

THE ONLY MAN-MADE THING IN HEAVEN Studies in the Revelation

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy,
and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.
Revelation 1:3

“And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the
words of the prophecy of this book.”
Revelation 22:7

THE PRESENT DIVINE CONTRAST:

Question:

Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age?

Answer:

Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

Reason:

For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

Contrast:

For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ (1) the power of God and (2) the wisdom of God.

Reason:

Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Personal Application:

For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;

His Purpose:

but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God.

1 Corinthians 1:20-29

THE FUTURE DIVINE CONTRAST:

The Lion and the Root (strength and power):

Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it; and one of the elders said to me, “Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.”
Revelation 5:4-5

The Lion from the tribe of Judah:

“Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father’s sons shall bow down to you. Judah is a lion’s whelp; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He couches (or bows down), he lies down as a lion, and as a lion, who dares rouse him up? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes, and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.”
Genesis 49:8-10

The Root of David:

Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, the spirit of (1) wisdom and (2) understanding, the spirit of (3) counsel and (4) strength, the spirit of (5) knowledge and the (6) fear of the Lord.
Isaiah 11:1-2

The Lamb as if slain:

And I saw between the throne with the four living creatures and the elders a Lamb (what) standing, (appearance) as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth.
Revelation 5:6

I gave My back to those who strike Me, and My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting.
Isaiah 50:6

Behold, My servant will prosper, He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted. Just as many were astonished at you, My people, so His appearance was marred more than any man and His form more than the sons of men.
Isaiah 52:13-14

Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of parched ground; He has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him. He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.
Isaiah 53:1-3

The familiar, prophetic words of Isaiah:

Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth.

Isaiah 53:4-7

The men on the road to Emmaus:

When He had reclined at the table with them, He took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He began giving it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. They said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?" And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them, saying, "The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon." They began to relate their experiences on the road and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread.

Luke 24:30-35

The disciples at an early morning fire:

Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." So when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put his outer garment on for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. But the other disciples came in the little boat, for they were not far from the land, but about one hundred yards away, dragging the net full of fish. So when they got out on the land, they saw a charcoal fire already laid and fish placed on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have now caught." Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples ventured to question Him, "Who are You?" (why knowing that it was the Lord). Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and the fish likewise. This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead.

John 21:7-15

All I Need

I did not catch her name
I did not catch her tears
but they hit me like a train
when her story hit my ears
mother of eight sons
father off to war

got no home address
just bricks on a dirt floor
she said Jesus is all I need

tiny plot of land
corn stored up in piles
the years it doesn't rain
they just stay hungry for a while
no fatted calf to kill
she made a feast of cuy and corn
said who else knew my name before
the day that I was born
Jesus is all I need
Jesus is all I need

she bragged about her boys
how they're growing into men
how they learned to praise the Lord
old style Ecuadorian
but to buy the new guitar
we had to sell the swine
see my boys go to school on a foreign angel's dime

this world calls me poor
I bore my babies on this floor
but He always provides
sure as the sun will rise
so I sing Him songs of praise
'cause I know He keeps me in His gaze

rain fell from the sky
we raced back to the van
tears in the eyes
of this poor forgetful man
mother of eight sons
she knows the peace of God
Lord, help me learn to lean on
Thy staff and Thy rod

Jesus is all I need
Jesus is all I need
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