

Beloved Sisters and Brethren

A few references that are helpful as we focus on the great sacrifice and love of the Son of God and of The Father in providing Him.

Everything concerning the success of God's plan rested upon Him

*Hebrews 1:1-4: God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.*

Thank you brother Russel for your interesting and helpful thoughts on this class. Here a few further thoughts.

This study takes us to the whole purpose of God with the earth as He has said Isaiah 45:18 *For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.*

So we see in Genesis 1v26 that man was made in the image of God. It follows that man was to be part of His eternal creation. But then there was the fall in which arose by questioning the Word of God and poisoning the mind by the serpent subtlety. So it became necessary to provide a means of reconciliation between man and God and this God did by providing His own Son. Man had no means of doing it.

John 1:1-4: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*

It was God's word that in the beginning was questioned thus the way back was to show total respect and love for God's word and this Jesus did .This was also shown in the beginning Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. It was also shown that a sacrifice was necessary when Abraham offered His own Son and had said God will provide a lamb for the offering - Genesis 22v8.

Jesus was the Son of God but born of a woman. Jesus understood this, He fully understood His calling. As a young man was seen in the Temple reasoning in the midst of the doctors both hearing and asking them questions Luke 2:47: *And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.* But how did He acquire this knowledge? -clearly by His own enthusiasm for the Word knowing that it was imperative for Him and that His time was limited. Also, he would have had from a very early age a perception that God was His Father. But He had no advantage over any other of mankind.

As brother Russel has stated the driving force in His life was love for His Father in heaven and His plan with the earth . Thus it written

Hebrews 10:6-10: *In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldst not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the*

*first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

Thus as members of His body we must have the same mind as Jesus

*Philippians 2:5-9: Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name.*

The apostle John wrote of His eminence in the first chapter of his epistle John 1vs1-18, that He exemplified His Father He shows in John14vs9-10. See also 2Cor 4vs4-6. Col 1v15-22; Heb.7vs2-4 and the importance of Jesus to usward Heb9vs12-14.vs 23-26;John1v29

In relation to The Revelation we read chapter5 that He alone prevailed to open the Book

Brother Ken