



The Superiority of Jesus Christ Part 3: Made in the Likeness of men

In looking at the Superiority of Jesus Christ we continue to follow the order set out by Paul, the apostle, in the second chapter of his letter to the Philippians. As previously stated, it is this passage which ends *“For God has highly exalted Him and given Him a name above every name”*. That makes Jesus superior, and Philippians 2 gives the mind, the thinking and attitude and therefore the actions of Our Lord Jesus which brought Him to the place where God, His Father, could highly exalt Him.

We have seen, as we have progressed through the verses in Philippians, Jesus being equal with God and then emptying Himself, or making Himself of no reputation and then being in the form of a servant. Then we read, *“He was made in the likeness of men”*. In Colossians chapter one we read the confirmation, *“In Him dwelt all the fullness of God in a body”*. This shows the superiority of the Lord Jesus Christ as a man and must be seen and understood.

We have all four gospels which look at Jesus’ life on the earth, the words He spoke and the things He did. There are some verses in the book of the Revelation where we find Jesus’ words from the throne of heaven. Paul tells us there is one mediator between God and man, the **man** Christ Jesus. Jesus became a man a human being and ‘was made in the likeness of men’. In John’s gospel chapter 19, Pilate cries out when at the judgment seat *“Behold the man”*. or ‘look at the man’. In Matthew’s gospel chapter eight verse 27 and Luke’s gospel chapter 8 verse 25. When Jesus stands up and stills the storm, The disciples say, *“What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the storms obey him?”* What sort of human being is He?

Jesus Himself is very clear asking the question, *“Who do people say that I was son of man am”*. He made it very plain and obvious in His testimony that He was a human being, and, in the scripture, He was called Jesus of Nazareth. Peter preaching on the day of Pentecost calls Him ‘Jesus of Nazareth’ identifying the place on earth where He came from. In we read in Hebrews chapter 2, *“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also himself likewise took part of the same”*. Indicating that Jesus took upon him the form of human flesh.

John in His gospel tells us, that when the spear was inserted into Jesus’ side, blood and water flowed out. He died, the thought is, of a broken heart and so there is clear evidence given of the body fluids in the Lord Jesus showing that He was a real human being. He was made in the likeness of man and that must mean He was all human being. Jesus of course could see and talk and there are many records of the words He spoke which were in the ‘local language’ and could be understood by those who listened to Him.



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The Virgin birth is the miraculous and yet essential part of Jesus being made in the likeness of man. The truth is that the Holy Ghost moved on Mary, a human being, a pure young woman, and she gave birth to the little baby in the stable. We are told *"The power of the Highest shall overshadow you"*. The child was the son of God. We read in Isaiah chapter 9, *"Unto us a child is born and unto us a Son is given"*. Isaiah also tells us *"that a virgin shall conceive and bring forth a son"*. It is miraculous and yet true and essential for the Lord Jesus to be the sort of man He was and live the life He did upon the earth.

The wise men and the shepherds came to worship Him, and they all brought their gifts and their sacrifices worship and to honour Him as He was. The word to the *shepherds* *"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord"*. The wise men, the Magi asked, *"Where is he that is born King of the Jews?"* and when they had enquired of Herod, he sent them to *"Go and search diligently for the young child"* Hebrews chapter 1, confirms, *"When he brings in the first begotten into the world, he says, and let all the angels of God worship him"*. This is fulfilled in what the shepherds saw *"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men"*.

This all points to and confirms, the truth that Jesus was made in the likeness of men.

Paul's first letter to Timothy in chapter 3 and this verse sums it up, *"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh"*. In other words, there is no argument about it. In the book of Colossians, we read *"In Him. That's in the Lord Jesus, dwells all the fullness of the God in the body"*. That made Him a superior man and nevertheless a man. John's gospel chapter one, *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth"*. All these scriptures should be all very familiar to Christians and there should be a basic understanding for the Christian and when all of this Biblical truth is put together and there are other scriptures which could be quoted to add to the evidence that Jesus was a human being. It is really wonderful, and we can grasp the immensity of what God was doing in and with His Son. Jesus was the one who came in the plan of God, when He sent His only begotten son into the world. As we have therefore quoted from the book of Hebrews, *"Let all the angels worship him"*, and John in chapter one verse 14 of his gospel, *"And the word was made flesh and dwelled among us and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of Father, full of grace and truth"*.

To add and say the same truth in another way, The word, that word that was in the beginning, that word that was God that was with God and by Him everything was made, was actually made flesh. Jesus took upon Him the seed of Abraham and was actually



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made flesh: In him was all the fullness of the Godhead in a body. This is the mystery of godliness; **God was manifest on the flesh**. The passage in 1 Timothy chapter 3 tells us other things about the Lord Jesus. 'He was believed on in the world and received to glory'. So, the one who became flesh, was actually received back to glory. That is the resurrection and then ascension of the man Christ Jesus.

John, chapter 1 again, verse 16, *"No man has seen God at any time. The only begotten son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared him"*. It means 'told him forth' and confirms the word in Hebrews chapter 1. *"God has in these last days spoken to us by His Son"*. Jesus as a man declaring all of God in His life. That is the superiority of the Lord Jesus Christ, even in His flesh He was able to make known the fulness of God.

This just shows and demonstrates the sheer quality of the man Christ Jesus. Jesus proved that when the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost said together *"Let us make man, (human beings), in our own image"*, it was possible for a human being to manifest all the fullness of God in a life on the earth.

That is the gospel. In the end they rejected God because they rejected the Lord Jesus as they could not see the Almighty God in Jesus' flesh in spite of all the miracles He worked. This although it was all set out in the scriptures they read and studied, perhaps in truth it was beyond their thinking that God could really be manifest in the flesh. *"To be carnally minded is death but to be spiritually minded is life and peace"* Colossians tells us before reconciliation that they and we *"Were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works"*. The wicked work for the Jews at that time was to crucify the Lord Jesus. *"which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory"*

The first letter of Peter chapter two verse 21 tells us. *"For even hereunto were you called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judges righteously"*: There was no guile, no false speaking, Jesus had never spoken deceitfully, every word he said was true, in word and in motive and intention. In the devices and desires of Jesus' heart. *"You will know the truth and the truth shall make you free"*. He is *"The way the truth and the life"*. Here is the man who in His own life did no sin and was never in any way dishonest or manipulated His words. What He said was exactly right and true. Isaiah 42.19 tells us *"I the Lord speak righteousness; I declare things that are **right**"*. and here is Our Lord Jesus Christ everything He spoke was right, and as said both in word and in motive; He had a pure heart



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Verse 22 of 1 Peter chapter 2 says, *“Who when He was reviled, reviled not, when He suffered threatened not and committed Himself to Him who judges righteously, who His own self bare our sins in His body on the tree”*. We have mention of Jesus’ cross, but even upon the earth in His life He suffered but threatened not. He did not seek revenge. On the cross, His words, *“Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing”*. Forgiveness at that time, but no doubt through the whole of Jesus’ life. Jesus was in a place of faith being able to commit Himself to the one who judges righteously; the place that Jesus was in, a place of utter trust and dependence trusting in this Father who judged righteously. That is why He was able to come to the earth and to be safe in what He believed He had come to do, and He trusted completely and totally in his Father. Remember He was a human being, a real man, trusting with all His heart. That is what made Jesus superior, as a human being.

In Matthew’s gospel chapter 3, verse 13 to the end we have the account of Jesus’ water baptism. *“Then comes Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbade him, saying, “I have need to be baptised of you, and you come to me?” And Jesus answering said unto him, “Suffer it to be so now: for therefore it becomes us to fulfil all righteousness”. Then he allowed him”*. Here is the man believing, trusting, committing himself to God, who is totally subject to His Father. He eventually became came obedient unto the death of the cross. But here is obedience in life, obedience unto the will and purpose of God fulfilling all the righteousness requirements which God had set Him.

That's astonishing. He did no sin, there was nothing in Him that was of unbelief, nothing that was of a doubt, nothing that was of fault or nothing that was unclean, nothing that was bitter, nothing at all like that was in Him, and that is why Jesus came. Verse 16 in Matthew chapter 3, *“When Jesus was baptized, He came up straight away out of the water, lo, the heavens were open onto him. And he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove, lighting upon him and a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased”*. Here is a man that was able to please God. We read John's gospel of Jesus’ wonderful statements for example, *“I do always the things which please my Father”*. *“Father, I thank you that he hear me always”*. Here was a man on the earth, born on the earth to grow up to be a man. Even the age of 12 He had so much wisdom because he was taught by the Holy Ghost and confounded all the so-called experts in Jerusalem. Jesus as a man was able and willing to filled with and be taught by the Holy Ghost. That is the quality of the believing that was working in this man. It was a superior life that Jesus had and lived.



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Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil this after He was filled with the Holy Ghost at the time of His water baptism and the dove descended on Him. To be full of the Holy Ghost, Jesus had emptied Himself. Here is a man who is so empty of Himself that He is available to be filled with the Holy Ghost and in order to please the Father He was able to be taken into wilderness and tried and tested of the enemy for 40 days and 40 nights. Superiority? Of course, and Jesus comes out in the power of the Spirit. (Luke 4.14) Wonderful. Every aspect of Jesus life as a man was challenged by the temptations. John in his first letter describes the 'love of the world'. The Lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. The three temptations which Jesus endured challenged on each of these areas. John tells us if we love the world the love of the Father is not in us. It is clear that the love of the Father was in our Lord Jesus, indeed, in many ways it was the means of the success of His life. Each temptation was to try and undo what had happened in heaven when Jesus had emptied Himself. The test was to cause Jesus to take up again and use that which He had laid aside in heaven. He did that, He emptied Himself, so as to take upon Himself the form of a servant (See part 2). The temptation was to serve Himself, to prove Himself and so on. The temptations failed and our Lord Jesus continued His service of His Father. In John's gospel chapter 14 we read, "*The prince of this world comes and has nothing in me*". Even through the death of the cross Satan had nothing in Jesus and he that had the power of death has no power as far as our Lord Jesus was concerned. He can then deliver us from that power and give eternal life. Such is the man, in the likeness of men we read, but a man able to endure as a human being and overcome and overcome for us. The devil who had defeated the man, Adam was defeated by the man Jesus of Nazareth and so it had to be for eternal life to be given unto us, God's people.

1 Corinthians chapter 15 verse 45. The first Adam, first man Adam was a living soul. The last Adam was made a quickening spirit, or a life-giving spirit. Quickening means to make alive, to give life to. Here is a man, our Lord Jesus, who was conceived the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, the Holy Ghost giving Him life, spiritual life in His human flesh. He was a spiritual man and that is what He was, and He gave life to everything that He did. Wherever He went life came. When He walked on the earth, He made God available.

Some examples of this, to the woman with the issue of blood He made God available. He was just walking along, and that woman just reached out and touched the hem of his garments and we are told virtue (Greek word *dunamis*: power) went out of Him. She was healed (Matthew 9.20). He made God available to Jairus's daughter. The whole family really, as there would be no sorrow in that household when Jesus raised the daughter to life (Luke 8.41). He made God, the life of God, available to the widow at Nain and brings



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back her son to life (Luke 7.11). Jesus makes life available to those five thousand people that were out in the remote place who with their families were hungry the children probably starving. We don't know whether they would have died on the way out there or back. They had not eaten for three days and three nights. Jesus teaching must have been so wonderful they didn't feel hungry but maybe suddenly the hunger hit them. Jesus fed them all and they were filled. (John chapter 6). He brought life to the disciples when they were in the boat. "Don't you care if we perish", when He the man having life was asleep in the bottom of the boat. He quelled the storm and brought life and safety for them and brought them to the shore. (Luke 8.23) That is the man that Jesus was. He made life available, He made God available. He is the life-giving spirit that was in Jesus Christ. *"Not first that was which is first spiritual, but that which is natural. But afterwards that which is spiritual"*. The first man is of the earth. The second man is the Lord from heaven". Jesus the Lord from heaven. This different man, superior? Oh! very much superior.

When you and I receive the Holy Ghost, we have a life-giving spirit. And wherever we go, we should bring life, blessings to the people bringing life. I am not saying we should feed five thousand people. It is all about life. This man, our Lord Jesus was able to bring life to people. He said, *"The words that I speak on to you are, spirit and they are life"*. They brought eternal life. They brought living. They brought faith. That is His superiority.

When Jesus taught, they said, *"Nobody teaches like this man"*. He does not teach like the Pharisees do, but He teaches as a man with authority. Wherever Jesus went, whatever He said, whatever He did, because he was a life-giving spirit the very life of God, spread, it poured out of Him. 'Life giving spirit'. Jesus is the one, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, the word made flesh dwelling among them, and they beheld His glory, the glory, as of the only begotten of the Father. That's what made Him different. That's what made him superior.

In John's gospel chapter three we read of Nicodemus coming to talk to Jesus. He wanted to know the secret of Jesus life. And Jesus says to him, from verse 2, *"Unless a man, a human being, is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God"*. Nicodemus replied, *"How can a man be born when he's old, how can he enter the second time into his mother's womb?"* Jesus answered *"Truly, truly I say unto you unless a person is born of water and of the Spirit they cannot enter into the kingdom of God"*. Jesus was in that place where the Spirit was in Him and He was in the Spirit. He goes on to say, *"That which is born of the flesh, is flesh but that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. The Lord Jesus was fundamentally 'spirit', the word made flesh, God manifested in the flesh, the very spirit of eternal God in Him. The life of God manifested in a human being shining*



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forth. Wherever He went He was a life-giving spirit, and He took that life with Him, and it ministered to everybody, in the storm, when they were hungry, wherever they were. When they brought the little children to Him, He said, *“Let them come to me for of such is the kingdom of God”*. The love, the mercy the kindness the patience of the life of God was there, and it manifested itself wherever Jesus went. That is the superiority of our Lord Jesus Christ,

It would be possible to go through lots of the other scriptures and the miracles that Jesus worked. About how He was able to come, to be filled with the Holy Ghost, endure temptations and how as a man He was the apostle to Israel. The last one, He will be of course when He returns and brings the word of God to the children of Israel. Jesus bought life, he bought life to the people, but they killed him, They rejected Him and executed Him. They did not want that life, His life they wanted something else. *“Men love darkness rather than light”*. Jesus therefore had to become obedient to death of the Cross. A man dying for us all. He was made in the likeness of men for that eternal purpose. *“For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead”*. “

This is the man. He was a man living upon the earth fulfilling and outworking the whole council of God because he was a life-giving spirit. He was God manifest in the flesh who did no sin, no guile was found in his mouth. Finally, we go into Psalm 24, *“Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord. He that has clean hands and a pure heart, has not lifted up His soul to vanity not sworn deceitfully In other words, not been proud, and not told the lies”*. That man, this is the man, the man Jesus Christ, who was able to return to heaven through death so that on the throne we have one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus. He lived on the earth; He so worked out the will and purpose of God on the earth that He is now able to be in heaven mediating before God for you and me. He was made in the likeness of men. That is the miracle. It's a mystery, but that is the very truth of it. We need to worship Him. We need to love Him. We need to seek the very quality of His life. And because we too, when we receive Him, are filled with the Holy Ghost, as we read in Peter, we need to emulate Him He is our example, the example. We need to follow Him as life-giving spirits. We will not have to die on a cross. We almost certainly will not feed 5,000 people, but wherever you and I go and whoever we meet we bring life, we are to follow in Jesus' footsteps, we become the men and women, for whom God is looking upon the earth. Ezekiel 22, at the end of the chapter, *“God looked for a man”*. He found no man, so he sent His Son to be that man. Jesus was made in the likeness of men. But God is looking for men and women now, human beings that are filled with the Holy Ghost. that as they live, they take the life and the love and



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the blessing of God with them. The words they then speak will be of spirit and of life and they bring the life and eternal life of God unto all those who will hear.

We have the man Christ Jesus, the wonder of this one who came to earth to be our Saviour and our Lord and now reigns in heaven. and ever lives to pray for us, the mediator, between God and man, the man Christ Jesus. That is His superiority even in the likeness of men. As a human being.



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