

Mystery of Godliness – continued

Last time we looked from 1st Timothy 3:16 at the “mystery of godliness” and we learned some pretty important things;

We must understand that in the beginning, Jesus was with His Heavenly Father (God).

In order to secure a position for His people, (church) Jesus Himself had to empty Himself of His deity, His co-union with His Heavenly Father and allow Himself to come to earth through the womb of Mary and be born as a man.

Forever, laying aside the privilege He enjoyed to be fashioned as a man.

Today, right at this moment, He is in the presence of God the Father awaiting the instructions to call up His people (the church) to begin the 7 year tribulation period.

When this happens (we call it the rapture) every believer living on this earth will be “caught up” from our earthly position and head for heaven in what Jesus calls the “glorified body”. This will happen (and I believe soon) in what is described as the “twinkling of an eye” which as we understand is faster than a blink.

According to the Apostle Paul, this corruptible body (which we now possess) will put on an incorruptible body – (one like the Lord Jesus had after His resurrection from the dead) as we enter heaven.

Coming along with us at this same moment will be all of the believers who died (and their spirit is already in heaven) and they too will be “caught up” with us at the same time as they also receive their incorruptible bodies.

Pretty exciting stuff huh?

For all of this to happen, there had to be a forerunner to blaze the trail. That of course was the 3rd person of the God Head, Jesus Christ Himself.

The mystery of godliness is that God became a man, like unto us, took upon Himself all of the punishment we were due as a result of our sin, lived a sinless life and was crucified for His labor.

All of this was pre-planned before the world was. As the Apostle Peter said; “you (speaking to the Pharisees) through the preplanned and for knowledge of God, have taken Him (Jesus)—and have crucified Him. **Acts 2:23.**

God Himself in the person of Jesus Christ, allowed this to happen to Him. Jesus (a man without sin) was offered for the sin of mankind and our Heavenly Father in heaven was satisfied with the final sacrifice, and now – today- all who believe in this finished act will be forever forgiven of all of their past- present- and future sins. Remember beloved, there are only 2 kinds of folks in this world. Those who believe in Jesus Christ as the

Son of God and in His sacrifice for sin, and those who do not. Both groups sin today, but all sin has been paid for. The question today is, “do you believe in Him?”. Believers go to heaven when they die, unbelievers do not. Simple huh?

Further, we understood that Jesus made Himself of “no reputation” humbled Himself before His Heavenly Father, and gladly went to the cross for our benefit.

We also learned that Jesus had His ear opened according to Psalm 40 (actually having his own ear pierced with an awl – all to signify His love for the master (Father in heaven) and the love He has for the bride (church) to the point that He will never relinquish this position to return to the glory He had with the Heavenly Father before time began.

Imagine if you will the scene *according to 1st Corinthians 15 verse 28 & following*: “*now when all things are made subject to Him, (Jesus) then the Son Himself (Jesus) will also be subject to him (His Heavenly Father) who but all things under Him (Jesus), that God (the Father) may be all in all.*”

Now obviously there had to be a miracle virgin birth (as the issue of sin passes through the sperm of the man) into the human race, but the “sperm” if you will had to come from God Himself (through the person of the Holy Spirit) so there was no sin passed through the sperm into Mary – therefore Jesus did not have the “sin nature” passed on to Him that passed through every human being because of the sin of Adam.

Matthew 1:18-25 teaches us that Joseph (Mary’s husband) “knew her not” before the birth of Jesus.

This is heavy, but true so listen up - Jesus also was to be a “Son of David.”

He could not become the Son of David through Mary for she was not in the KINGLY LINE of descent through Solomon.

The lineage of Joseph came thorough Solomon back to David. Mary’s lineage came through Nathan back to David.

Solomon, as we know, succeeded his father as king, but Nathan was older than Solomon, and on that ground might have contested Solomon’s right of succession, though we are not told that he did.

None the less Solomon’s title had the shadow of Nathan’s claim upon it, and there should be no cloud upon Jesus title to “the Throne of David”.

God ordained that Mary, the mother of Jesus, should be a direct descendant of David through Nathan, the “legal heir” to the throne.

Jesus had no right to David’s Throne through Mary, for she was not in the Kingly Line of descent through Solomon.

How is it then that Jesus had a right to David’s Throne?

It could only come through marriage

Here we see the wonderful way in which God safeguarded the VIRGIN BIRTH of Jesus.

God saw to it that Mary married Joseph (after conception) a man who could not be the NATURAL father of Jesus.

God tells us in Matthew 1:18-25 That Joseph “knew her not” i.e. had no relations with her until after Jesus was born. When Joseph found out that Mary was pregnant, he thought to “put her away” i.e. Divorce her for he had not had a physical relationship with her, but the angel came and told Joseph not to worry nor try to put her away for she was pregnant with a child birthed by God Himself.

Why? We are told in Jeremiah 22: 24-30 that “No man of his SEED shall prosper and Joseph (if it were not a virgin birth) would be the natural father of Jesus and could not prosper. HAD TO BE A VIRGIN BIRTH.

The scriptures clearly teach that Jesus was both MAN AND GOD

MAN -John 8:40, Acts 2:22 and 1st Timothy 2:5

GOD – John 1:1, Titus 2:13, Col 2:19

The 2 natures are vital and cause an inseparable union.

As a man, Jesus possesses a material body – He hungered, thirsted, slept and loved, feared and groaned, wept and prayed with compassion and suffered as His body died.

I do not see in scripture where these two natures take place at birth, but that does not mean they didn't. We are not priviledge to His consciousness of this fact, but we are told that He grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God- Luke 2:52

We also know that the Holy Spirit revealed to Him that He must be “about His Father's business' Luke 2:49.

Jesus seemed to come to full knowledge of Himself at His baptism when the dove landed on His shoulder at His baptism.

He seemed to come to the knowledge of His deity, but there were limitations to his knowledge. He found Himself doing “what He saw His Father doing”

Seemingly, His divine nature kept Him from sinning and preserved Him from intellectual errors, but His human nature made Him susceptible to the weaknesses and the limitations of the flesh.

The God-man suffered in the flesh in the agonies of Gethsemane and Calvary.

When Jesus died, He did not go back to heaven as He came to earth “bodiless”

He took His resurrected Human Body with Him, and we now have in heaven the MAN CHRIST JESUS.

As I have said before, only a man can mediate between God and a man. A man can not mediate between God and a horse.

Jesus could not mediate between God and Man until He became a man. The GOD-MAN.

He not only had to come to earth as a man, He had to take that Man body back to heaven.

More later.