

The Book of Genesis

Genesis 3:8-13

“A Look at the Person and Work of the Second Adam”

John 7:25-46

A Complimentary Message to The Book of Genesis

Sunday 22 March 2020
Glenvista Baptist Church

Genesis 3:8-13 ⁸ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹ He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹² The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

John 7:25-46 (ESV) ²⁵ Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore said, "Is not this the man whom they seek to kill?" ²⁶ And here he is, speaking openly, and they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Christ? ²⁷ But we know where this man comes from, and when the Christ appears, no one will know where he comes from." ²⁸ So Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple, "You know me, and you know where I come from? But I have not come of my own accord. He who sent me is true, and him you do not know. ²⁹ I know him, for I come from him, and he sent me." ³⁰ So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. ³¹ Yet many of the people believed in him. They said, "When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?" ³² The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about him, and the chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to arrest him. ³³ Jesus then said, "I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to him who sent me. ³⁴ You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come." ³⁵ The Jews said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we will not find him? Does he intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? ³⁶ What does he mean by saying, 'You will seek me and you will not find me,' and, 'Where I am you cannot come'?" ³⁷ On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" ³⁹ Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. ⁴⁰ When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This really is the Prophet." ⁴¹ Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? ⁴² Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" ⁴³ So there was a division among the people over him. ⁴⁴ Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. ⁴⁵ The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" ⁴⁶ The officers answered, "No one ever spoke like this man!"

Introduction

- a) **In our previous exposition (Gen 2:25 – Gen 3:7) we looked at the disastrous consequences of disobedience. We saw the First Adam fall from grace. Yet prior to his disobedience all was in perfect harmony with the glory of God.** Seven days of creation and all was done, all was perfect. The glory of God seen in unparalleled splendour, majestic brightness and overall grandeur. Man has now a companion for himself; one after the likeness of God and in so many ways so much like him as well. A companion in whom he delights and with whom he now can share the beauty and brilliance of all that God has made. All things in heaven and on earth testified to the goodness and greatness of God. Everything Adam and Eve could see was irrefutable proof of the power and honor of God. The earth and all that was made was full of God's praise. God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature (Rom 1) – were clearly seen, and could be understood from what God had made, and therefore the first man and woman on planet earth was completely and utterly without excuse. And even though the serpent was whispering in Eve's ear telling her lies, the whole of creation was testifying to the truth. And in so doing the love of God was all around Eve, even though the crafty serpent was tempting her.
- b) At this stage, before the Fall, Adam and Eve had listened only to God. There were no other voices; there were no other influences. Up until this point God has provided everything Adam and Eve had needed and now in the Garden a test of their loyalty to God arises. And their conscious decision to disobey God has disastrous consequences on Adam and Eve, on their relationship with God, on all who will come from their seed and on all of creation. **Destruction, disaster and death enters upon the disobedience of the first man and his wife.**
- c) In order to have a better comprehension of the contrast the Scriptures paint between the First and the Second Adam, in terms of their works and their persons, and in order for us to understand the extent of our depravity in the First Adam, we need to have a comprehension of the Person and Works of the Second Adam, to understand the greatness of salvation which is found in Christ alone. As much as we have read **Genesis 3:8-13** we won't do an exposition of that text today, as this message will tie us over into **Genesis 3:8** which we will consider Lord willing next week. Today I want to take you on a birds eye view of the Scriptures teaching of the Person and Works of the Second Adam, and I want us to see what it took to undo the failures of the First Adam.
- d) I want us to consider some of the most fundamentally important truths the Bible teaches concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. We will learn this morning that the Lord Jesus Christ has 3 offices and that Christ has two natures. Then we will also learn that there is but One Person who is the Lord Jesus Christ.
- e) I want as a matter of overview to present you this morning with some of the most fundamental truths which make Christianity distinct in terms of its claims concerning the Lord Jesus Christ, and I trust that the Spirit of God will enable us to grasp these truths and that we will know what we believe and why we believe these things.
- f) The passage we have read from John's Gospel deals with the question: "Who is the Christ?" I don't plan on doing an exposition of the text we have read. I do though plan on answering the question of the text by looking widely at what the Scriptures teach pertaining this important question. So that's the question before us today: "Who is the Christ? Who is this Second Adam and what has He done?"

Point 1 – “Three Fundamental Points to Remember about Christ”

a) The first essential point then that I want to bring to your attention as we ask ourselves who the Lord Jesus Christ is, is that **He essentially occupies 3 essential offices:**

- Let's then go back to Adam as we start out this morning. I need you to see that Adam in the Garden of Eden prior to the Fall was a prophet, priest and a king. Let me explain: Adam was a prophet; he had a clear mind. Adam was a priest; he had a pure heart. Adam was a king; he had a right will. If this does not make any sense yet, then keep listening. **¹Adam was a prophet in the sense that as he looked at creation he could understand it.** He knew the truth about what God had done. He walked with the God who had made this world. He understood the truth about the creatures and about the plants and about the way this world operates. He could think God's thoughts after Him. His mind was clear and if there had been anybody to ask Adam, he would have been able every time to convey to them accurately God's truth. In that sense Adam was a prophet. **²But not only did he have a clear mind; he had a pure heart. Everything Adam did was an act of pure worship unto God.** The whole of that man's being was taken up with God. He approached God; there was no barrier between him and God; he prayed to God; he enjoyed God; everything he did, he did for God. The whole of Adam's life before the fall was God-ward; and in that sense he was a priest. **³There was no higher creature on this planet other than Adam and walking with God as he understood, Adam ruled this universe. And in that sense Adam was a king.** In Adam then you see a prophet, a priest and a king. But Adam fell, and you never again, until the second Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ, see these offices simultaneously operating in one man. Adam, when sinless, was a prophet, priest and king to God's creation.
- These 3 offices were prominent in the Old Testament, but all three were never found again in one person. Subsequent to Adam, it is only the Lord Jesus Christ that exercises all three these offices in One Person.

- **Fundamental Truth #1:** The Last Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ, exercises all three:
- On earth:

– As **Prophet** He spoke through all the prophets, and came Himself as God's final revelation to men (1 Peter 1:10-12; Hebrews 1:1-2)

1 Peter 1:10-12 **“Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.”**

Hebrews 1:1-2 **“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.”**

– As **Priest** He made the one final and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of His people (Hebrews 9:11-12; 10:14)

Hebrews 9:11-12 **“But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.”**

- As **King** He held together the world He had made, and often displayed this kingship (Colossians 1:17; Mark 4:35-41)

Colossians 1:17 “And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

- In heaven:

- As **Prophet** He sends His Spirit to lead His people into the truth (John 16:7,13)

John 16:7, 13 “Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”

- As **Priest** He applies the benefits of His sacrifice to His people, and intercedes for them (1 Thessalonians 1:4-10; Hebrews 7:25)

Hebrews 7:25 “Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.”

- As **King** He exercises all authority in heaven and earth, subduing sinners to Himself, ruling and defending his church, and hastening the end when all His enemies will be put down. (Matthew 28:18-20; John 14:7-11; Ephesians 4:15; John 10:27-20; 2 Timothy 4:18; 1 Corinthians 15:25)

Matthew 28:18-20 “And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

1 Corinthians 15:25 “For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.”

- b) **Fundamental Truth #2:** Notice then also that as the Lord Jesus Christ occupies 3 offices, the consistent teaching of the Bible is that **He exists in two natures:**

The Lord Jesus Christ is God

- His life did not begin when he was born (John 8:58)

John 8:58 “Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.”

- He is given divine titles (Isaiah 40:3; John 1:19-34; Hebrews 1:8; 1 John 5:20)

Isaiah 40:3 “A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

1 John 5:20 “And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.”

- He has divine attributes (Isaiah 44:6; Revelation 22:13)

Revelation 22:13 “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

Isaiah 44:6 “Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: “I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.”

- He does divine works (John 1:3,10; Colossians 1:16-17)

John 1:3 "All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made."

Colossians 1:16-17 "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. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

- He is given divine worship (Hebrews 1:8; John 20:26-29; Revelation 5)

Hebrews 1:8 "But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the sceptre of uprightness is the sceptre of your kingdom."

John 20:26-29 "Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

The Lord Jesus Christ is Man

- He became man without ceasing to be God (John 1:1-3,14; 1 John 1:1-3)

John 1:1-3 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made."

1 John 1:1-3 "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life--the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us--that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ."

- He was born of a human mother (Luke 2:6-7; Galatians 4:4)

Luke 2:6-7 "And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."

- He was revealed in human form (Philippians 2:7-8; Romans 8:3)

Romans 8:3 "For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh..."

- He had a body, soul, will and affections (Hebrews 2:14-17; Matthew 26:38-39)

Hebrews 2:14-17 "Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people."

- He knew tiredness, thirst, tears (John 4:6-7; 11:35)

John 4:6-7 "Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."

John 11:35 "Jesus wept."

- He remained man after His resurrection (Luke 24:36-43; Acts 1:11)

Acts 1:11 "...and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

- He is a Man today, and will be forever (1 Timothy 2:5; Philippians 2:9-11)

1 Timothy 2:5 "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus..."

c) **Fundamental Truth #3:** And the final essential element concerning the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ is that **He exists in one person:**

- Christ's two natures are entirely distinct – they do not mix, merge reduce, dissolve, change, or run into each other. Do not for one moment think that because he was God that He therefore was not fully man. Also do not make the error of thinking that because He was man that the fullness of God could not dwell in His manhood. No! In His humanity all of the fullness of God indwelt Him. A mystery the human mind cannot fully fathom; yet a Truth Scripture is abundantly clear on.
- There are not Christ's, but One only.
- He is but one Person, and is always spoken of as such.
- It is because of this that such statements as Acts 20:28 are possible

Acts 20:28 "Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood."

You see, the person who purchased the Church is God. How did He purchase the Church? With blood! It is ONLY because He is One Person with two natures that in the same breath the apostle Paul can speak of that One Person as God who shed blood.

- The Person who purchased the Church is both God and Man
- Because He is but one Person in two natures, we may (in the same breath) speak of Him as God, and as shedding human blood (Acts 20:28; Romans 9:5)

Romans 9:5 "To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen."

You see here. Paul emphasizes this One Christ who came in flesh as God. A great singular truth on which all of Christianity hinges; and yet a truth which causes men to stumble.

d) I need you to see that unless we believe and teach these truths concerning the Lord Jesus Christ, we cannot claim to be a Christian Church. As we clearly saw that the Lord Jesus Christ occupies 3 offices, it suffices to say that any church, which does not exemplify and honor all three those offices of the Lord Jesus Christ cannot claim to be a Christian Church.

- We honor Christ as our Prophet when the Church faithfully preaches His Word. A Church that does not faithfully preach His Word is a church that is deprived of the prophetic ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ and as such cannot claim to be a Christian Church.

- We honor the Lord Jesus Christ by exalting His Priestly Office. In the Old Testament the Priest served the people of God by being their representative before God. The Priestly Office of Christ is held up high as the Church exercises the two sacraments, which the Lord Jesus Christ gave unto us. It is in the practice of the Lord's Supper and in Baptism that this is so clearly seen.
- And then finally we honor the Lord Jesus Christ by exalting His Kingly office when the Church exercises His rule and cares for its people both by means of teaching and encouragement but also by means of church discipline. It is in this that the rule of the King is faithfully exercised amongst a body of believers.

Conclusion:

- a) In conclusion then this morning: this is the truth of the Gospel about Jesus Christ; one God in three persons with three distinct offices; 2 distinct natures; yet one person.
- b) Can this then be the Christ?? Yes indeed! This is He whom came to undo the works of the First Adam. In Him, the Second Adam is life. Life everlasting for all who believe.
- c) **From innocence to guilt. From joy to gloom. From intimacy to separation. From fearlessness to fear. From freedom to bondage.** And beloved the full extent of the Fall can only properly be understood when we understand the full extent and the length God the Father had to go to, to undo the effects of the Fall of our forefather Adam. It took the work of the Second Adam to bring home to us the complete extent of our downfall in the First Adam.
- d) What will you do dear friend? Will you believe? Or will you laugh and mock? Remember though whichever way you go, there will be eternal consequences. Turn to Him, Christ the Second Adam.

Amen!

Soli Deo Gloria

Glenvista Baptist Church – 22 March 2020