All For Jesus
Colossians 1.15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. Col 1.15-16

The Point: Jesus is the image of God and LORD over both worlds, spiritual and physical.

The Question: Who is this Jesus?

Image of God and fullness of God (Col 1.15, 19)

Creator (Col 1.16)

Firstborn of creation and the dead (Col 1.15, 17, and 18)

The "head" of the church (Col 1.18)

Preeminent (*proteuo*)

Redeemer and peacemaker (Col 1.20

January 16, 2001 (#902) In Him All Things Hold Together 2

I had a professor at Cincinnati Christian University, Mark Zeise, say that when Scripture switches from prose to poetry, one needs to stop and notice. Colossians 1.15-20 is poetry and probably a hymn of the early church. It is deep in its theology but written to be easily memorized and recited. The image of the invisible God, creator, ruler, and redeemer; the fullness of God dwells in Jesus, the Christ.

God is spirit and invisible. This image is not Jesus' body; his body is his humanity. John 4.24 and 1 Tim 1.17. No one has ever seen God and never will. John 1.18 and 1 John 4.12 We see what he does (like the wind and barometric pressure) but not him—he is without a body! God created man in His image, not the physical image, but the inclusion of spirit and soul. Angels are spirit; man is physical and spiritual. Christ is the perfect image because he is the full image. He is not a copy or projection; he is fully God.

Jesus is the creator, as is the Father and the Spirit. He created all things—spiritual and physical to fulfill his mission as peacemaker. This includes the physical rulers and thrones one can see and the invisible ones one cannot view. He judges angels and humans.

Being the firstborn of creation does not mean he is a created being. He is the living God, and from the living God comes everything that exists. Firstborn from the dead means he is the first permanent resurrection.

Jesus is the firstborn of creation, the firstborn of the dead, and preeminent in all things. "First," all three uses have the same root word but slightly different meanings. The first meaning is *first being*— YHWH is self-existent and, therefore, first. The second meaning is first in a line (resurrection). The last definition is one of those rare words in the Bible that is only used once, what I call a 1-1 word—one time in that book and one time in the Bible. It means nothing higher: King of kings and Lord of lords. He is the head of the Church. Every knee will bow.

The word peace in Col 1.20 is also a 1.1 word. It means he repairs the rift. He provides reconciliation and repair. The angels' song Luke 2.14.