

Lesson One-Hundred Three

JESUS THE FIRST AND THE LAST

Scripture Reading: Rev. 1:8-18, 22:10-17.

Scriptures to Memorize: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, saith the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty" (Rev. 1:8). "I am the first and the last, and the Living one" (Rev. 1:17-18). "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end" (Rev. 22:13).

69. Q. What is the Bible primarily?

A. The Bible is, primarily, the inspired record of the wonderful works wrought by God the Father throughout the ages, to attest and establish the divine Sonship and Messiahship of the Person whom we know historically as Jesus of Nazareth.

Or, to put it in another form, the Bible is the faithful record of The Divine Demonstration, throughout the ages, of the Deity and Messiahship of Jesus.

70. Q. What was the first great work wrought by God the Father to attest the divine Sonship and Messiahship of Jesus?

A. It was the work of Preparation and Prefiguration.

Review the types, symbols and prophecies of the Old Testament Scriptures all of which were fulfilled in the life and work of Jesus of Nazareth. God the Father spent more than four thousand years preparing the world for the reception of Christ and Christianity, and at the same time building up a system of type and prophecy designed to identify the true Messiah at His appearing. See Eph. 3:1-12, I Pet. 1:10-12, etc.

71. Q. What was the second great work wrought by God the Father to attest the divine Sonship and Messiahship of Jesus?

A. It was that of Incarnation.

When the fulness of the time was come, God the Father begat His Son in the womb of the Virgin, by the over-

shadowing of the Holy Spirit. Thus the miracle of Incarnation was wrought, and thus The Word became flesh and dwelt among us in the Person of Jesus of Nazareth. See Gal. 4:4, Psa. 2:7, Isa. 7-14, Micah 5:2, Matt. 1:18-25, Luke 1:26-38, John 1:1-18, John 3:16, I Tim. 3:16, I John 1:1-4, etc.

72. Q. What was the third great work wrought by God the Father to attest the divine Sonship and Messiahship of Jesus?

A. It was that of Anointing.

Matt. 3:13-17. When Jesus attained the age of thirty, He presented Himself to John for baptism in the Jordan, thus indicating the time was at hand for Him to enter upon His divine mission and work in the world. So, as soon as the baptism was performed, and He had come up out of the water, God the Father introduced Him to the world as His beloved Son, and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit, in this manner officially and formally setting Him apart unto the work which He came into the world to accomplish. John 8:18—"The Father that sent me beareth witness of me." Acts 10:38—"even Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power," etc. Acts 4:26—"the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord, and against his Anointed."

73. Q. What was the fourth great work wrought by God the Father to attest the divine Sonship and Messiahship of Jesus?

A. It was that of Demonstration.

Throughout the ministry of Jesus, which extended over some three years, God the Father attested His identity and mission by many mighty works and wonders and signs. Acts 2:22—"Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by mighty works and wonders and signs which God did by him in the midst of you," etc. These miracles were all for the purpose of proving to the world that He is the Christ, the Son of the living God. See Acts 10:38-39, John 20:30-31, etc.

74. Q. What was the fifth great work wrought by God the Father to attest the divine Sonship and Messiahship of Jesus?

A. It was that of Transfiguration.

Matt. 17:1-8. There on Mount Hermon, in the presence of Moses, representing the Law; and of Elijah, representing the Prophets; and of Peter, James and John, representing the Apostles; Jesus "was transfigured before them," *i.e.*, presented in His garments of celestial glory, as He would appear today if it were possible for us to look upon Him in His present heavenly state. 2 Pet. 1:16-18, "For we did not follow cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, but *we were eyewitnesses of his majesty*. For he received from God the Father honor and glory, when there was borne such a voice to him by the Majestic Glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased: and this voice we ourselves heard borne out of heaven, when we were with him in the holy mount."

75. Q. What was the sixth great work wrought by God the Father to attest the divine Sonship and Messiahship of Jesus?

A. It was that of Resurrection.

This Jesus having been delivered up to death by crucifixion, "by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God" (Acts 1:23), it was the same God and Father of all, who quickened His mortal body and raised it from the dead, having decreed from eternity that His Holy One should not experience the disintegration and corruption of the flesh. See Acts 2:24-32; cf. Psa. 16:8-10. Acts 2:24—"whom God raised up," etc. Acts 2:32—"This Jesus did God raise up, whereof we all are witnesses." Cf. Acts 3:15, 10:40; I Cor. 15:4,20, etc. Rom. 1:3,4—"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." The Resur-

rection was the crowning miracle of The Great Demonstration.

76. Q. What was the seventh great work wrought by God the Father to attest the divine Sonship and Messiahship of Jesus?

A. It was that of Exaltation.

His Exaltation included His Ascension, Glorification, and Coronation. God not only raised Him from the dead, but He also (1) received Him back into the heavenly places, (2) clothed Him with glory and honor and immortality, (3) gave Him a seat on the Throne at His own right hand, (4) vested Him with the sceptre of the Kingdom of Heaven, and (5) constituted Him the Sovereign of all created things. John 7:39—"For the Spirit was not yet given; because Jesus was not yet glorified." John 17:5—"And now, Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." Acts 2:33-36, "Being therefore by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he hath poured forth this, which ye see and hear. . . . Let all the House of Israel therefore know assuredly, that God hath made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom ye crucified." Col. 3:1—"seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated on the right hand of God." Eph. 1:19-23, "according to that working of the strength of his might which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and made him to sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule, and authority, and power, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come; and he put all things in subjection under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." (For a prophetic description of the Coronation of Christ, see Psa. 24:7-10). Heb. 2:9—"But we behold him who hath been made a little lower than the angels, even Jesus, because of the suffering of death

crowned with glory and honor," etc. I Tim. 1:17—"Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen."

77. Q. What exalted office does the Person whom we know as Jesus now hold, by virtue of His Resurrection and Exaltation?

A. He holds the exalted office of Acting Sovereign of the universe.

I Pet. 3:21,22—"through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is on the right hand of God, having gone into heaven: angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him." Rev. 1:5—"Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth." Rev. 1:17,18—"I am the first and the last, and the Living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades." Matt. 28:18—"all authority."

78. Q. What title does our Savior bear by virtue of His exalted office as Acting Sovereign of the Universe?

A. He bears the title: THE KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

I Tim. 6:14-16, "Our Lord Jesus Christ . . . who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; who only hath immortality, dwelling in light unapproachable; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honor and power eternal. Amen." Cf. Rev. 19:11-16.

79. Q. How long shall our Savior continue in His capacity of Acting Sovereign of the Universe?

A. The Scriptures declare that He shall reign "till he hath put all his enemies under his feet."

I Cor. 15:25-26, "For he must reign, till he hath put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be abolished is death." Phil. 2:9-11, "Wherefore also God highly exalted him, and gave unto him the name that is above every name; that in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things on earth and things under the earth, and that every tongue should

confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Cf. Psa. 110:1—"Jehovah saith unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool."

80. Q. In what capacity will our Lord Jesus Christ be manifested at the end of the present Dispensation?

A. The Scriptures teach that He will be manifested at the end of our age, as the Judge of the living and of the dead.

He is coming again: (1) to complete the redemption of His people, (2) to complete the conquest of evil in all its forms, (3) to judge the living and the dead, (4) to consummate God's eternal purpose and plan, and (5) to lead many sons into glory and thus usher in the next dispensation of the "new heavens and new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Pet. 3:13). Acts 10:42—"It is he who is ordained of God to be the Judge of the living and the dead." Matt. 24:30—"Then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven . . . and they shall see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." 2 Thess. 1:7,8—"at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with the angels of his power in flaming fire, rendering vengeance to them that know not God, and to them that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Tim. 4:1—"I charge thee in the sight of God, and of Christ Jesus, who shall judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom," etc. Matt. 25:31-46, "But when the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the angels with him, then shall he sit on the throne of his glory; and before him shall be gathered all the nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as the shepherd separateth the sheep from the goats," etc.

81. Q. What will the Lord Jesus Christ ultimately do with His Sovereignty?

A. The Scriptures teach that He will ultimately transfer His Sovereignty back to the Father, that God may be all in all.

I Cor. 15:24,28—"Then cometh the end, when he shall deliver up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have abolished all rule and authority and power. . . . And when all things have been subjected unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subjected to him that did subject all things unto him, that God may be all in all."

82. Q. By what names does our Lord Jesus Christ reveal Himself to us, in reference particularly to His eternal offices and works?

A. By the names: The First and The Last, and The Living One.

Rev. 1:8—"I am the Alpha and the Omega, saith the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." Rev. 22:13—"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Rev. 1:17-18—"I am the first and the last, and the Living one." **JESUS, THE FIRST AND THE LAST, AND THE LIVING ONE:** to Him be honor and glory for ever and ever!

**REVIEW EXAMINATION OVER LESSON
ONE-HUNDRED THREE**

69. What is the Bible primarily?
70. What was the first great work wrought by God the Father to attest the divine Sonship and Messiahship of Jesus?
71. What was the second great work wrought by God the Father to attest the divine Sonship and Messiahship of Jesus?
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 77. What exalted office does the Person whom we know as Jesus now hold, by virtue of His Resurrection and Exaltation?
 78. What title does our Savior bear by virtue of His exalted office as Acting Sovereign of the universe?
 79. How long shall our Savior continue in His capacity of Acting Sovereign of the Universe?
 80. In what capacity will our Lord Jesus Christ be manifested at the end of the present Dispensation?
 81. What will the Lord Jesus Christ ultimately do with His Sovereignty?
 82. By what names does our Lord Jesus Christ reveal Himself to us, in reference particularly to His eternal offices and works?

Lesson One-Hundred Four

THE CHRISTIAN CONFESSION OF FAITH

Scripture Reading: Matt. 16:13-20.

Scriptures to Memorize: "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus as Lord, and shalt believe in thy heart that God raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved: for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Rom. 10:9-10). "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:16).

- 83. Q. In what creedal formula are the truths respecting**