

**WHAT IF GOD
BECAME A MAN!**

George L. Faulk

As a child He aroused jealousy in a king, though He was born in an insignificant little village to an innocent, poor young maiden. Though He grew up in another ignoble village, as a youth He perplexed the doctors of theology. Raised as a carpenter's son, history records nothing of His deeds as a young man. At the age of 30 He began His miraculous ministry by changing water into wine. It is significant that since that first miracle He has been transforming men and changing wine into water. He made the blind to see, the lame to leap, the deaf to hear; the captive He set free. He never was over 175 miles from His birthplace. He never attended a college, yet thousands of colleges bear His name. He never wrote a book, but no library can contain the volumes which have been written of Him. He never made a record, yet hundreds of records praise His name. He never wrote a song, yet those songs in His honor are innumerable whether sung by men or angels. He never was in a big city, yet myriads of big cities contain as many buildings in His honor as Bethlehem had houses. He never practiced law, yet He sets the prisoner free. He never practiced medicine, yet He heals us of our diseases. He never practiced psychology, yet He grants peace as no other can. He never commanded an army nor bore a sword, yet no general ever

marshalled or drafted an army which has so changed the course of history as His volunteer soldiers. He never held a political office, but men recognize Him as the King of kings. He never set up pickets or led a revolt or staged a demonstration, yet His views are internationally known.

He accomplished all these things though He was born in a cattle stall. He preached from a borrowed boat. He rode on a borrowed ass. He met with His disciples in a borrowed room. When He visited Bethany, He was guest in the room of Lazarus whom He raised from the dead. He borrowed a coin for an illustration. He had only a garment to His name. When He was taken after being betrayed by a friend, denied by His followers, forsaken by His disciples and crucified by His enemies, they laid Him in a borrowed tomb. In birth, in life, in death, He never had anywhere to lay His head.

Universally, millions gather each first day of the week to sing His praises, to hear His words proclaimed, to pray to God in His name and to commune with Him in His memorial feast. They obey His ordinances, rest in His promises, heed His warnings and practice His teachings.

To the botanist He is the True Vine. To the astronomer He is the Bright and Morning Star. To the geologist He is the

Rock of Ages. To the zoologist He is the Lion and the Lamb. To the physicist He upholds all things by the word of His power. To the traveler He is the Way. To the seeker He is the Truth. To the dying He is Life.

Although almost two millennia have passed since He walked upon this earth, He continues to heal, bind, soothe and challenge. Other great men have lived and died, but He is still alive and influencing. Kings could not destroy Him. Satan could not decoy Him. Death could not enjoy Him. He is the Center-piece of history. All before Him desired Him, sought for Him, longed for Him, and now that He has come and done His work, time is dated from His birth. He is Bread for the hungry, water for the thirsty and Rest for the weary.

When one stops to consider this Man, he sees that this One has done more for this world than all the kings of the earth who have ever given their edicts, all the military leaders who have ever shouted their commands, all the educators who have delivered lessons, all the scientists who have given philosophies, all the orators who have spoken messages, all the courts who have given judgments, all the senates who have enacted laws and all the law enforcement officials who have enforced those laws. Indeed these have done good only so far as they

have molded their thoughts and actions toward Him. He has so influenced the world that we must believe that He is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

What if God became a man? Have you ever thought of that question? If God did become a man what would you expect? Surely we would expect these ten things:

1. He would be unique in His birth.
2. He would be the centerpiece of all history.
3. He would be sinless.
4. He would do the greatest wonders ever done.
5. He would speak the most profound words ever uttered.
6. He would demonstrate, the attributes of God.
7. He would be unique in His exit from the world.
8. He would leave behind enthusiastic disciples who would seek to change the world to His desires.
9. He would leave behind memorials of His having been here.
10. He would surely return again to reward the obedient and punish the disobedient.

Consider the Man: Jesus of Nazareth

1. Jesus was unique in His birth. Prophets foretold His birth! He was born of

a virgin! His birth was announced by angels! Kings from the East came to see the new born Babe! A star led this procession to where He lay! A jealous king sought to destroy Him! His father was warned in a dream to take the Babe away to flee the king's slaughter! These signs show his Birth to be unique indeed!

2. Jesus is the centerpiece of history. We date our calendars from His Birth. The initials B.C. and A.D. are testimony to His actual existence on earth. Those before Him all looked forward to His coming and what He would do. Today men look backward to what He did. He is the centerpiece of all history.

3. Jesus was sinless. He is called a just man by his enemies. His accusers needed false witnesses. His judge said he found no fault in Him. He who died with Him said, "This man has done nothing amiss." He says of himself "which of you can convict me of sin." He is a lamb without spot or blemish. He was tempted in all points as we are, yet He was without sin.

4. Jesus did the greatest wonders ever done. He had power over nature's elements. He had power over demons. He had power over disease. He had power over death, yes even His own death. He never met a funeral procession He did not stop and raise the dead. He healed all manners of infirmities. He

was a man approved of God by miracles.

5. Jesus spoke the most profound words ever uttered. The beatitudes are unmatched for beauty, truth and goodness. No man could ensnare Him in His words. His words are simplest and yet the most profound words ever uttered. No man spake like this man spake. His words prick the conscience, convict the soul and judge the very intents of our heart.

6. Jesus demonstrated the attributes of God. He hates sin. He loves men. He is gentle and forgiving with the penitent outcast. He is merciful to those who want loose from sin's power. He speaks with disdain at self-righteous religious hypocrites. He is kind to children. He has no respect of persons. He is justice and mercy and love and kindness personified.

7. Jesus was unique in His exit from the world. While He was crucified between the two common thieves, darkness enveloped the land. The veil of the temple rent from top to bottom as He died. He arose from the dead and earth vomited up many dead bodies. He showed Himself, by many infallible truths, for forty days. He then ascended in the clouds of Heaven. His was indeed a unique exit from the earth.

8. Jesus left behind enthusiastic disciples who sought to change this

world to His desires. His apostles turned the world upside down. These were ordinary men but endowed with His unordinary power, authority and signs. His church changed the course of the world. His church is the salt which preserves this earth from corruption. His church is the light which has kept this earth from total darkness. His disciples are ambassadors who plead "**Be ye reconciled to God.**" They continue to do what He wants done in His world.

9. Jesus left behind memorials of His having been here. Jesus instituted His own memorial. Each Sunday thousands partake of His memorial feast. He told His disciples to eat and drink of the bread and cup in His memory. His church obeys this ordinance. It is His chief memorial, but each time one sees an assembly in His name it also stands as a memorial to His having been here. Each time one witnesses a baptism, one is reminded of His death, burial and resurrection. Each time one meets a Christian who loves another, it testifies God came; for He said, "**By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples because you love one another.**" Each changed and converted man testifies the Son of God has been on earth.

10. Jesus promised to come again. He promised it to His disciples, "**I will come again and receive you unto myself.**"

The angels promised it as He ascended when they said, "This same Jesus which is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven." The apostles promised it for Paul said, "And unto those that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation." The prophets promised it. Enoch said, "Behold the Lord cometh with ten thousand of His saints to execute judgment upon all and to convict all that are ungodly."

Jesus Is All In All

We heard about an old country preacher who was always preaching on baptism. He couldn't stay off of the subject. His elders decided to assign him his texts for his sermons. They told him to preach on the first chapter of Genesis. So he did. He pointed out that when the Lord made the earth, only one-fourth was land and three-fourths was water. He then proceeded to his favorite subject, by reminding the folk that there was plenty of water all over the earth to baptize anyone, anywhere.

Well, I'm a little like that old boy. I see Jesus on every page of the Bible. He is the centerpiece of all the Bible. Every book, every chapter, and every line seems to have us looking to Him. The Books of Law say, "Look for the coming Priest." The Books of History say,

"Look for the coming King. " The Books of Prophecy say, "Look for the coming Prophet. " The Books of Poetry say, "Look for the coming Redeemer." Yes, the Old Testament says, "The Messiah is coming." The Gospels say, "The Messiah is come." The Epistles say, "The Messiah is coming again. "

It's kind of like a young lady going to her fiance's house for dinner. After the meal is over and the dishes are done, the future mother-in-law sits down and shows the girl the family picture album. She says, "Here's Johnny at the age of one. Here is Johnny on his first tricycle. Here's Johnny on his first motorcycle and finally, here is Johnny in the hospital when he fell off his motorcycle." Seriously, as the girl is shown the pictures of her lover as he grew up and went through his childhood, so we Christians have been betrothed to Christ. The Bible offers some snapshots of Him Whom we have grown to love. As the young woman holds every picture of her "intended" precious and dear, so we should value these snapshots of our Lord.

Let's look at the snapshots of Christ in each of the Bible books. Keep in mind that our Lord said, "These are the words which I spoke unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses

and in the prophets, and in the Psalms concerning Me." Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures. (Luke 24:44-45) May these thoughts help you see the beautiful and wonderful Christ.

Christ Is:

Genesis-The Promised Seed, born of a woman, coming to save the world. Lineage limited to Shem (the race), to Abraham (the nation), and to Judah (the tribe).

Exodus-The Redeemer by the blood of the Passover Lamb.

Leviticus-The coming High Priest who offers a perfect sacrifice, and enters into the true tabernacle.

Numbers-The One who must be lifted up as the brazen serpent so men may look and be saved.

Deuteronomy-The Prophet like unto Moses, who will instruct us in the ways of God.

Joshua-The Captain of our salvation, who leads us into the promised land as did Joshua, (not Moses and the law, or Aaron and the priesthood, or Miriam and the prophets).

Judges-The delivering and avenging Judge who destroys those who oppress us.

Ruth-Our Kinsman who loves and redeems and weds us.

I & II Samuel; I & II Kings; I & II Chronicles-The Greater David, the Greater than Solomon, yes, the Perfect King who will rule in righteousness and equity.

Ezra-The Reformer who turns us back to true religion.

Nehemiah-The Restorer of faith's heritage and the Rebuilder of the walls of Zion, the City of God.

Esther-He who pleads for His people as an Advocate.

Job-Our Daysman and Advocate who pleads our case in the day of trouble.

Psalms-Our Joy and a Very Present Help in the time of trouble. The Shepherd who leads us.

Proverbs-Our Wisdom and a Friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

Ecclesiastes-The end of our quest for meaning for this life.

Song of Solomon-Our loving King who loves His bride and will come to take us to His Palace.

Isaiah-The Suffering Servant, who, being virgin born, is "God with us."

Jeremiah-The Righteous Branch out of David, who will rule in righteousness and justice. (Jeremiah 3:6). The Lord our Righteousness (Jeremiah 23:6).

Lamentations-He who weeps over those who sin. The Weeping Prophet.

Ezekiel-The Great Shepherd who will cause God's people to lie down in safety (34:23). The Glory of God.

Daniel-The Coming Messiah who will destroy kingdoms and build an Eternal Kingdom. The Fourth Man in the furnace who stands by the faithful.

Hosea-The Forgiving Husband who loved us while we were yet sinners.

Joel-The Hope and Strength of God's people and a Refuge in time of trouble. (He who is in the midst of Israel.)

Amos-The Rebuker of His people Woe, Woe.

Obadiah-The Avenger of our enemies and Savior of the Holy Remnant.

Jonah-The Prophet who was sent of God to warn all men. Died, was buried, and arose again on the third day to save men from coming judgment.

Micah-The Rejected Judge who still will rule the world (5:1-4).

Nahum-He who comforts us concerning our enemies and assures us of vengeance upon the evil.

Habakkuk-The Just Judge who executes wrath in righteousness, and promises the just shall live by their faith.

Zephaniah-The Coming King who remembers the faithful ones after Judgment.

Haggai-The Desire of all nations; He who will restore true worship in the true temple.

Zechariah-The Coming Branch who will be both Priest and King upon His throne. He is the Fountain open for

cleansing, and King over all the earth.

Malachi-The Messenger of the covenant, who purges men so they may offer themselves in righteousness (3:1-4). He is the Sun of Righteousness with healing in His wings.

Matthew-Christ the King, the Son of David-What He taught.

Mark-Christ the Priestly Servant-What He wrought.

Luke-Christ the Prophet, Son of man-What He thought.

John-Christ the Son of God-Whom He sought.

Acts-The Living Christ-By whose Spirit men fought.

Romans-Christ our Redeemer, "redemption in Christ"(3:24).

I Corinthians-Christ our Sanctifier, "sanctification in Christ" (1:2).

II Corinthians-Christ our Victor, "triumphing in Christ" (2:4).

Galatians-Christ our Liberator, "Liberty in Christ" (2:3).

Ephesians-Christ our All, "spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (1:3).

Philippians-Christ our Joy, "that your rejoicing may be more abundant in Christ" (1:26).

Colossians-Christ our Perfector, "complete in Him" (1:28).

I Thessalonians-Christ our Hope, "patience of hope in Christ" (1:3).

II Thessalonians-Christ our Coming Glory, "That Christ may be glorified in you and you in Him" (1:12).

I Timothy-Christ our Hope, "patience of hope in Christ" (1:14).

II Timothy-Christ an Example of Grace, follow Him (2:10).

Titus-Christ the Redeemer and Purifier of His people (2:14).

Philemon-Christ our Advocate who frees us from slavery.

Hebrews-The Superiority of Christ as Prophet, Priest and Sacrifice.

James-Christ the Doer of Righteousness (2:8).

I Peter-Christ the Chief Cornerstone (2:6).

II Peter-Godliness through the knowledge of Christ (1:3).

I John- Fellowship with God through Christ who is Light, Love, and Life.

II John-Abide in Christ.

III John-Share with Christ.

Jude-Christ, who presents us faultless (verse 24).

Revelation-Christ, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, is the " Reigning Lamb."

Yes, Jesus did all of these things, but consider further and see if you do not say with the soldier at this cross, "**Truly, this was the Son of God.**" Oh may you fall before the resurrected Christ and exclaim with Thomas, "**My Lord and my God.**"

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