

# Jesus and the Father

## I. God's Self-Revelation

We can only know what is revealed.

**The Big Question: What is God Like?**

So how shall we answer? Our options are endless.

Even while speaking of the 'God of the Bible' we can cobble together whatever vision of God we choose from its disparate images.

We are likely to find just the kind of God that we want to find.

God of peace, God of war, Compassionate, Vindictive,

Sometimes the Bible is like a Rorschach test—it reveals more about the reader than the eternal I AM.

**A. God reveals Himself in Three Persons. (relational)**

**B. God reveals Himself as Creator (creative)**

**C. The Father — Source of All; Lover; Family**

**From Whom are All Things, To Whom are All Things**

## II. God's Self-Revelation through Jesus

**A. Incarnation What if God is like Jesus?**

What if the personality of God is identical to the personality of the man called Jesus of Nazareth? Jesus audaciously made this claim: "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."

That *is* the good news! God *is* like Jesus! This is Christianity!

**John 1:14** And the **Word became flesh** and **dwelt among us**, and we have **seen his glory**, glory as of the only Son from the Father, **full of grace and truth...**

**He Became what we are, so that by grace we might become what he is by nature — sons of God.**

## B. Jesus is the Accurate Message

Heb 1.1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has **spoken to us by his Son**, whom he appointed the **heir of all things, through whom also he created** the world. 3 He is the **radiance of the glory** of God and the **exact imprint (image) of his nature (person, being)**, and he **upholds the universe** by the word of his power. ...

The Bible is the inspired witness to the true Word of God — Jesus.

The Bible takes us on a journey leading to Christ — but it is Christ who fully reveals God.

## C. Reveals the Father

John 14:8 Philip said to him, “Lord, **show us the Father...** 9 Jesus said to him, ... **Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

The Scriptures ultimately bear witness to Christ, and **Christ perfectly bears witness to God.**

The revelation of God could not be contained in a book, but it could be **contained in a human life**—the life of Jesus Christ.

God is like Jesus. Jesus is the Message of God. Jesus is what God has to say.

Jesus didn’t come to save us **from God** (as some deplorable theories would lead us to believe)—Jesus **came to reveal God as Savior.**

Jesus didn’t come to enable God to love us—Jesus **came to reveal God as love.**

Jesus didn’t come to reconcile God to the world—Jesus **came to reconcile the world to God.**

If Jesus’ life is the definition of God, the **defining moment** of Jesus’ life is **the Cross.**

**Christ upon the Cross is the clearest revelation of who God is.**

**That** is what God is like! He not like Caiaphas needing a scapegoat to take the blame.

He is not like Pilate requiring an execution to satisfy justice.

**God is like Jesus, absorbing, forgiving and taking away the sins of the world.**

#### **D. He Offers Himself to Us as the Source of Life**

**John 7.1** After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because **the Jews were seeking to kill him.**

**5** For **not even his brothers believed** in him.

**11** The Jews were **looking for him at the feast**, and saying, "**Where is he?**" **12** And there was **much muttering ...** some said, "He is a **good man,**" others said, "No, he is **leading the people astray.**"

**He Offers the Substance of Life (every day, last day 7 times, water and wine, lifting it higher...)**

It was the final day of the feast, the seventh day, the day the priest would again come to the temple, followed by the great throng chanting their Psalms and waving their lulabs. They would come in through the Water Gate. The trumpets would sound again. But this time the priest would **circle the altar seven times** in succession—just like at the walls of Jericho. And when he came around for **the sixth time, he would be joined by another priest carrying the wine.** They would ascend the ramp to the altar. There would be a pause as the **priest raised his pitcher.** The crowd would **begin to shout** to the priest to hold it higher, and he would try to do so. It was considered to be the **height of joy** in an Israelite's life if he could **see the water being poured onto the altar.**

It at that dramatic moment that Jesus acted.

**John 7:37** On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "**If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'**" **39** Now this he said

about *the Spirit*, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

### **Have You Ever Been Thirsty?**

How desperate are we to drink this water? First day thinning trees. Almost drank gasoline. Little bit of warm water. 30 minutes later, drank and drank and drank!

### **How Do We Drink**

How are we to drink this water? Although the offer is free and open to all, yet there are some terms to be met.

C. S. Lewis in *The Silver Chair* puts his finger on this. Jill, seeing a lion, is scared out of her wits and runs into the forest. She runs so hard that she wears herself out and is just about to die of thirst, or so she thinks, when she hears the gurgling of a brook in the distance. She approaches it and is almost ready to go to the brook when on the grass before her is the same lion.

“Are you not thirsty?” said the Lion.

“I’m dying of thirst,” said Jill.

“Then drink,” said the Lion.

“May I—could I—would you mind going away while I do?” said Jill.

The Lion answered this only by a look and a very low growl. And as Jill gazed at its motionless bulk, she realized that she might as well have asked the whole mountain to move aside for her convenience. The delicious rippling noise of the stream was driving her nearly frantic.

“Will you promise not to—do anything to me, if I do come?” said Jill.

“I make no promise,” said the Lion.

Jill was so thirsty now that, without noticing it, she had come a step nearer.

“Do you eat girls?” she said.

“I have swallowed up girls and boys, women and men, kings and emperors, cities and realms,” said the Lion. It didn’t say this as if it were boasting, nor as if it were sorry, nor as if it were angry. It just said it.

“I daren’t come and drink,” said Jill.

“Then you will die of thirst,” said the Lion.

“Oh dear!” said Jill, coming another step nearer.

“I suppose I must go and look for another stream then.”

“There is no other stream,” said the Lion.

It never occurred to Jill to disbelieve the Lion—no one who had seen his stern face could do that—and her mind suddenly made itself up. It was the worst thing she had ever had to do, but she went forward to the stream, knelt down, and began scooping up water in her hand. It was the coldest, most refreshing water she had ever tasted.

When you come to the water, you are coming to a Lion, you must come on the Lion’s terms, and you have to yield yourself by faith in order to get the water.

Some of us need to realize that we are thirsty, that we need that water so badly that we are going to die without it.

We need to step out on faith, yielding to the Lion of the tribe of Judah, and receive the water of eternal life.

### ***ARE YOU THIRSTY?***

***Come, keep coming. Drink, keep drinking.***

**2 Cor 5.17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, ***he is a new creation.***  
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come!