

“... Unto whom the Word of God Came”

By

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‘Tell us who You are’

In the days of His flesh, the person of Jesus was not easy to decode, not just for His contemporary generation but even among His own disciples who were closer to Him. When once He asked His disciples what people thought of Him, they glibly gave the various explanations of His persona by individuals outside their circle. “Some say that Thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets” (Matt. 16:13-14).

Yet when He directed the same question at them, “But whom say ye that I am”? (v. 15) the disciples were none the better. They were stumped for the right answer. They did not as yet know for certain His true identity – but for Simon Peter who answered rightly with spiritual perception from on high: “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but My Father which is in heaven” (vv. 16-17).

Quite obviously, if even His own disciples collectively did not know Him as they ought to, then His contemporaries among whom He preached and ministered in power and wisdom, and who observed His activities from a distance, would be in greater confusion over His identity. Yet it was not a confusion they sought to remain perpetually in!

The people sought to break the mysteriousness of the person of Yeshua. He was becoming too much of a mystery. And the enigma was in His words! He talked about being “the good shepherd” who “giveth His life for the sheep”, and of laying down His life by His own power and then taking it back (John 10:11, 17-18). What man could speak like this?

He just kicked up a storm of controversy! Some of the people dismissed His deep spiritual sayings as the rantings of a mad man, yet others held that a mad man could never be the miracle worker He was! (John 10:19-21).

That winter morning, as He walked in the temple, the Jews ambushed Him and demanded to know His identity, asking Him to tell them plainly if He was the Messiah:

“Then came the Jews round about Him, and said unto Him, How long dost Thou make us to doubt? If Thou be the Christ, tell us plainly” (John 10:24).

“I and My Father are one”

Jesus answered His interlocutors with more enigma deepening their confusion: His miraculous works were His Messianic credentials from the Father He said, but they wouldn't believe because they were not of His sheep (John 10:25-29). Then He made an audacious claim, “I and My Father are one” (30).

False Charge of Blasphemy

To the Jews, Yeshua had passed the threshold. The Jews who still remained ignorant of His real identity took up stones to stone Him for equating Himself with God, an act of blasphemy (vv. 31-33). That was when He launched His defence with a quote from the Psalms:

*“Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?
“If He called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;
“Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God? (John 10:34-36).*

The Divinity of the Son is not Illogical

Christ has performed a masterstroke! By one quotation, He has trumped His critics! ‘Are you offended because I said I'm the Son of God and that I'm one with Him? Well, hear me out: it's not unheard of for divine titles and attributes to be ascribed to mere humans, how much more the Son from heaven. The evidence is in your own law!’

“Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?” He asked them, quoting Psalm 82:6-7. And it was a truth.

Those members of the audience who knew their scriptures were not left wondering like Alice in Wonderland; they were not baffled by the quotation. The possessive ‘your’ denotes familiarity and possession. The Torah of God was their Torah!

So how well do you know the scripture? Is it something you hold dear to your heart? Do you look on it as a most precious possession or a guest on a short visit every Sabbath day? Do you devour its pages regularly? Do you meditate on it? Do you study it prayerfully to apply it in your life? If not, the Bible is not yet ‘yours. Yet God reduced His Word to written words so it may become yours as a readily available friend on call 24/7. A companion never to let out of sight but to meditate on it day and night for good success in all endeavours (Joshua 1:8-9; Ps. 1:1-3).

You are gods by receiving the Word

Now re-designated “the scripture” (the *Tanakh*), the “law” (*Torah*) quoting God as calling men “gods” is inviolable. It cannot fail! Therefore it stands that God meant every word of it. He called them “gods” and gods they were! Yet they were very men—distinguished by one fact: They were a people “unto whom the Word of God came”. The resultant divine response was that “He” (God) called them “gods”.

He certainly knew the stuff His Word was made of and the effect it would have on those who received it. Psalm 12:6 says He has purified His Word “seven times”, making every word of His pure and therefore a reliable source of help and defence to believers (Prov. 30:5). His Word does not give false hopes but accomplishes what He sends it to do; it hits its targets (Isa. 55:10-11). This Word, properly speaking, is not an “it” but a “He”:

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

“The same was in the beginning with God.

“All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made.

“... And the Word was made 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” (John 1:1-3, 14).

This is the Word – Jesus Christ, the Son of God – in whom “all the promises of God” are “yea” and “Amen”, never “yea” and “nay” (2 Cor. 1:18-20).

According to this unfailing, inviolable Word, when the Father God called people “to whom His Word came” gods, they truly were gods. The scripture was neither saying something it didn’t mean nor was it misrepresenting God. Scripture is inerrant. But what kind of ‘gods’ were they? Did God mean they would possess all His divine attributes and become exactly like Him as His co-equal immortal ‘gods’?

He meant they had become God-like or ought to see themselves as such. In the original context of the declaration in the Psalms, God primarily addressed judges whom He expected to do His will by upholding the cause of justice. It’s in this context that He called them ‘gods’ but not only because of the functions of their office but essentially because they had been equipped with the divine attributes of justice and mercy. That made them ‘gods’ (Heb. “elohim”) in the estimation of God. They bore a piece of His nature.

We read in Psalm 82:

“God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; He judgeth among the gods.

“How long will ye judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked? Selah.

“Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy.

“Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked.

“They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course.

*"I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High.
"But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes" (Ps. 82:1-7).*

The judges (*elohim* or mighty ones) seemed to take their responsibilities lightly and consequently judged unjustly, skewing judgment in favour of the wicked. But God said it was because they did not know themselves well enough. They were gods, all of them were His children. Their status imposed on them a divine obligation to discharge justice and mercy without fear or favour. "Defend the poor and the fatherless", He charged them. "Do justice to the afflicted and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked."

The judges are being straightened out; they're being urged to live up to their calling.

But why did God place such high confidence in them, although He had cause to criticize some of their judicial decisions? Why did He count on them to dispense justice the way He expected?

Christ supplies a key element: "the Word of God had come to them"! So God knew the values He had deposited in them by His Word – righteousness, justice, mercy, equity. He expected these principles to influence their sense of judgment and judicial rulings. It was by so doing that they would truly be the "gods" they had become by receiving His Word!

Herein lies the critical importance of receiving the pure Word of God—not some adulterated gospel, a contrived human doctrine passed off as God's truth (2 Cor. 2:17; 2 Tim. 3:4). That is not the Word of God and therefore has no inherent power to make you God-like. Only the unchanging truth of God has that capability (See 1 Cor. 2:4-5).

The Power of Divine Begetting is in the Word

Beloved, there is transformational power in the Word of God, Jesus Christ, which has come to you. We are informed in the Gospel of St. John that "as many as received" this Word by believing on His name "to them gave He power to become the sons of God, ...which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12-13).

Beloved, you are not excluded for "... as many as received Him" He empowered to become the children of God. So you are no longer the person you used to be. If only you have received the Word through faith, you have become a child of God by the power of the Word. The Word is the regenerative agent; the instrument of our begetting:

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" (1 Pet. 1:23).

The Will of God is Your Way of Life

The quality of the seed determines the quality of the fruit of the tree. And it's not corruption but the pure, imperishable seed of the Word of God. The fruit is something heavenly, something divine!

Do you now realize you are a “god”? That you bear the imprint of His nature? You are not a ‘mere’ man but a super-human, and God expects “greater works” from you (John 14:12). Because His Word has come to you, He has placed His truth in you, His faithfulness in you, His righteousness in you, His mercy in you, His justice in you and His love in you. You are His carbon copy; you are His child; you carry His spiritual genes.

So acknowledge what you have become. Don’t sell yourself short! You represent God, of all the people on earth; you carry forward His plans and will on earth.

The first great evidence is your character. Do you live a godly life? Do you abhor evil? Do you eschew sin? Do you comfort the afflicted? Do you lift up the downtrodden? Do you show kindness to the needy?

It’s your righteous character that ties you to God as ‘god’:

“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for His seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

“In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother” (1 John 3:9-10).

Believers to whom the word of God has come have not been called to be ‘mere men’ but spiritual beings – gods, who must live above the ordinary vices of human pettiness (1 Cor. 3:1-4).

And God expects us to be so because He knows the transformational power that has come to us by His Word. He expects us to excel, shine as His children of light in a dark world. We are not called to an ordinary life but an extraordinary life of godliness – doing uncommon good, going the extra mile to help the helpless, showing uncommon kindness, setting forth an excellent example of righteousness. All because you are no ordinary man but a ‘god’ – who possess the character of God – because you have received the Wonderful Word of God!

Those He called gods Perform His Supernatural Works!

Not only does our godly character show us to be a people to whom His Word has come but also the supernatural works we perform in the Name of Jesus, the WORD.

“And these signs shall follow them that believe...” (Mark 16:17-18).

In this church, miracles are commonplace; miracles of healing and deliverance (including neutralizing snake bites) are phenomena we take for granted so they don’t cause as much sensation each time God performs one by His anointed minister as in other places. But when Paul shook off a snake that had fastened on his hand on the pagan island of Malta and no harm befell him, the islanders, shocked to the bone, proclaimed him “a god” (Acts 28:1-6). In another instance, he and Barnabas were proclaimed “Mercury” and “Jupiter” respectively in Lystra when he healed a lame man (Acts 14:8-13).

The word of God does not only manifest our divine nature in godly character but also in divine miracles. So don't limit yourself and let nothing limit you. You are God-like because of the word that has come to you.

Even so, you're still mortal and you'll die just like any other human being. But that holds until the resurrection when we'll put on immortality and be like Christ in form; in appearance:

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is" (1 Jn. 3:1-2).

We'll beat the unbelievers again! We'll put them in the shade in absolute, irreversible terms!

Yeshua is irrefutably the Son of God

That was the point of all that Yeshua was trying to put across to His critics. If it's not out of place for God to call human beings to whom His Word came – gods, what can be blasphemous about the One sent from heaven saying He is the Son of God?

Still, to this day, many would not accept Christ's self-proclamation (backed by solid scriptural, supernatural proofs) to be the divine Son of God. In His first coming, it took the earth-shattering event of the tearing of the veil of the temple "from top to bottom" and the quaking of the earth at His death to convince some of His true identity as the Son of the living God:

⁵⁰*"Jesus, when He had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.*

⁵¹*"And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;*

⁵²*"And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,*

⁵³*"And came out of the graves after His resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.*

⁵⁴*"Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God" (Matt. 27:50-54).*

For millions of others, still dismissive of His divinity, it will take His second coming to convince them of this truth, though it will be too late to believe in Him:

"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (Matt. 24:30; also Rev. 1:7).

So why wait for something extraordinarily terrible to happen before you recognize Jesus for who He is? It might take a deadly sickness or some other personal calamity for you to turn to

Him in your search for a solution. But different things happen to different people. This extraordinary route might not just open to you and you will die without hope:

“I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am He, ye shall die in your sins” (John 8:24).

So believe Him, while you have the opportunity. Believe His word now, and you will come to a personal knowledge of Him as the Son of the Living God.

⁴⁴ *“Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.*

⁴⁵ *“Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found Him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.*

⁴⁶ *“And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.*

⁴⁷ *“Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!*

⁴⁸ *“Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.*

⁴⁹ *“Nathanael answered and saith unto Him, Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God; Thou art the King of Israel.*

⁵⁰ *“Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these.*

⁵¹ *“And He saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man” (John 1:44-51).*

The Jesus encounter is a supernatural encounter. You will experience the power of His divine Presence and truth and it will be incomparable to any other experience in your life. You will be personally convinced; you will know within yourself, within your soul, that you have met the Son of God and He has given you life:

“He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made Him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of His Son. “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son” (1 John 5:10-11).

Jesus as the Son of God is natural

- 1) He came from the Father (John 7:29); shares His very divine nature (Php. 2:6); that is to say, bears His “express image” or exact replica (Heb. 1:3).
- 2) He has always existed with Him from the beginning (John 1:1-3; 1 John 1:1-2).
- 3) The Father Himself has testified of Him as His Son (Matt. 3:17; 17:5).
- 4) He approved His mission on earth by the miracles He did (John 10:25; 5:36-37; Acts 2:22)

To acknowledge this is eternal life:

“And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know Him that is true, and we are in Him that is true, even in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life” (1 Jn. 5:20).

For us believers this is a great truth to rejoice at. We have come to salvation truth. We know Him that is true (the Father) and we are in Him that is true, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It all translates into doing the will of the Father (Matt. 7:21-23; 1 John 2:3-4) *in* Christ, that is to say, through the grace that is in Him (Heb. 3:14; Php. 4:13).

In the Kingdom of heaven, He will share all His glory with us in all splendor (Rev. 3:21). We will truly be God-like more perfectly as a people unto whom the word of God came. We will bear the image of the heavenly (1 Cor. 15:49). But only if we continue in the Word by weeding out all ungodly detractions (Jam. 1:21) so we create space for the word to take root in us (Col. 3:16).

The Word is our ALL! Our greatest gift from God. Let’s hold onto it (Prov. 4:13). For the WORD is Christ, God’s “indescribable gift”! (2 Cor. 9:5).