

Jesus the Man Part 1

By

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When you look at the time of temptation of Jesus by Satan, you have a fundamental question you must first ask. Was Jesus our Messiah a man or was he God? Hebrews 2:18 in the NASB says: “**For since He Himself was tempted in that which He suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.**” The whole temptation itself takes on a different light depending on what it is you believe about that question. This very idea of defining Jesus as man or God was argued and debated for over 400 years until at the council of Chalcedon came out with the Chalcedonian Creed. We were left with the dual nature of Jesus both wholly man and wholly God. But does that help us or hinder our understanding of who Jesus was. How does the whole temptation of Jesus teach us anything if He was not truly man?

I would like you to think a little differently about this. In order to do so we have to go back to the first man....Adam. Adam was created without sin but with the ability to choose. God’s original plan was for mankind to live a perfect life of obedience to Him. The one and only catch to all of this was the prohibition of eating from the tree of knowledge. To understand who the first Adam is we need to look elsewhere and to some in a strange place, Ezekiel chapter 4.

¹¹The word of the Lord came to me: ¹²“Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says:’ ‘You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: carnelian, chrysolite and emerald, topaz, onyx and jasper, lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl.^[b]Your settings and mountings^[c] were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. ¹⁴You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. ¹⁵You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. ¹⁶Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. ¹⁷Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings. ¹⁸By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. ¹⁹All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.’”

The prophet here gives us a Midrash on Adam. Remember a Midrash is a rabbinic way and technique of investigating connections, drawing conclusions from a set of writings not necessarily connected to the topic to reveal deeper insights into something else. Here these verses while addressed to the King of Tyre they give us a deeper insight into Adam. It tells us of Adam, the one who had it all **verse 15 you were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.** This Midrash says that Adam was a cherub. What is a cherub? What do they do? Well we have pictures of their tasks, they guarded the entrance to the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve were kicked out. They guard or cover the Mercy seat in the Holy of Holies.

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John writes of them in the Book of Revelation. In other words they are the guardians of righteousness and Adam according to Ezekiel was supposed to play that role. Look at verse 17, **your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth;** what was Adam's sin, it was idolatry. Adam served the serpent and believed his lies rather than fulfilling the role he was designed to play. He listened to the voice of the serpent rather than the voice of God.

Romans 5:19 **For as through one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the one many will be made righteous.** The very first act of the Messiah before He begins the ministry that God intended was to conquer where the First Adam failed. Equipped exactly like Adam he made the choice to not listen to the lies of Satan but to believe the words of God. He makes it very clear He is doing this when it says **"it is written"**

While we depend and trust in the One that gave us life because of His sinless life, do we strive to honor that sacrifice by living as best we can **"as it is written"**?