

December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017

## Behold the Face of God Philippians 4:10-23

### Introduction:

- Imagine if you could see the face of God!
  1. M \_\_\_\_\_ asked to see His face but was denied (Ex 33:20)
  2. Did M \_\_\_\_\_ kiss the face of God?
- J \_\_\_\_\_ is the face of God
  1. Heb 1:2 – He is the e \_\_\_\_\_ representation of God’s very being.
  2. Col 1:15 – He is the i \_\_\_\_\_ of the invisible God.
  3. Titus 2:13 – He is our great G \_\_\_\_\_ and Savior
  4. Jesus called Thomas’s statement about Him as His Lord and His God as a confession of f \_\_\_\_\_ (John 20:28).
- The true spirit of Christmas celebrates God (Yahweh – the Hebrew name for God) becoming f \_\_\_\_\_.

### The Old Testament Presented Christ as Yahweh

- Isaiah 9:6 – His name - *His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the M \_\_\_\_\_ God.*
  1. Many places in the O.T. called humans, gods (Ps 58:1; 82:6) – the term was applied to r \_\_\_\_\_ to refer to authority, not deity.
  2. Some argue that since Isaiah did not say Almighty God, that he is not referring to deity but authority. However, the term Mighty God is only used twice elsewhere:
    - a. Isaiah 10:20,21 – this is a t \_\_\_\_\_ of Yahweh
    - b. Jeremiah 32:18 – the name of the Mighty God is Y \_\_\_\_\_
- Micah 5:2 – His origin – *His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.*
  1. This One who would be ruler had a h \_\_\_\_\_ origin (from Mary, born in Bethlehem)
  2. The One who would be ruler had no b \_\_\_\_\_
    - a. NIV translates as “ancient times”, which is a possible translation
    - b. This same language in the Hebrew is used to describe the origin of Yahweh in Ps 90:1,2 – from e \_\_\_\_\_ (a way of saying that He has no beginning just as He has no end)

### Jesus Presented Himself as Yahweh

- The I AM statements Jesus made
  1. John 8:58 – *Before Abraham came into existence, I AM*
    - a. The Jews responded to these words by trying to s \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus for claiming to be the God identified in Exodus 3:14.

- b. All along Jesus was telling them that He was the I AM, but it was not until verse 59 that they finally understood the claim.
- 1) John 8:23-25 – *Unless you believe that I AM, you will die in your sins.* (Most versions insert e\_\_\_\_\_ words after “I am” that are not in the original text). The Jews understood Jesus to mean, “Unless you believe who I am” as seen in verse 25. They misunderstood. (Believing Jesus to be Yahweh is necessary to s\_\_\_\_\_)
  - 2) John 8:28 – *When you lift up the Son of Man, you will know that I AM.* (again they misunderstood Jesus)
  - 3) John 8:58 – *Before Abraham was, I AM.* There was only one way to understand this!
- c. See also John 13:19; John 18:5,6 for the exact same words.

- Jesus accepted w\_\_\_\_\_, which was to be only rendered to “the Lord your God” (Matt 4:10)
1. Sometimes the word worship means r\_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. Matt 8:2)
  2. Other times it clearly refers to an act which recognizes the person as G\_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. Rev 22:8,9).
  3. Matt 28:9 clearly records the resurrected Jesus accepting worship from the disciples who fall down and take hold of His f\_\_\_\_\_

### The Apostles Presented Jesus Christ as Yahweh

- John 1:1,14 – the Word existed as G\_\_\_\_\_ and became flesh
- Romans 10:9-13 – this passage explains what it means to confess Jesus as L\_\_\_\_\_
1. Vv. 11,13 – confess means to b\_\_\_\_\_ (i.e. trust) in Him as Lord and to c\_\_\_\_\_ on Him as Lord
  2. V. 13 identifies the Lord as Y\_\_\_\_\_ (it is a quote from Joel 2:32 – note that in the O.T., “LORD” (all capital letters) translates the Hebrew name Yahweh.
- Hebrews 1:10
1. The context is what Yahweh says about the Son (v. 8) – He says this (quotes an O.T. passage) and this (quotes another passage)
  2. In verse 8, He calls the Son, G\_\_\_\_\_
  3. In verse 10, He calls the Son, L\_\_\_\_\_ (check Ps 102:25, it is in all capital letters and so means Yahweh)

**Conclusion:** Christmas celebrates God becoming flesh. Imagine if everyone realized Jesus’s face to be the face of God (the shepherds, the disciples, the crowd at His trial). One day all will see His face (Rev 1:7). For some it will be dread, but for us who truly believe it will be delight. How blessed are they who did not see, yet believed! (Jn 20:29)