

PORTRAITS OF CHRIST

A portrait is an artist's painting of a person. Different portraits will show different aspects of the person in his character and works. The Scriptures give us many different portraits of Christ to help portray different aspects of His character and works.

The more we see of Jesus- of His character and His ways- the more mature we will become as Christians becoming conformed to His image, and the more effectively we can reveal the various ministries of Christ.

Moses knew God's ways, while Israel only saw what God did without knowing why, Ps.103:7. Moses knew how God would react to different situations, and could work with Him, while the Israelites in their ignorance often opposed what God wanted to do!

The enemy wants us to be ignorant of who Jesus is and what He does- our faith will be small, and we will not know how to be a co-laborer with Christ if we do not know what He wants to accomplish!

Do *you* know all the biblical portraits of Christ? Is Christ being formed within you in deeper ways and in greater balance? Are you coming to know Him in more intimate ways, such as the in the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings (Phil.3:10)? Let us see Jesus anew!

A. CHRIST, THE ETERNAL SON (Colossians 1:17, He is "before all things")

1.) Christ already existed at Creation, John 1:1-2. Before time began, Christ already existed with God the Father and They shared a love relationship together, John 17:5 & 24. The Christian concept of the Trinity is unique among religions. Many religions believe in a Creator God, but see him as distant and unconnected to man. Only Christianity shows that the Triune God is not an isolated or solitary God, but is a God of love, relationship and intimacy Who desires to share Himself.

2.) Christ is the Co-Creator, Col. 1:16-18. God the Father created all things with and through Jesus Christ, John 1:3, Eph. 3:9. He is the personification of wisdom, 1 Cor.1:24, Col.2:3, & Prov. 8:22-27. As such, Christ speaks of His being a "Master Craftsman" or "Architect" working with God the Father when the heavens and the earth were created, Prov.8:30.

3.) Christ has always existed. He has eternal activities, such as being a Ruler (Micah 5:2), Savior (Rev. 13:8), and Sustainer (Heb.1:3). Christ is eternally the same, Hebrews 13:8. Christ's ministry continues into eternity and did not end at death, Heb.7:3, 7:24-25, Mk.16:20.

4.) Christ was before Abraham. Christ claimed existence prior to Abraham, Jn. 8:58. In fact, Christ created Abraham! It was God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit who created man, Gen. 1:26.

5.) Christ is the "Jehovah" or "Yahweh" of the Old Testament, John 8:58. When Christ appeared to Moses at the burning bush, Moses asked Him what His name was. He replied, "I AM THAT I AM," which is the meaning of the name Jehovah (Ex. 3:14). The Jews understood what Christ was saying, and they sought to stone Him (Jn. 8:59).

It was Christ who appeared to Moses and many others in the Old Testament, not God the Father (John 8:56 & Gen.18:1, Gen.32:24 & 30, Josh.5:13-15, 1 Corinthians 10:4).

B. CHRIST, THE ARROW OF GOD (Is.49:1-2)

In this prophecy, we see the formation of Christ as the Arrow of God. Christ was being made the Arrow of God that would be shot forth in God's time to hit the mark. His mark was the cross.

An arrow has basically two parts: 1.) the sharp arrowhead often made of metal like a sword, and 2.) the polished shaft usually made of wood.

1.) The arrowhead speaks of the Word of God which was like a sword in His mouth. The arrowhead represents Jesus as the Son of God, the Incarnate Word. We can see how Christ's words were already perceived to be sharp and powerful by the time He was 12 years old, Lk.2:46-47.

2.) The shaft represents Jesus as the Son of man. Christ also had to become the polished wooden shaft. As the Son of God, He could not fail, but as the Son of man, with the frailty of the human nature, He could miss the mark. The shaft of an arrow has to be polished until all the rough edges are removed so it won't miss the mark when it is shot forth. This was accomplished through the things which He suffered, first in His parents' house. Hebrews 5:8-9, Lk.2:51. Because Christ was obedient to His parents, He grew in favor with God and man, Luke 2:52. Wisdom was also growing in the life of Christ. Jesus applied His heart to wisdom every single day, Psa. 90:12. Wisdom is the principal thing in life, Prov. 4:7.

3.) Christ learned obedience and was made perfect through sufferings (Heb. 2:10). Perfect, in this verse, means to be fully equipped to fulfill the purpose that God sent Him into the world to perform. We are made obedient and submissive to God, the Divine Archer, through sufferings. This is the way that we learn obedience. That is why this long period of preparation was so important.

4.) In Isaiah 49:2, Christ prophetically says that He was hidden in the quiver. This refers to the eighteen years of Christ's life, after His visit to Jerusalem at the age of twelve. Nothing is recorded in Scripture about these "silent years," as they are called.

5.) An archer never puts an arrow into the quiver until it is perfectly polished and ready to be shot forth. At the age of thirty, Christ was presented by John the Baptist at the Jordan River. At this time, He was placed in the bow and was shot forth toward the mark that God had ordained for His life—the cross of Calvary.

You will notice in the Scriptures that Satan was not afraid of Jesus performing miracles, Mt. 4:3 & 6. Satan also did not fear Jesus' teachings. What Satan feared the most was for Christ to hit the mark and go to the cross. He even offered Him a shortcut to the throne and to the kingdoms of the world if He would just not go to the cross (Mt. 4:8-9).

We must wait for the time of God and not launch out prematurely. We do not want to be like Ahimaaz, who ran before the time and did not have a message to deliver to the king (see 2 Sam. 18:19-30). Let us wait until the message of God is developed in our lives, and be committed deep in our hearts to stay on course and complete God's purpose for our lives.

C. CHRIST, THE ANOINTED ONE (Jn.3:34)

The Greek word "Christos" means "The Anointed One." What was the full anointing upon Christ?

Christ had the Seven Spirits of God as His anointing, Rev.5:6, Is.11:1-2. They are symbolized as being horns (which speak of power) and eyes (which speak of vision, or the omniscience of Christ, 2 Chron.16:9).

This mantle of the seven Spirits of God came upon Christ at the Jordan River (see Lk. 3:21-22, 4:17-19). This mantle is different from, and greater than, the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Christ's anointing was far greater than what the disciples received on the day of Pentecost; for the Lord received the Spirit without measure, Jn. 3:34.

These seven spirits of God are different than, and greater than, the nine gifts of the Spirit, 1 Cor.12:8-10. There is the word of wisdom among the 9 gifts, but there is a spirit of wisdom among the 7 spirits. There is a word of knowledge among the 9 gifts, but there is a spirit of knowledge among the 7 spirits. If you have one of these gifts of the Spirit, the gift might not operate for a length of time before it gives you another word of wisdom or knowledge about another fact. But the spirit of wisdom, or the spirit of knowledge is a continuous, abiding anointing of the knowledge of God. Christ had this abiding spirit of wisdom, which made all of His words to also be words of wisdom.

As we study these seven anointings of the Holy Spirit upon the Lord Jesus, it is to help us to understand and receive of these same anointings for our life and ministry. We need the anointing of the seven Spirits of God that was upon Christ to help bring the Church to full maturity in these last days. And Christ has sent them, to make them available to us, Rev.5:6, Jn.16:7.

1.) The Spirit of the Lord is the anointing to preach, Isaiah 61:1, Lk.4:16-21. We need the anointing to give us God's authority when we preach, to accomplish God's works, 1 Cor.2:1-5, 2 Cor.3:3 & 6. This anointing, the Spirit of the Lord, is the like centerpiece of the 7-branch candlestick in Moses' tabernacle. It stands alone, while the other 6 anointings are in pairs, like the other lamps which are in pairs on each side.

2.) The spirit of wisdom is the anointing to make right decisions and choices, and correctly use understanding and knowledge. This anointing is needed to be a good leader, Deut.34:9, 1 Kings 4:9 & 12, 16-28. This anointing is also needed to build in the natural, as well as the spiritual, Prov.24:3, Ex.28:3, 31:1-6. Christ was filled with wisdom, Lk.2:40, 2:52, Mt.13:54. The Church is ordained to manifest the wisdom of God, Eph. 3:10.

3.) The spirit of understanding. This anointing helps us to understand God's ways and what He is doing, I Chron. 12:32, Lk. 24:45. We need this anointing to teach the Word of God. We have to understand the Word of God if we are going to teach it, and that is only possible through the spirit of understanding. This can include the interpretation of visions and dreams, Dan.1:17, Gen.41:15. Christ had the Spirit of Understanding, Lk.2:47, 24:45.

4.) The spirit of counsel is the anointing to counsel. This will give us advice or guidance that is appropriate to the circumstance or situation. We must have this anointing when we counsel, or we will only give our human advice, Prov.14:12, 1 Cor.4:15. One of the names of Christ is the Counselor (Is.9:6). Christ always gave the right counsel, Is.50:4, Lk.9:57-62. When counseling, we must never just tell people principles and recite a lot of scriptures. Counseling is having the mind of Christ for each situation and telling people what God is saying to them in their particular situation.

5.) The spirit of might. This anointing gives us spiritual and natural strength to overcome a difficulty,

Mic.3:8, Is.28:6, Eph.6:10. By the Spirit of Might Sampson did his mighty works (Jud.14:6, 15:14-15, 16:3), Elijah ran faster than the king's chariot (1 Kings 18:44-46), and Jesus cleansed the temple (Jn.2:15).

6.) The spirit of knowledge. This anointing supernaturally reveals to us facts from the past, present, or future. Christ was able to know the character of Nathanael and also see him under the fig tree by the spirit of knowledge, Jn. 1:47-48. Jesus could look back through the life of the woman at the well, to see that she had 5 husbands in the past, and another man in the present, Jn.4:17-18. Jesus knew the hearts of all men by the spirit of knowledge, Lk.5:22, Jn.2:24-25.

7.) The spirit of the fear of the Lord, is to bring conviction, repentance, and revival. This mantle can come upon a church, a town, or even an entire nation. We see this in the church of Jerusalem (Acts 5:11-14), and in the city of Ninevah, Jonah 3:4-9. Many times Christ brought the fear of God to the people, Luke 5:8-10, 7:16, 8:35-40. This is what happens when a great revival comes. People are convicted of their sins, even if they do not know about Christ, and even if they have never been to church.

D. THE FOUR FACES OF CHRIST (Ezek.1:10)

There are 4 Gospels in the Bible, each showing a different picture of the life of Christ. Each of these 4 areas of character can be also shown by the four different living beings:

1. The Gospel of Matthew reveals Christ as the King (Lion). – The Lion of the Tribe of Judah.
2. The Gospel of Mark was written to reveal Christ as the Servant (Ox). – “Immediately” is the key word used many times in the book of Mark showing Christ’s ready service to the needs around Him.
3. Luke reveals the character of Christ as the Son of Man (Man) – humanity
4. The Gospel of John portrays the Lord as the heavenly Son of God (Eagle) - Jn.3:13

These 4 pictures of Christ’s character are seen in the 4 faces of the Cherubim, in Ezekiel 1:10. We also need these 4 areas of the character of Christ to be inworked into our life to bring us balanced character and ministry, and prepare us to be great servants of God, like the Cherubim.

1.) THE LION- The lion is a ruler, known as "The king of the jungle". He is strong (Prov.30:30), bold (Prov.28:1), and not afraid of anyone (Is.31:4). The roaring of a lion is like the fear of a king (Prov. 20:2) and like the proclaiming of God's word with authority (Hos.11:10, Rev.10:3). From this we can see that to have the character and ministry of a lion, we need to be bold leaders, speaking God's command with the kingly authority of a lion's roar. This is like when Nathan the prophet exposed the sin of King David and said, "you are the man" (2 Sam.12:7). The Lord rejected king Saul because he did not have the ability to rule as a lion. Instead of making the people obey the word of God, Saul feared the people, obeyed their voice, and rejected the word of the Lord (1 Sam.15:24-26). Many times sin and defeat rule over Christians and entire churches because the ministry is weak and lacks the face of a lion.

Not only can a lion roar to bring his fear, but with his strong teeth and claws he is able to tear his enemies into pieces (Mic.5:8). A minister must have more than strong words- he must also have strong actions. When sin is seeking to rule over God's people, it is our responsibility to act with God's authority. it may even reach the point of excommunication (Matt.18:15-17, 1 Cor. 5:11), prophesying judgment (Acts 5:9-10, 2 Sam. 12:10-11, Acts 13:9-11), or delivering someone to Satan (1 Cor.5:3-5, 1 Tim.1:20). Our Lord has

given us the responsibility to execute his judgments (Ps.149:9) and use the keys of the kingdom to bind and loose (Matt.18:18-19). Do you know how to use the authority of a lion in your ministry? As you learn, sinners will begin to fear the Lord, and the people will submit to your leadership.

2.) THE OX- But the lion ministry alone can be unbalanced. As our Lord declared "whoever desires to be the greatest shall be the servant of all" (Mark 10:44). The character of a ruler or leader must be balanced with the nature of a servant. This is illustrated by the face of the ox on the left balancing the face of the lion on the right.

The ox is a servant, a domesticated animal that works for its master. It is strong to work (Ps. 144:14) and brings forth an increase by its labor (Prov. 14:4). The apostle Paul refers to the ox as being a type of a minister (1 Cor. 9:9-10) who sows spiritual things (1 Cor. 9:11) and labors in the ministry of the Word (1 Tim. 5:17-18).

A minister must learn to patiently work day after day, carrying the burdens and serving the needs of the people as Christ our master directs us. This nature of the ox is the opposite of the lion, who will quickly roar, attack, and rule. Yet together these opposite natures bring a divine balance to our character and ministry.

THE LION & OX- We can see the faces of the lion and the ox in the ministry of Christ when He cleansed the temple (Matt. 21:12-14). He came in with a lion's roar, casting out the merchants and money changers and rebuking them with the Word of God. But then after this ministry of cleansing and destroying, we see Him like an ox patiently ministering and strengthening by healing all the sick that came to Him. Together the lion and the ox, the ruler and servant, brought a balanced and full ministry.

3.) THE EAGLE- The other two opposite faces are the eagle and the man. The eagle reveals an exalted, heavenly character. The eagle makes her nest on high (Job 39:27) even as we are to dwell in heavenly places in Christ (Eph.2:6). The eagle also flies away toward heaven (Prov. 23:5) as we are to learn to do by waiting upon the Lord (Is. 40:31). The eagle also has remarkable vision and can see afar off (Job 39:29) as we need to be men and women of vision who know the secrets of God (Prov. 29:18, Dan.2:47, Amos 3:7, Eph.1:17-19). May the Lord help us all to have the heavenly character and ministry illustrated by the eagle!

4.) THE MAN- The face opposite the eagle is the man. We read in 1 Cor. 15:47-49 that from Adam, we partake of an earthly image. As long as we remain here on the earth in this present life, we will have to concern ourselves with the things of earthly life like food, shelter, work and sleep. We need to be practical "down to earth" people not only to exist, but also to relate and minister to other people. We know that God became a man to relate to and minister to the sons of men (John 1:14, Phil. 2:5-8, Luke 19:10, Heb. 4:15). The apostle Paul said, "I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some" (1 Cor.9:22-23). We must also learn that it is proper to have the face of a man, that can relate to and minister to the needs of humanity.

THE MAN & EAGLE- Jesus illustrated how these opposite faces of the eagle and the man could bring a balanced ministry, when He met the woman at the well in John 4:6-26. Jesus first related to her with the face of a man, as she became interested in this tired Jew who asked her for a drink of water (John 4:6-9). But Christ then used the face of the eagle to soar into the heavenlies. The Lord caused the woman to

become thirsty for spiritual things, exposed the secrets of her life, and led her to the revelation that He was the Christ (John 4:10-26). Jesus did not first approach her as a heavenly visitor that she would not know how to relate to, but by the end of their conversation she was able to see Him as the exalted Christ of God. A skillful use of these 2 faces of the man and eagle caused a great work of salvation to start among the Samaritans (John 4:39-42, Acts 8:5:25).

E. CHRIST, THE THRESHER (Luke 3:16-17)

One part of the ministry of Christ is that He has come to be a thresher for the people of God. Christ has come to separate the wheat from the chaff, the light from the darkness, the good from the bad. This is to purify God's people. To do this, there are times that the Lord brings His people into threshing experiences – into shakings – into times of difficulty and trial.

1.) King David was purified at two threshing experiences:

a) Chidon's threshing floor, 1 Chron.13:6-13. David was attempting to bring the ark of God to Jerusalem- it looked like a good revival until they came to the threshing floor of Chidon. But when one of the leaders of the revival, Uzzah, died before the Lord, the revival stopped. What was the mixture that God wanted to purify? 1) David's worship was mixed with the ways of the world- an oxcart was carrying the ark, but that was a Philistine idea, 1 Sam.6:7-12. 2) David needed to learn how to follow the scriptural way to worship: sanctified priests and Levites carrying the Ark (Ex.25:14 & Josh 3:6), just as we need to have all the church workers sanctified. 3) David needed to prepare a tent, a place for the ark to be placed (1 Chron.15:1), just as we need to prepare our lives, families, and churches to be ready to have the Lord dwell among us.

Through this threshing experience David was purified, and he was able to build David's Tabernacle, and lead his people into a new relationship and worship to God.

b) David's 2nd threshing experience was at the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, 1 Chron.21:15, 21:18-22, & 21:24-28. The mixture that was cleansed from his life was trusting in the size of his army (1 Chron.21:1-8, Ps.20:7), just as we need to have no confidence in fleshly abilities or resources, Phil.3:3. This cleansing prepared David to start getting ready for the building of Solomon's Temple, 1 Chron.22:1-5 & 2 Chron.3:1.

* God used each of David's two threshing experiences to prepare him to bring God's people into greater worship & meetings with God: first at the Tabernacle of David, then at the Temple of Solomon!

2.) Peter was threshed to purify him, Lk.22:31-34. What was the mixture in Peter's life?

- a) Unbelief, Mk.14:27-31. He didn't believe the word of the Lord.
- b) Fear, Mt.26:70-74. This weakness was also seen in Mt.14:29-30.
- c) Self confidence, Mt.26:33 & 35.
- d) Lack of Prayer, Mt.26:37-41.

* Peter was not destroyed by this threshing experience, but the mixture in his life was purged away! In the book of Acts we see Peter as the opposite of his former weaknesses: full of faith, bold, trusting in God, and prayerful.

3.) The Separation of Two Kings at the threshing floor at the Gate of Samaria, 2 Chron.18:9. God used false prophecies to move the bad king of Israel and the good king of Judah to go to war, where the evil King Ahab was killed, 2 Chron.18:10-11, 18:18-22, & 18:33-34. God still today brings separation between good and bad Christian leaders by allowing false doctrines & false prophecy to lead the wicked away and purge the righteous, Ps.125:5 & 2 Thess.2:9-12.

In the Last Days, Christ the Thresher will shake everything that can be shaken, Hag.2:6-7, Heb.12:26-28. Christ can use trouble and judgment (like David), the attacks of Satan (like Peter), and false doctrine and deceiving Spirits (like with Ahab & Jehosaphat) to purify His people- all things work together for good for those who love God, Rom.8:28.

F. CHRIST, OUR FRIEND (Jn.15:15)

One of the foundations of our relationship with God is that we must learn to submit to Christ as our Master and Lord. However, John 15:15 tells us that those who know God as their Lord (or Master) can later go on to know God as their friend. This is a deeper, more intimate relationship with the Lord!

1.) THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN A SERVANT AND A FRIEND:

- a) The goal of a servant is faithfulness, Mt.25:21. Martha & Mary: Martha served, Lk.10:40.
The goal of a friend is relationship, Ex.33:11. Martha & Mary: Mary sat at Jesus' feet, Lk.10:39
- b) A servant responds to the *law* of his master, Lk.5:5.
A friend responds to the *grace* of his friend, Prov.27:9.
- c) The servant obeys God's commands but is not told *what* or *why*, Jn.15:15.
The friend knows *what* God is doing & *why*: In Is.41:8 God calls Abraham "My friend." God showed this relationship with Abraham in Gen.18:17-21: God said [to Himself], "*Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing? For I have known him ...*" Then God shared His heart and purposes with Abraham!
- d) A servant moves the *hand* of God. Jn.11:21-22, Martha had faith!
A friend moves the *heart* of God. Jn.11:32-35, Mary had love- she wept, and Jesus wept!

2.) HOW TO DEVELOP A FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD:

- a) First, become a faithful servant of God, Jn.15:14. Those who do not learn how to be faithful servants will disqualify themselves from going on with God.
 - We must be diligent, fruitful servants, Mt. 25:24-30.
 - We must be kind to the rest of God's servants, and live righteously, Luke 12:42-47.
 - Some try to serve God, but enjoy sin more than drawing near to God, Mt.7:22-23 & 24:48-51.
- b) Spend time with the Lord, Ex.33:11 Joshua did this because he wanted to be close to God.
- c) Get to know God's heart & ways- when you get close to someone you know them, Ps.103:7
- d) Enter into the deepest fellowship, the "fellowship of His sufferings," Phil.3:10.

3.) DEEPER LEVELS OF FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD:

- a) Become a Friend of the King: by seeking purity of heart and speech, Prov. 22:11. The "Friend of the King" was a title given to a few high officials who were close to a king, 1 Chron.27:33, 2 Sam.16:16-20, Gen.26:26. They were his trusted counselors.
 - Abraham, God's friend (Is.41:8) counseled God when he prayed for Sodom, Gen.18:23-33
 - Moses, who talked with God as a friend, counseled God when he pleaded for Israel,

Ex.32:10-14.

- b) Become a "Friend of the Bridegroom," like John the Baptist, Jn.3:29. This title was given to the one who prepared for the wedding in behalf of the bridegroom.
- As the bridegroom's trusted representative, he asks for the hand of the bride in marriage.
 - He served the bride until the time of the wedding.
 - The Friend of the Bridegroom must keep himself from gaining the affection of the bride. (Samson's "Friend of the Bridegroom" did not do that, he married Samson's bride, Jud.14:20)
 - John stepped aside, his duties accomplished, when the Bridegroom arrived, Jn.3:29-30.
 - John the Baptist prepared the faithful of Israel to be joined with Christ when He came. Now God is looking for many "Friends of the Bridegroom" who will prepare the way for Christ's second coming and for His wedding with His bride! Who will He trust? Who will help prepare His bride for her soon wedding?

G. CHRIST, THE SUFFERING ONE (Isaiah 52:13-53:12)

Christ suffered much during His earthly life, but it produced abundant good results in His ministry. As Christians we need to learn to be partakers of His suffering, so that the same good results can be in our lives & ministries!

1.) The Sufferings of Christ:

a) Prophesied in the Old Testament, Lk.24:44-46

- Christ's sufferings pleased God the Father, Is.53:10
- The Father revealed to Christ in advance what He would suffer, Is.50:5-6, Mt.26:39

b) Christ's emotional sufferings:

- Gossip and slander, that he was born of fornication and demon-possessed, Jn.8:41 & 8:48
- Misunderstood by His own family, Jn.7:3-5
- Rejected by His home town, Lk.4:16 & 4:28-29
- Rejected by His own nation, Jn.1:11, Mt.27:20-23
- Despised with much sorrow & grief, Is.53:3-4, Ps.69:20-21
- Christ was homeless, Mt.8:20
- Betrayed by a friend and co-worker, Mt.26:47-50 & Ps.41:9
- Forsaken by His friends and followers: discouraged, Jn.6:66-67, Mt.27:56, Is.49:4
- Falsely accused and sentenced to death, Mt.26:63-66, Lk.23:13-24.
- Publically stripped of His clothes, Mt.27:35
- Mocked and reviled, Mt.26:67-68, 27:28-29, 27:39-44
- Killed as a criminal among criminals, Mt.27:38, Is.53:12

c) Christ's physical suffering:

- Beaten & spit in His face, Mt.26:67
- His beard pulled out, Is.50:6
- Crown of thorns put on His head, and struck on His head, Mt.27:29-30
- His face was marred more than anyone, Is.52:14
- His back was severely whipped, Jn.19:1
- Christ was thirsty, Jn.19:28
- Carried His cross (until unable to continue), Jn.19:17

- His hands and feet nailed to a cross, Mk.15:24-25
- Left to hang on a cross for many hours until He died, Mk.15:25 & 34

d) Christ's spiritual sufferings:

- Christ was made a curse for us, Gal.3:13
- Christ took the sin of the world upon Himself, He felt all our sin and pain, 2 Cor.5:21, Jn.1:29
- When Christ took our sin, the Father had to separate Himself from Christ, Mt.27:39-46

2.) The Purpose for the Sufferings of Christ:

- a) To learn obedience - Hebrews 5:8. Christ learned to obey the Father in little sufferings, long before He needed to endure great sufferings!
- b) To suffer for others, vicariously – 2 Cor.5:21
- c) To become the Savior of the World, Is.49:4-6, 53:10-13, Jn.1:29, 1 Pet.3:18, Heb.2:10.

3.) Our Suffering with Christ:

- a) To learn obedience - Hebrews 5:8, Heb.12:5-10
- b) To gain a deeper fellowship with Christ and know His heart, Phil.3:10.
(When we suffer for our own sins, this is not suffering with Christ, it is to lead us to fear God and turn from sin, Eccles.12:13-14, Is.26:9, Lev.26:40-42)
- c) To release the salvation of Christ, 2 Cor.1:6, Col.1:24, 2 Tim.2:10.
- d) To prepare us to reign with Christ in glory, Rom.8:17-18, Lk.22:28-30, Rev.20:4-6.

* Let us learn how to take up our cross daily, and know Christ, the Suffering One, so that we will also be glorified with Him to reign in His kingdom! Lk.22:28-30, Rev.20:4, 2 Tim.2:12, 1 Pet.4:13.

H. CHRIST, THE HEALER (Isaiah 53:5, Ex.15:26)

1.) Healing has been provided for in the atonement of Christ, just as forgiveness of sin has been provided for. 1 Peter 2:24 quoted the scripture from Is.53:5 as "by whose stripes you were healed." The word of God declares our healing as an accomplished fact, just as John the Baptist declared that Christ is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world- an accomplished fact. However, we do not automatically receive healing or forgiveness, there are conditions upon which a person will receive from Christ.

2.) There is a season for everything, including "a time to heal," Eccles.3:1 & 3. There are revival times when healings are abundant, such as during Christ's first coming and in the early Church, Mat.12:15, Acts 5:15-16. There are other times when healing is scarce (Lk.4:27, Mk.6:5).

3.) REASONS FOR SICKNESS:

- a) Disobedience to God, Jn.5:14
- b) The attacks of Satan (Job 1:10, Acts 10:38 Lk.13:11-12)
- c) Not properly taking care of your body, 1 Cor.3:16-17, 1 Tim.5:23.
- d) The results of the Fall of Man, Rom.5:12. Sin has brought death, sickness, genetic flaws and inherited health problems, polluted water & air and poisonous food additives, etc.
- e) Many times people need spiritual inner healing of the heart and emotions because of people who hurt and betrayed them, Lk.4:18.

4.) Keys for Healing:

- a) A deeper repentance and submission to God, Ps.107:19-20, James 5:16, Job.42:1 & 5-6.
- b) Resist the devil (after submitting to God), Jam.4:7, Mk.9:25-27.
- c) A greater faith, Mt.9:29, Mk.5:34, Lk.17:19, Mt.15:28.
- d) Drawing closer to Christ, Mk.10:46-52, Mk.5:25-34, 2 Kings 20:1-5.
- e) Prayer by an anointed servant of God, or by someone with a gift of healing, James 5:16, Mk.16:17-18.
- f) Prayer by the elders with the anointing of oil, James 5:14-15.
- g) Counseling & releasing forgiveness are often important keys to release inner healings, Gen.41:51-52, Job.42:10.
- h) Gaining inner healings (forgiveness, stop worrying, restoration of joy, etc.) can often release physical healing, Job 42:10, Prov.17:22.
- i) Patiently wait on God for His time of healing, Hos.6:1-2, Jn.5:5-9, 2 Kings 13:14.

I. CHRIST, THE MIGHTY WARRIOR (Ex.15:3, “The Lord is a Man of War.”)

- 1.) Christ is revealed as a warrior and commander in the Old Testament, Ex.15:3, Josh.5:13-6:5. Some people are weak, easily intimidated or vacillating- but the kingdom of God needs people of “violence” or strength, Mt.11:12 & Joel 3:10, Eph.6:10, Josh.1:6-7.
- 2.) Christ fought against the Devil during His fasting for 40 days, Lk.4:2-13. Christ’s 40 days of fasting & wrestling against the devil’s temptations caused Him to become spiritually strong, like what “Basic Training” does for a new army recruit, Lk.4:14. Jesus was then able to walk in the power of that strength during the next 3 ½ years of His ministry!
- 3.) Christ disarmed Satan and his army at the cross, Col.2:14-15. We now have an answer to defeat Satan, the Accuser of the Brethren- the blood of Jesus, Rev.12:10-11.
- 4.) After His death, Christ descended into hell to take the keys of death and hell, Eph.4:8-9, 1 Pet.3:18-19, Rev.1:18. Now the gates of hell are defenseless against Christ and His church!
- 5.) At His resurrection, in His ascension from hell to earth to heaven, Christ brought with Him the righteous dead up from sheol (the center of the earth) to the earth and then up to heaven as part of His victory, as part of his spoils of war, Eph.4:8-9 & Ps.66:18, Mat.27:52-53, Is.53:12. (In ancient days a victorious King would return from battle, bringing the captives and spoils of war, as part of the celebration of his victory.)
- 6.) As Christ arose to enter heaven’s gates, He was greeted as a victorious warrior and King, Ps.24:7-10.
- 7.) We can now join the battle and be victorious warriors with Christ, as enforcers of the victory that Christ won on the cross, Mat.16:18, Eph.1:19-23, 2 Cor.2:14, Rom.16:20.

J. CHRIST, OUR COMING KING (Rev.19:11-16)

- 1. Christ will return as King of kings to rule the World, Rev.19:11-16,
 - a) Many Old Testament prophecies spoke about the Messiah ruling over the world, such as Zech.14:3-17; Dan.7:9-14; Dan.2:29-45; Mic.4:1-8, Psalm 2, Is.24:21-23, and Is.11:6-10.
 - b) The Apostles waited for Christ’s kingdom reign: Mt.20:20-21, Lk.19:11, Acts 1:6

- c) Christ told stories and parables to help explain about His coming millennial reign, such as in Mat.25:31-46, Mat.25:14-30, Mat.13:36-43, and Lk.19:11-27.
2. Christ's reign on Earth will begin at the 2nd Coming of Christ
- a) Jesus taught it would start at the 2nd Coming and the resurrection, Lk.19:11-27 & Mt.19:28.
 - b) Revelation chapters 19-22 are chronological in order. Chapter 19 tells about the 2nd Coming, chapter 20 about the Millennium, and after this in chap.21 will be the New Heaven & Earth.
 - c) Old Testament prophecies such as Zech.14:1-17 show that the Kingdom Age (the Millennium) begins at the 2nd Coming.
 - d) The millennial reign of Christ will be 1000 years long- The time length of Christ's kingdom on the earth is stated 6 times in Rev.20 verses 2,3,4,5,6,& 7 to very clearly state that it is not an indefinite or figurative length of time. Several Old Testament prophetic types also support the literal words of Revelation 20.
 - e) There are some denominations and movements that say we are in the millennial kingdom age now, or that the Church will arise to establish the kingdom of God on the earth without the King having returned! People can "wrongly divide" the clear teachings of Scripture (2 Tim.2:15-18 & 2 Tim.4:3-4) by claiming the prophetic Scriptures are only "allegory" and not literal, or by their being deceived by doctrines of demons, 1 Tim.4:1, Eph.4:14 & Eph.2:2.
3. The King will reward the faithful
- a) Every faithful servant of God will obtain promotions, Mt.25:21, Mt.19:29.
 - b) These promotions will vary depending upon our development and fruitfulness during our earthly life, Lk.19:11-19, Rev.22:12. (Also see # 5 below)
 - c) 'Sheep' nations will be welcomed into the kingdom, Mt.25:31-34.
4. The King will banish the wicked & unfaithful
- a) Unbelievers and backsliders will receive fire and destruction, 2 Thess.1:7-9.
 - b) Unfaithful servants of God will be banished, Mat.25:24-30, Mat.24:48-51, Mt.7:21-23.
 - c) 'Goat' nations will be removed from the Earth, Mt.25:31-33 & 41, Ps.9:17, Rev.18:21-24.
5. Christ and the Saints will Rule the World in Righteousness, Rev.20:4-6.
- a) Christ will be the King of Kings, Rev.19:16, Zech.14:3-4, 14:9, & 14:16.
 - b) David will be the king of Israel, Jer.30:9 & Ezek.37:24-25.
 - c) The 12 Apostles will rule the 12 tribes of Israel (governors), Mt.19:27-28.
 - d) Many faithful saints will rule over cities (mayors), Lk.19:15-19.
6. There will be Worldwide Blessings when Christ rules as King!
- a) There will be worldwide peace & prosperity, Mic.4:1-4, Is.65:21-23.
 - b) Satan will be bound & cannot deceive the nations (until the end of the Millennium), Rev.20:1-3.
 - c) The animals will be peaceful, Is.11:6-9, Is.65:25.
 - d) There will be long life for the natural inhabitants of the earth, Is.65:20-22.
 - e) There will be many future ages with many new blessings in the eternal kingdom of Christ! Eph.2:7, Rev.20:11-21:4, Is.9:7.