrection. Psalm 16:10-11 tell us the exact words he said

Psalm 16:10-11 (NKJV)

10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol,  
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

11 You will show me the path of life;  
In Your presence is fullness of joy;  
At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Now, Romans 8 tells us

Romans 8:11 (NKJV)

11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

It says that it was the Spirit who raised Christ from the dead.

Romans 6:4 (NKJV)

4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Here, Paul says that it was the glory of the Father that raised Him.

Ephesians 1:19-21 (NKJV)

19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

God used the exceeding greatness (all) of His power to raise Him.

Ephesians 2:4-6 (NKJV)

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

God made Him alive and us by identification with Him.

Now, observe 1 Peter 1:10-11

1 Peter 1:10-11 (NKJV)

10 Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, 11 searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

The Spirit of Christ (which in context refers to the spirit of prophecy) that was upon the Old Testament prophets testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow – that is, His death, burial and subsequently His Resurrection. So, all that was said (their utterances and prophecies) was about this – the Spirit inspired what was written.

2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV)

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

Hence, they carry ability all by themselves. In the words God said about Himself was ability to accomplish all that He says. So, the Scriptures on Jesus' lips was the power that resurrected Him!

The Spirit raised Christ in the sense that He inspired the words He was saying in hell. Jesus did

not need extra ability beyond that which was present in what He was saying. Jesus, according to the Scriptures, would not be left in hell. God said it, the Spirit inspired men to write (document it in the Holy Scriptures) & He simply relied on it.

The "Trinity" are in perfect sync in Redemption – One God, performing THREE distinct functions in order to accomplish the work of salvation. ALL the Scriptures spoke about Jesus, God put ALL His commitment to ensuring that ALL would come to pass. This is ALL power! (Ephesians 1:19-20).

God's wisdom in salvation is this:

Sin demanded death as the ransom for man, God provided an OVERPAYMENT and obliterated the power of sin with Life! So, Jesus was simply a "Trojan Horse." He would destroy the power of hell from within. Like a bomb hidden in the ransom money – sin, hell and the devil could not handle this Ransom! By receiving Him, they self-destructed! That was the plan all along – Jesus would pay the Ransom but take out the captors in the process. Here, we see God's non-violent nature revealed: He defeated sin, death & the devil by submitting Himself to its power. His supposed "weakness" is actually strength!

The devil was oblivious from the start to finish. He didn't know what was going on.

1 Corinthians 2:6-8 (NKJV)

6 However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

The "rulers of this age" here refer to the chiefs of the people who conspired to murder Jesus (the Pharisees & the Roman rulers). They are human beings. But they were controlled by demonic influences

Ephesians 2:1-3 (NKJV)

1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

They were controlled by the prince of the power of the air. So in their actions, the devil's disposition would be clearly seen. They would manifest his thoughts in their actions. Their unawareness shows that of the demonic forces behind their actions. So, the devil didn't know that by killing Jesus, he was actually shooting himself in the leg! The wisdom of God was unknown to the forces of darkness hitherto.

On the third day, Jesus rose again i.e He left that state of spiritual death into everlasting victory and life! This was His first/spiritual Resurrection & what makes it unique from the physical resurrection of those before and after Him. No man had EVER left hell without sin before Jesus! This singular fact qualifies Him to be our Saviour and High Priest.

His physical resurrection was His spirit going back to His body.

James 2:26 (NKJV)

26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

This would reverse the process of physical death and restore vital functions. This happened via the working of miracles in the body of Jesus.

Matthew 28:5-7 (NKJV)

5 But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. 7 And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you."



Luke 24:36-39 (NKJV)

36 Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you." 37 But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. 38 And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

This is no doubt that this was a display of God's power but this is not the Resurrection that saved us. (Several folks were raised in like manner before and after Jesus, for example Lazarus & Dorcas). It was Him leaving hell victorious that did!

Sin, hell and the devil were defeated, once for all, by a Man, the Man, Christ Jesus! God gave the ransom knowing that He could not remain dead for long. All He needed was access to hell to defeat it from the inside! Now, not only was sin, hell and the devil defeated once for all but also, God could now LEGALLY free mankind from their bondage because they accepted a ransom already! That's the wisdom of God in Redemption.

Hebrews 2:14-15 (NKJV)

14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

The word "destroy" as used here is translated from the Greek word "katargeo." It means "to render useless, of no effect." Referring to the devil's power to keep men in bondage to sin and death.

Jesus has overcome and is now Lord

Revelation 1:18 (NKJV)

18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

"Keys" here is "kleis" in the Greek. It is used figuratively here in reference to access (authority). So Jesus now has authority, even in hell. He has overcome!

Matthew 28:18 (NKJV)

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Philippians 2:9-11 (NKJV)

9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

His authority in His work. As many as believe are freed from their sins.

John 20:23 (NKJV)

23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

This would happen via preaching and teaching the Gospel. The authority to forgive sins is in the message of Christ. As many as believe receive the victory of the Saviour as their own, by virtue of their identification with Him. They are set free from the bondage to death.

Romans 8:37 (NKJV)

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

"More than conquerors" means we did not fight the battle, we bask in the victory of the Saviour!

Ephesians 2:4-6 (NKJV)

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

What "heavenly places"?

The pretext tells us

Ephesians 1:20-23 (NKJV)

20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. 22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

The right hand of God. This is not literal (i.e right hand, left hand). This is figurative verbiage which conveys the idea of all authority. So, Christ has ALL authority today and by our identification with Him by faith, we have same!

Deliverance from sin is now OURS in Christ Jesus

Colossians 1:13-14 (NKJV)

13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

The word "delivered" as used in verse 13 is translated from the Greek word "rhuomai." It is derived from the Greek word "eryō" (which means "to draw to oneself"). " Rhuomai" means to remove someone in the midst of danger or oppression and to the Rescuer i.e "to snatch for oneself." It actually involves a movement from the location of danger to where the Rescuer is. The deliverance is TO the deliverer. By His ransom and victory, Christ Jesus has delivered us

from the power (exousia in the Greek – authority) of darkness and has transferred us to where He is. His victory is now ours IN HIM!

1 John 3:8 (NKJV)

8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

The word "of" as used here is translated from the Greek word "ek." It means "to be bound to one." The one who sins is bound to the devil.

John 8:34 (NKJV)

34 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.

Romans 6:20 (NKJV)

20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

"He might destroy" (in 1 John 3:8) is "luó" in the Greek. It means "to release, undo."

So, the work of Christ would be to release the ones bound to the devil.

Hebrews 2:14-15 (NKJV)

14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

This freedom is ours via the ransom He paid

Matthew 20:28 (NKJV)

28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

1 Timothy 2:5-6 (NKJV)

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

The ransom is HIMSELF. That is, His life in exchange for humanity's. So in the Christmas story, we see God's great love towards us in that He came to ransom us from sin and death but furthermore, we see our worth for He Himself is the ransom (payment) that set us free! Our worth is the VERY life of God. This is the cause of our rejoicing in the Christian faith. The Father promised and has fulfilled. In Christ, we have received ALL the promises of God as an eternal reality!



"Dazzle" is a property of light; very bright, mesmerizing & overwhelming light; the sort that takes your attention off everything else around you & has you gazing with awe. For us, Christ Jesus is that Light (John 8:12, Rev. 21:23) & it's all about Him! In a world full of so much darkness, we live to reveal the knowledge of Christ to all men & light them up with His revelation. We do so via getting them saved, filled with the Holy Ghost, meeting their needs via the power of God & getting them to grow in the Gospel of His Grace.

This is the Dazzle vision. This is what God called us to do & we are convinced about same. We are relentless in the pursuit of this – that all the Earth be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea! (Habakkuk 2:14)

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