

Did Jesus Understand that He Was the Adam?

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In the Gospels, Jesus, during his ministry, is referred to as the Son of Man, the Son of God, and the Messiah. St Paul clearly knew that, as such, Jesus came as the "last Adam." He understood that since it was a man, Adam, who brought death into the world, it must be another man who brings resurrection from the death. Paul says: "Christ Jesus, himself man, who sacrificed himself to win freedom for all mankind, so providing, at the fitting time, proof of the divine purpose." However, Paul who elsewhere states the crucifixion was not God's will-"None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory"-is not plain about how Jesus could actually provide "proof of the divine purpose."

Jesus, as the Messiah, knew that he was not fulfilling his role by being crucified, and prayed for the Jews, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." As the Messiah, he came to fulfill the prophecies, but since, as he said, he came to bring the Kingdom, that meant fulfilling the prophecies for a glorious Messiah: "King of Kings and Lord of Lords." Isaiah had said, "the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called 'Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'" To complete his mission as Messiah meant that he would sit on the throne of David and rule the house of Jacob forever, but first, to become 'Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father' meant being the restored Adam, who should have been the Everlasting Father of mankind. Therefore, to provide "proof of the divine purpose," Jesus intended to complete what the first Adam had left undone. To be in a position to do this, condition first had to be made to reverse the consequences of the original sin; thus Jesus himself was born free of original sin because of the indemnity that had been paid in his lineage-he said that he and the Father were one.

To proceed as Adam, the Cain and Abel relationship was to have been resolved through John the Baptist humbly following Jesus. Instead of this, when Jesus was baptized by John, the latter continued to take a position apart from him. Jesus said, "He who is least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he." However, Jesus cannot have completely given up hope for John, after all, Jacob worked twenty-one years

before he was reconciled with Esau. Wouldn't John realize what Jesus was doing? But John really got himself imprisoned and finally executed, and with great sadness it relates in the Bible, "When he had heard what had happened, Jesus withdrew privately by boat to a lonely place."

Another qualification Jesus needed to complete the role of Adam was that he should be Lord over creation, spirit world and physical. Otherwise it would be practically impossible to be Everlasting Father for the whole of mankind. Jesus was therefore able to feed the world physically and spiritually as shown by the miracles of feeding the multitudes and bringing them the Good News of the Kingdom. A true father provides for and cares for his children. Matthew tells how Jesus was often moved to pity and drove spirits out of people as well as healing illness and disease. All this was as prophesied of the Messiah.

To be Lord over spirit world and physical world, Jesus had confronted Satan, who has held this physical world since the Fall, during his forty day fast in the desert. Jesus there overcame Satan on three tests. Tempted to relieve his hunger by turning stone into bread, Jesus replied, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." Satan then put in question that he was the reality of the temple. Jesus replied, "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord Thy God." Satan then offered him the kingdoms of the world; Jesus said, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve." As well as prevailing over Satan and reclaiming Lordship over the creation, Jesus symbolically was restoring the base of four positions: Himself, the Word, the Temple, and the World. This leads us to Jesus' understanding of the fullness of Adam's position. Namely, that the divine purpose was to bless Adam and Eve in a perfect marriage, and so fulfill the fundamental base of four positions, the family unit centered upon God.

From his descriptions of the Kingdom of Heaven, we can clearly see Jesus' intention to take a bride. His very first miracle was to turn water into wine at the marriage feast at Cana, symbolizing new life-blood for marriages. He said the Kingdom of Heaven was like a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, and another time told of the ten virgins who went out to meet the bridegroom. When disciples of John the Baptist came to him with the question, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not?" Jesus replied, "Can you expect the bridegroom's friends to go mourning while the bridegroom is with them?"

Since the establishment of the Kingdom hinged upon Jesus being blessed and being able to find others to bless in divine marriage, he spoke of the urgency of his mission and often showed his anxiety to have followers who were ready and prepared for his work. Since their initial fulfillment would have precipitated the final judgement on earth two thousand years ago, Jesus often spoke of the imminence of the end times and the trial of those days. He did not spare his words in saying of those who rejected his apostles "on the day of judgement it will be more bearable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town." There is a great immediacy in his words. He said, "There is nothing covered up that will not be uncovered, nothing hidden that will not be made known," and did not spare telling Peter one time, "Away with you Satan, you are a stumbling block to me. You think as men think not as God thinks." From the sense of urgency in his work, his frustration with his followers, with marriage being so often on his mind, and from his fatherly concern for people, We can see Jesus knew only too well he had to fulfill the role of Adam and establish true parenthood for mankind.