

The Wonders of Him Whose Name Is Wonderful

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Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Introduction:

This classic passage is one of the most complete—yet concise overviews of Christ found anywhere in the Bible. In just these seven verses we see His deity, incarnation, earthly ministry, death, and future exaltation. This is truly a doctrinally-packed passage. I cannot think of seven other New Testament verses that so thoroughly encapsulate the Person of Christ and His ministry. It is on these verses that we will center our attention.



These verses take us to both ends of time. Verse 6 takes us back to the very beginning! Before this world ever existed, Jesus existed as the Alpha—the Beginning. There was never a time when God did not exist, He is the eternal One. In eternity past, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit existed! *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”* And, when we get to verses 9 through 11, we see Christ at the end of time as the Omega. Alpha—Omega, this is like saying Christ is our A—Z. I’ve prepared the following list to exalt our great God:

He is **almighty** in power; He is **beautiful** in holiness; He is **compassionate** of heart; He is **dependable** in keeping His promises; He is **eternal** in His nature; He is **forgiving** of all; He is **gracious** to the undeserving; He is **holy, holy, holy**; He is **infinite** in wisdom; He is **just** in His dealings; He is **kind** unto His children; He is **longsuffering** toward sinners; He is **merciful** to the broken in spirit; He is **near** to all who call upon Him; He is the **omnipotent, omnipresent** and **omniscient** God; He is **providential**—always in control; He is a **quickening** Spirit—giving life to all and eternal life to those who trust Jesus Christ, and one day will call all forth from their graves; He is **royal** and clothed in majesty; He is **sovereign** over all earthly powers; He is **trustworthy** at all times; He is the **unchanging** God; He is **victorious** over all His enemies; He is **worthy** of all praise & worship; He is **exalted** upon His throne; He is **your** God by faith in Jesus Christ; and He is **zealous** to protect His name and perform His program.

Someone has said that history is His Story. History has its beginning in Jesus Christ, and history's final hour will have Jesus Christ as the focus—He will be in the spotlight throughout eternity, and His radiant glory will brighten the corners of heaven, the celestial city.

When dealing with Christ, we are not dealing with a mere man. Yes, He was a man, but He was the God-Man, Immanuel—God with us. This name, Immanuel, comes from a prophecy in Isaiah 7:14. Another famous prophecy from Isaiah gives us five names for Christ: Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace. (9:6) **This portion of Scripture here in Philippians 2 shows us four wonders of Jesus, the One Who is Wonderful.** In our time together we will look at these four wonders of Him Who is Wonderful.

“Dear God, exalting your Son is our purpose today. Help me to do all I can to lift Him high before these people. May your Holy Spirit fill me and use me to magnify the Lord Jesus Christ. May this wonderful passage of Scripture come alive through preaching and the blessing of the Holy Spirit upon those who hear and read this message. In the name of Your precious Son, I pray. Amen.”

WONDER # One:

1. His Co-Equality with the Tri-unity **—the Supreme Sovereign**

Verse 6

Notice that I chose the word Tri-unity, rather than Trinity. The only difference is the dash and the letter “u”, but I like the difference. The Great Three in One! Our focus is Jesus Christ in this message. But, for just a moment let's address the Trinity, or Tri-unity. Entire books have been written on this Biblical subject—though the word, “trinity,” does not appear in the Bible one time. There are multiplied dozens of Bible references that point to the Tri-unity of God. Let me give you just 3 instances:

- At Christ's baptism in Matthew 3, the Father speaks from heaven, the Spirit of God descends in the form of a dove, and Christ—the Son—stands in the water about to be immersed.
- When Christ gave the Great Commission in Matthew 28, He commanded us to go and teach (disciple) all nations—baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. (v. 19)
- Paul the Apostle closes one of his epistles with these words: *“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.”* (2 Corinthians 13:14)

He Was Holy Perfection

In His “pre-incarnate” state He was absolute, holy perfection. When Isaiah saw the Lord high and lifted up in chapter six, Isaiah told of the cherubim around God’s throne worshipping with these words: “*And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*” (v.3) Listen to this cross-reference that refers to the worship of the Lamb of God, the resurrected Christ: “*And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.*” Revelation 4:8 Each member of the trinity is being praised!

Human vocabulary is totally inadequate to describe the pre-incarnate wonder of Him Who is called Wonderful. Christ dwelt in spirit form with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. He did not take the form of a man until He was developing in Mary’s womb. Jesus said in John 4:24, “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

- He is the Ever-existing One, knowing no beginning and no ending
- He is the totally righteous Holy One
- He is the Almighty God—the Creator of heaven and earth
- He is Omnipresent, Omnipotent and Omniscient
- He is Immutable—unchanging

WONDER # 2:

2. His Condescension in Humility Verse 7 —the Selfless Servant

The verb “condescend” has two primary and different meanings: 1) “come down willingly or graciously to the level of one’s inferiors in rank” 2) “grant a favor with a haughty or patronizing attitude.” Of course, definition # 1 is what we are seeing here in Philippians 2.

He Was A Humble Pattern

- The God of Mankind became the God-Man
- The Infinite God became Immanuel
- The Lofty One became the Lowly One
- The Universe’s Greatest Sovereign became the World’s Greatest Servant
- The Prince became a Pauper
- The Holy God became the Humble Servant

Illustration: The Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina, was built in the early 1900's and was occupied by only three residents, Mr. & Mrs. George Washington Vanderbilt III and their daughter, Cornelia. This 250 room mansion had dozens of guest bedrooms for their many guests from the aristocracy of their day. Donna and I toured this magnificent home in the fall of 2003, and were amazed at the craftsmanship and elegance of every room the tour took us through. One fact I learned completely stunned me! It said on the audio tour that the Vanderbilts had 80 employees to meet their every need. How unlike the Son of God, Who came as a servant!



Listen to the following verses on His humble, servant's heart: "And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." Luke 9:58

MATTHEW 20:25-28—But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

He was our Humble Pattern:

1 Peter 2:21—"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, **leaving us an example**, that ye should follow his steps:"

LET'S REVIEW: We've seen two wonders thus far of Him Whose Name is Wonderful—

1. His Co-Equality with the Tri-unity
—the Supreme Sovereign
His Holy Perfection

2. His Condescension in Humility
—the Selfless Servant
He was our Humble Pattern

WONDER # 3

3. His Crucifixion for Humanity
—the Sacrificial Savior

The Sinless One became the Sin Bearer/ The Creator of all life became the Crucified One/ The Lord became the Lamb/ The Law-giver became the Law-keeper/ The Judge of all earth was held in Judgment

He was the Highest Payment

- The flawless payment
- The full payment
- The final payment
- The forgiving payment

Countless verses could be cited to verify these four descriptions I have listed for you. Let me give just a few references:

It was a flawless payment: 2 Corinthians 5:21—“*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*” Pilate announced, “*I find no fault in him.*” (John 19:6) Judas bitterly cried, “*I have betrayed innocent blood.*” (Matthew 27:4) 1 Peter 1:18 and 19 tell us, “*Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*”

It was a full payment: 1 John 2:2—“*And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*” Hebrews 2:9—“*But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*” **Full atonement, how can it be. Halleluiah, What a Savior.**

It was a final payment: John 19:30—“*When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*”

Hebrews 7:26,27—“*For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people’s: **for this he did once, when he offered up himself.***” (Emphasis mine)

It was a forgiving payment: Isaiah 53:5—“*But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*” Ephesians 1:7—“*In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*” (Emphasis mine)

My friend, have you realized that if you don’t accept His flawless, full, final and forgiving payment for your sins—that you will have to pay for them yourself. The wages of sin is death, according to Romans 6:23. This death is not just physical death, but also involves spiritual and eternal death away from God forever. The Bible even speaks of the “second death,” which is standing before God at the Great White Throne Judgment and being sentenced by Christ to the Lake of Fire, which is

the second death. (Revelation 20:11-15) Come to Christ and experience the new birth spoken of in John 3. Someone has said, **“If you are born twice (your natural birth and the spiritual, new birth), you only have to die once; but if you are only born once, you will have to die twice (and experience the Lake of Fire).”** May God’s Holy Spirit wake you to your need of a Savior—One Who has provided such an amazing payment for your sins.

Wonder # 4

4. His Coronation in Majesty Verses 9-11 —the Seated Sovereign

9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Someday all will bow before the Lord Jesus Christ. He is high and lifted up and sitting upon a throne! We must distinguish which throne we are talking about. **From my study of the Word of God, I see Christ seated—at different times—on three different thrones:**

- Now, Christ is seated on the right hand of the Father on the Throne of Grace in heaven. (Hebrews 4:16)
- During the Millennium, He will be on David’s throne in Jerusalem. (Isaiah 9:7—*“Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”* and Revelation 20:1-6)
- Ultimately, He will be on the Great White Throne in heaven—Revelation 20:11-15.



On this throne...

He Will Have the Heathen’s Praise

I believe this passage in Isaiah 5 is fulfilled here in Revelation 20. *“Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it. And the mean man shall be brought down, and the mighty man shall be humbled, and the eyes of the lofty shall be humbled: but the LORD of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness.”* (vs. 14-16)

Have you ever given any thought to when every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord?! I believe with all my heart that Philippians 2:9-11 are fulfilled in this passage in Revelation 20:11-15. It is the only time in all of human history when all of humanity is assembled! All the saved of all the ages are with the Lord at this time, and now Christ (the Resurrection and the Life) summons all the lost of all the ages from death (the grave) and hell. There will be no atheists, agnostics or skeptics at the Great White Throne Judgment. All the unsaved of every millennium will acknowledge that the One sitting on the throne is none other than God! And, along with those who are saved, they will bow the knee to the Lord Jesus Christ. Their names will not appear in the Lamb's Book of Life and they will be sentenced to the Lake of Fire, but they will first acknowledge Christ's Lordship!

Seated upon His throne:

- He Is Highly Exalted
- He Is Above All Other Names
- He Is Worthy Of Universal Worship
- He Is the Conquering King
- He Is the Righteous Judge

John 5:22—*“For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:”* Genesis 18:25b—*“...Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”*

- All enemies will be under His feet

Listen to these verses about Christ's enemies being His footstool:

- Hebrews 1:13—*“But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?”*
- Psalms 110:1 *“The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.”*
- Hebrews 10:13—*“From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.”*

Let's list those enemies—all will be under His feet on that glorious day:

- Sin, the Anti-Christ and false prophet (Rev. 19:20)
- The Devil (Rev. 20:10)
- Death (the grave) and Hell: Rev. 20:14 Also, 1 Corinthians 15:26

We “kick back” in our Lazy Boy recliner—and the built-in ottoman footstool supports our feet. We rest from our labor. Christ’s work was accomplished on the Cross, but the total fruit of that work will be realized here in Revelation 20. All will be under His feet!! He’ll have His feet up! His enemies will be His footstool.

** Not one mistake will be made in God’s record book. The Lamb’s Book of Life is a flawless, infallible record of the redeemed! Are you in that Book? If you are in that Book, you will bow in adoration and appreciation on that day. **If your name does not appear in the Lamb’s Book of Life, you will bow—not before your Redeeming Lamb, but before the Roaring Lion! He will say, “Depart from me, I never knew you.”**

The greatest joy in life is knowing Him Whose Name is Wonderful! Come to Him and experience **His Wonder**—do not reject Him and one day experience **His Wrath!**

1. His Co-Equality with the Tri-unity Verse 6

—the Supreme Sovereign **He was Holy Perfection**

2. His Condescension in Humility Verse 7

—the Selfless Servant **He was a Humble Pattern**

3. His Crucifixion for Humanity Verse 8

—the Sacrificial Savior **He was the Highest Payment**

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Blessed be His name!