

# JESUS THE SON OF MAN, GOD'S MEDIATOR: THE WITNESS OF JESUS HIMSELF JOHN 01: 50-51

## ***Introduction***

Jesus bore witness to Himself. He clearly declared who He is.

- I. The response of Jesus to Nathanael (v. 50).
- II. Jesus is the revelation of God: the One who reveals greater things (v. 50).
- III. Jesus is the mediator: the One who opens the doors of heaven (v. 51).
- IV. Jesus is the Son of Man: the pattern, the perfect representative of man (v. 51).

## **I. *John 01:50 Nathanael***

Nathanael's experience with Jesus in the previous passage (vv. 46-49) was the background for what Jesus said in this passage (vv. 50-51).

## **II. *John 01:50 Jesus Christ, The Revelation of God***

Jesus Christ is the Revelation of God, the One who reveals greater things. Note two points.

1. It was belief in Jesus that brought "greater things" into Nathanael's life. Nathanael believed Jesus; therefore, he could expect to receive greater things, to receive more and more from God.

*Mat 17:20* He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

*Mark 9:23* "'If you can'?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes."

*John 10:10* "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

*Rom 11:33* Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

*1 Cor 2:9* However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him."

*Eph 3:17-19* So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to

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*know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

2. It is Jesus Himself who is the Revelation of God; therefore, it is Jesus who reveals the “greater things” of life.

The way to God is through Jesus Christ Himself (Jn. 14:6). This is a critical verse, for Jesus said that no man could reach God unless he approached God through Jesus Himself. Note Jesus' claim to divinity: “I Am” (Jn. 6:20). Jesus made three phenomenal claims. a). I am the Way b). I am the Truth c). I am the Life.

**John 14:6** *Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

- a. Jesus Christ is the Embodiment of Revelation.

**John 1:1-2** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.*

**Col 2:9** *For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.*

- b. Jesus Christ is the Communicator of Revelation.

**John 1:4** *In him was life, and that life was the light of men. (see Jn 1:1-3)*

**John 1:14** *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

**John 14:9-10** *Jesus answered: “Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.”*

- c. Jesus Christ is the Liberator of Revelation.

**John 8:31-32** *To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

**John 10:10** *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”*

### **III. John 01: 51 Jesus Christ, The Mediator**

Jesus Christ is the Mediator between God and man. This is seen in the picture Jesus painted by the words, “You shall see *heaven open*, and the angels of God *ascending* and *descending* on the Son of Man” (v. 51).

This is a picture of Jacob's ladder (Gen. 28:10-22). It is a picture of open access into the very presence of God: the door of heaven is open and the angels are *ascending from earth* to heaven. Jesus was saying...

- He is Jacob's ladder; the ladder is a symbol of Him. He is the One who opens heaven.
- He is the One who reaches *from earth* to heaven, the One by whom man has his communication carried up into heaven.

**Thought 1.** Three critical facts should be noted.

- 1) A man *can* approach God and enter heaven through Christ (Jn. 14:6). The gulf, the loneliness, and the alienation which man knows have been bridged.
- 2) A man has access to God *only* through Christ (Jn. 14:6).
- 3) A man can have *constant* communication with God. The picture is that of angels carrying messages from earth to heaven and back to earth again.

#### **IV. *John 01:51 Jesus Christ, The Son of Man***

Jesus Christ is the Son of Man. This does not mean that Jesus was born of a man. It means that He is more than what an ordinary man is, more than a son of some man. Jesus is what every man ought to be, *the Son of Man Himself*.

1. Jesus Christ is the Ideal Man: the *Representative Man*, the *Perfect Man*, the *Pattern*, the *Embodiment* of everything a man ought to be (See *Birth of Jesus Christ, Son of Man*, Mt. 1:16). Jesus Christ is the *perfect picture* of a man. Everything God wants a man to be is seen perfectly in Jesus Christ (Jn. 1:14; Col. 2:9-10; Heb. 1:3).
2. Jesus Christ is the *Ideal Servant* of man. The term *Ideal Servant* stresses Jesus' sympathy for the poor, the broken hearted, the captives, the blind, the bruised, the outcasts, the bereaved (Lk. 4:18). Jesus is the pattern, the model, the perfect example of concern and caring. He served other people just as every man ought to serve other people.

Jesus called Himself "the Son of Man" about eight times. It was His favourite term. The title *Son of Man* is probably based upon the Son of Man in Daniel 7:13-14. There is also a picture of Jesus as the heavenly Son of Man contrasted with Adam as the earthly Man in 1 Cor. 15:45-47. Both references picture Jesus as *the Representative Man, the Ideal Man*, in God's plan for world history.

**Mat 8:20** *Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."*

**Mat 9:6** *"But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" — Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home."*

**Mat 20:28** *“Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

**Mat 24:27** *“For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.”*

**Mark 8:38** *“If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels.”*

**Luke 18:8** *“I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”*

**Luke 19:10** *“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”*

**John 5:26-27** *“For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.”*

**John 6:53** *Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.”*

**John 12:23** *Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.”*

**John 13:31-32** *When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.”*

**Mat 16:13, 16** *When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*

**Acts 7:56** *“Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”*

**Rev 1:12-13** *I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone “like a son of man,” dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ■*

**MATHEW 01:16**  
**BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD**

*And Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ. **Mathew 01:16***

Note the changed expression from “the father of”. Jesus was born of Mary but not of Joseph. Joseph was the husband of Mary, but Jesus was not born of Joseph. He was born of the Holy Spirit through Mary.

This stresses a vital fact: Jesus was not born of a man, but of the Holy Spirit. He was Divine, yet human through His conception in Mary. He was God-Man, fully God and fully man. The real significance of this is that as God, He had the *capacity not to sin*. No other man since Adam has ever had this capacity, for all other men have had a human father and human mother, a father and mother contaminated with a sinful human nature. Therefore, the child of a man is born with the same nature, a nature that *cannot help but sin*. However Jesus Christ, as the only begotten Son of God born of the Holy Spirit, had the capacity to live a perfect and righteous life. He had the capacity never to sin.

However, Jesus Christ, as man, also had the capacity to sin. He suffered the pull and strain and suffering of temptation as all men do. He could have *willed* to sin. (Jn. 6:38.)

But there is this glorious difference. He utilized the capacity never to sin. He learned obedience by the things that He suffered (Heb. 5:8). He never gave in to temptation; He never sinned (2 Cor. 5:21). Thereby He became the Perfect and Ideal Man in whom all men find their salvation. □