

The King Revealed

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Text: Matthew 3:13-17

Series: King of Kings

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Living Hope Bible Church of Roselle, IL

Introduction: Open your Bible to the book of **Matthew**. We are in a series through the book of Matthew entitled: “King of kings!” Today’s message is entitled, “The King Revealed”.

I invite you to turn in your Bibles to Matthew 3.

The Christ Will Come

Throughout the Scriptures we are given great and precious promises. All the promises take place upon the background of our broken sinfulness and rebellion. The promises all culminate in this: The Christ will come!

- The Seed of the woman will crush the serpent’s head.
- The Seed of Abraham will bring blessing to a multitude of nations.
- The Son of David will have mercy on His subjects.

So last week we heard the announcement of this new Elijah, John the Baptist: Get Ready, Repent! The King is here! The Christ has arrived.

Today we are going to find out that this Christ steps up out of obscurity to take His role as Mediator and REVEAL Himself to Israel as their Messiah.

Reading of Scripture

Matthew 3:13–17 (ESV), “Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. 14 John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ 15 But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.’” Then he consented. 16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’”

It is undeniable that there is something glorious about this text. This is the account of the first appearance of Jesus as an adult. We had 400 years of silence with no authoritative prophet speaking on behalf of God to His people. Suddenly there is a reconvening of salvation history. There is a work of God that is undeniable with parallel miracles:

- the virgin birth
- the cosmic sign in the heavens that lead the magi to Christ
- the appearance of angels in dreams
- the appearance of angel choruses in the skies

The Sun of Righteousness

There had been silence, but suddenly there are a lot of unusual signs happening. The glorious “sun of righteousness” begins to rise “with healing” in His wings (**Mal. 4:2**).

But no sooner does Christ's glorious birth begin to bring an excitement to Israel, but that He suddenly disappears to Egypt, and the curtains that began to open are abruptly closed shut. Three decades – thirty long years of Christ in total obscurity recommences.

The World About to Be Altered Forever

“The fullness of time had come” (Gal. 4:4). And the Sun of Righteousness is now about to shine at full strength. The glory of God is about to burst on the people of God in such a way that not only is the history of the nation of Israel going to be altered forever, but the destiny of the entire world is going to be altered forever by the events that are about to take place.

Thousands of Years / 3 and a Half Years – Redemptive History

Approximately four thousand years of redemptive history have led up to the most breath-taking events in all of human history. So Christ steps onto the scene to bring redemption to it's culmination in an astoundingly intense 3 and a half years.

So let us enter into the fullness of time, and begin these three most important years of human history – the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Four things that ought to hold our attention in this passage:

- The King's **Arrival** (13)
- The King's **Acceptance** of Role as Mediator (14-15)
- The King's **Anointing** as Mediator (16)
- The King's **Identification** as Messiah / Son (17)

I. The King's Arrival (3:13-15).

Matthew 3:13 (ESV), “Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him.” In verse one we read, “In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea”. In the 13th verse, we have “then Jesus came.” In Greek the phrase is identical except for the names. What's the point? John came to prepare the coming of our YHWH, Jesus.

Then Jesus Came

John prepared the way for YHWH. John turned the hearts of the fathers to the children. He set their hearts upon eternity. He brought about a time of great religious disturbance and personal upheaval concerning personal sinfulness. John turned the lights on. The roaches came out. They had thought they knew God. They didn't. God used John to soften the people's hearts.

It was a time of national repentance. After hundreds of years of silence, we now have a prophet in Israel. John was uncompromising and unambiguous. It caused quite a disturbance in the life of the nation. Galilee and Judea were rife with a renewed consciousness of sin.

The Theocratic Monarch Has Arrived

In other words, the nation had gone on in relative calm until the appearance of John and His announcement of the eminent Kingdom of God, telling the people to get ready for YHWH because He is on the cusp of His arrival. He's about to visit His people. The Redemptive / Messianic King David has arrived. The Theocratic Monarch has come to take His throne.

Please understand the significance of what John was saying. The Jews knew what the Prophets had foretold. This is everywhere in the Prophets, but consider, for example...

Hosea 3:4-5, “For the children of Israel shall dwell many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or pillar, without ephod or household gods”...

So God is going to strip Israel of all her idols in their exile, but then they are going to return from exile and something amazing is going to happen. Verse 5,

“5 Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God, and David their king, and they shall come in fear to the LORD and to his goodness in the latter days.”

The Talk of the Town

And so the news of the prophet and the Kingdom He announced ran like lightning throughout Israel. It was the talk of the town and the thought of the day. The Theocratic King was about to make His appearance. This is why John announced: “Repent”, “Get ready for your King!” The Messianic David, the Theocratic King is about to make His appearance.

The Scandal

The scandal of it all is that the Son of David is not making His appearance in David’s city. He is a ways outside of Jerusalem in the Judean wilderness. John the Baptist who is a Levite is **not** announcing Christ’s coming to the people in the Temple or the Holy Place. He’s left the fine linen of Jerusalem’s Temple behind and John is in the barren desert of Judean with a prophet’s mantle. He’s crying out with a stinging reality: Israel was not ready for their king. All their sacrifices were not enough. They needed to repent!

Encountering God in the Wilderness

Remember the connotation of the wilderness. For us and even for many of them – the wilderness is a bad place – it’s a barren place, it’s dry place, it’s a place you can’t find water. But for God, it is a good place. The wilderness is a significant place in redemptive history. It’s a place where YHWH meets with His people. This is where the glory cloud comes down and where the people encountered the Living God. It’s where God rejoices over those who come to Him in repentant faith. Moses meets God in the wilderness and talks to God as a man talks to his friend. Now God signals to all of us that we are all going to have the same privilege as Moses.

This privilege began with Israel being delivered from Egypt, and God met with Moses and His people in the wilderness. God seems to prefer to reveal Himself in that place of abandonment – in that place of desolation – and to bring “streams” as it were “in the desert” and “floods upon the dry ground” (Isaiah 35:6; 44:3). It’s the same way with our long awaited Theocratic King the Lord Jesus Christ. Our YHWH comes out of the obscurity of Nazareth to once and for all reveal Himself as the Davidic King, the Savior of the world.

Out of Seclusion

So we come now to the fullness of times. The times are pregnant and ready for the Messiah to appear. And so “then” in those days, the King comes out of seclusion. The Kingdom is at hand. The end of days draws near. With this 70 mile journey from Nazareth to the Jordan Valley, Jesus signals the beginning of the end of the age.

Jesus' Public Ministry Inaugurated

Verse 13 we read: "Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan..." (3:13), and it is here that Christ begins the time of His 3 and a half year public ministry which culminates with His work of redemption for the world. Christ comes from 70 miles away in Nazareth to begin His ministry to John outside of Jerusalem by the Jordan.

This is why we hear in John announcing, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" For Christ, this moment is the "crossing of the rubicon". This is the point of no return. His cosmic work of redemption has begun and there is no turning back to obscurity. It is on this day that He makes His identity known to all that He is the long awaited Messianic King. YHWH has arrived on the scene!

So we see the dawning of the Sun of Righteousness on the scene. The Messiah has arrived. He is about to reveal Himself to the nation of Israel.

Transition

But now we see something cosmic – something mammoth with great majesty. We have Jesus officially and publically accepting His office as Mediator of the New Covenant. We have Him coming to accept the responsibility to be the Redeemer of the world.

II. The King's Acceptance of Role as Mediator (3:14-15).

Matthew 3:13 (ESV), "13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him."

There was a national repentance going on in Israel. People were stirred up. After 400 years, there was finally this new prophet; the promised Elijah had come to announce YHWH's Kingdom.

So Jesus now comes down to this place of national repentance. The spotless Lamb of God comes to be baptized by John, and we are told what actually took place down to the very conversation they had.

Jesus Comes out of Obscurity to Accept His Role as Redeemer and Mediator

We see Jesus leaving His place of obscurity some 70 miles away in secluded Nazareth. He hears of the national repentance going on in the wilderness. Jesus is so humble in revealing who He is, that it shakes John. Jesus chooses to reveal Himself in a way that no one expects. He chooses to receive John's baptism.

John Recognizes Jesus

It was probably a day like any other day, and John was doing what he did – a thundering prophet preaching repentance and baptizing those who responded. And he looks down the line for those who responded and he recognizes Jesus (as John the Apostle records), and he shouts out "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). We are not told how John the Baptist recognized Him. They were cousins, but they lived 70 miles apart and likely were not as familiar with one another. Yet John recognized Christ, but was baffled. Why would the Lord submit to a baptism of repentance?

John's Quandry

We are told "John would have prevented him [Jesus]" from being baptized. But Jesus insists that He must be baptized. So this raises for us a great question:

Why was John the Baptist hesitant to baptize Jesus?

I think John was deeply conscious of three things.

1. Christ's NATURE would prohibit Him from baptism: Christ is **impeccable**.

John says, "I have need to be baptized by you!" I'm the sinner - but not you! John knew Christ couldn't possibly have a need of baptism. John is the herald, the forerunner of the Messiah. He's kind of the trumpet, if you will. "The King is coming! Get ready!" Christ is NOT involved in any personal rebellion against God like the rest of mankind. It's not like He's transgressed in some way against God and needs to be baptized for repentance like all the rest of the people. So why would YHWH come to be baptized? John is a little disturbed. He attempts to prevent Jesus from baptism. This can't be the way things are supposed to play out. A sinless human being does not need the baptism of repentance.

2. Christ's POSITION would prohibit Him from baptism: Not only is Christ impeccable, He is **Almighty**.

John understands that Jesus is greater in power and authority than him. John has just finished saying this in verse 11, "He who is coming after me is **mightier** than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry." Whatever you want to say about the Messiah, you have to say this. The Messiah is John's superior. John puts it this way, "The Messiah is so much dramatically greater than me, that I'm not even worthy to have the honor of carrying His sandals and washing His feet (the duty of a slave).

None Greater Than John the Baptist

Remember John is "a blazing and a shining light" (John 5:35). John the Baptist is the Elijah that would come to announce YHWH's coming to the earth. Of John Jesus would later say in **Matthew 11:11, 13-14**, "Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ...13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, 14 and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come."

Everyone acknowledged John to be a prophet. They came from every village and hamlet to acknowledge John's ministry. He was the greatest of all the prophets. But by comparison, the Messiah is so much greater "than me" says John, "I am not even worthy to perform the most menial duty of a slave". So John felt totally unworthy to baptize the Almighty. Maybe Gabriel the Archangel, but not John. He felt totally unworthy.

3. Christ's MINISTRY would prohibit Him from baptism.

John's ministry of baptism is a shadow of the true baptism. So John tries to STOP Jesus from being baptized (3:14): "John would have prevented Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"" John acknowledges that Jesus' baptism is the one that is really needed! John says, "You don't need MY baptism; I need YOUR baptism". John was pointing to the ultimate baptism. **Matthew 3:11**, John says, "I baptize you with water for repentance, but ... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." We all need this baptism with the Holy Spirit

– we need to be converted – if we are not, we will be baptized with His wrath, with His fire. The real baptism I need is this baptism. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is where I come into union with Christ and I am protected from the my just punishment – I deserve the fiery wrath of God’s justice! It is Jesus ministry to baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Have you been brought into this baptism?

Jesus Insists on Being Baptized

Jesus insisted that He be baptized, and his reasoning is earth shattering. He says “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” (3:15). If John was hesitant, why was our Lord so insistent that He be baptized?

One thing we need to rule out – we know that Jesus had no sense of sin in His life, because He knew Himself to be the Son of God. Luke 2 tells us that even as a child, Christ knew Himself to be the Son of God. We see Him at the normal age of 12 when Jewish boys would make their first trek to the Temple, Jesus goes there and we find He’s left behind by his parents. They go searching for Him and find Him. He’s so occupied with the doctors and scribes and teachers of the Law. They are fascinated by His fantastic wisdom. They could not match His wisdom. His parents were distressed and troubled. Jesus tells them: “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” (Luke 2:49). Christ knew who he was. He had no sin. Yet he was fully human. We learn that he submitted Himself to His parents. We read in **Luke 2:52**, “Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.” Christ was perfectly aware of His position. He didn’t think He was a sinner needing forgiveness like everyone else who lined up out there. He didn’t need to repent.

Accepting Role as Mediator

So why DID Jesus submit to John’s baptism? Jesus tells John: “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” (3:15). What does that mean – to fulfill “all righteousness”? This is one of the most shocking parts of this passage. Jesus is taking on the role as our Mediator.

It is **fitting** that Jesus should come on the scene NOW – because John gathers Israel for his baptism, and they all confess their sins and admit they are guilty. It’s like the lawsuit of God in the OT. They gather, they confess, they are guilty. What can they do? The people’s repentance does not save them. Your repentance does not save you.

We need a **Mediator**. We need someone – a broker that can settle our lawsuit. Jesus is that broker. Jesus is that Mediator. “There is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1Tim. 2:5). He is the only one of Adam’s race that can fulfill God’s requirements of perfect righteousness.

It’s **fitting** that Jesus should be baptized with the water of John’s baptism, because in a moment he’s going to be baptized with the Holy Spirit when the Spirit descends like a dove upon Him. And he’s going to pour the Spirit upon those who He reconciles to God.

He’s bringing about the righteousness that none of our fathers could bring about. **Adam** failed. **Israel** failed.

IDENTIFICATION with Israel

Jesus in baptism is identifying with Israel. Jesus is responding to God’s prophet in a way that **Israel** never responded. This is a prophetic act. We see from Matthew’s perspective that Jesus is God’s true Son. The Apostle Matthew quotes Hosea 2: “Out of Egypt I have called my

Son". Israel as a nation was in a sense, the first born child of God. This was the role they played. Christ is the true Israel. All the redemptive hopes are embodied in Him. He will not fail as our Mediator. He will not fail like Israel of old did.

Epic Failure of Adam and Israel

Israel came out of Egypt and later was carried off to Babylon. **Epic failure.**

Adam, another one called God's son, carried the whole human race into sin! Another **epic failure.** Adam broke the covenant (Hosea 6:7). He hid from God.

In **Jesus**, we have One who does not hide from God. Here is one who does not break the covenant. Here is one who does not apostasize. Here is Jesus, God's perfect Son, identifying with Himself as the true Israel. He's the **true Israel** that will not fail. He's the **last Adam** that will not fall.

SUBSTITUTION for Israel

Christ's baptism not only speaks of **identification**, but even more importantly, **substitution**. YHWH comes down from heaven, and He chooses what is right and good on behalf of us. He is our Mediator. Whereas Israel was disobedient, Christ comes OUT of Israel, takes His stand in the MIDST of Israel, and ultimately **succeeds** in every place where Israel failed. He accomplishes all righteousness. And with John obeying God in a national gathering, John is presenting Jesus to Israel, as it were, as the One who fulfills "all righteousness". We are going to see this in Matthew 4, where Jesus is tried for 40 days and nights in the wilderness. It is as if Jesus is recapitulating the experience of Israel in the wilderness, but this time, He succeeds perfectly. He is tested, tried, and proven true. All righteousness is fulfilled. What a Mediator! What a substitute!

Behold the Lamb!

It's as if after John says, Look, there, Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" It's as if Jesus says, "I accept. Baptize me John!"

"Wait, no, you're the Almighty! Can't we get an angel? I'm not worthy!"

"No, John, I'm fulfilling all righteousness. I'm taking on my role as Mediator. I'm taking on your case. I'm the lawyer for all sinners who come to me. I accept! I am the Lamb!"

This baptism is Christ coming out of obscurity, accepting His place and role as our Mediator! So we read in **Matthew 3:15** that "John consented" and baptized Jesus.

Now something even more earth shattering than Jesus accepting the role as our Mediator occurs! He is anointed as the Christ. He is anointed as our Mediator!

The Servant of Isaiah 53

As Jesus is that perfect Servant in **Isaiah 53:2**, "he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him." Out of obscurity he shoots up like a young plant out of that wilderness place, out of the "dry ground". He becomes our Mediator, our Substitute, and ultimately, as a result of this act, Jesus puts Himself forward and "the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isa. 53:6).

III. The King's **Anointing** as Mediator (3:16).

Matthew 3:16 (ESV), "And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he [John the Baptist] saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him".

Jesus is Baptized!

In His baptism, Jesus identifies with man with the physical water, but then the heavens open and He is anointed from on high with the heavenly baptism of the Spirit.

The Heavens Opened - Ezekiel

Verse 16, "And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him ..." The heavens open and it's as if John can see beyond the planets and the stars right into the presence of God (Calvin).

The heavens opened as a **sign** to our Lord. This is the sign of a prophet's commissioning. We have the sign of a prophet with the heavens opening.

We see this in the Old Testament especially in **Ezekiel 1**, where we have the anointing of Ezekiel as prophet. **Ezekiel 1:1**, "In the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I was among the exiles by the Chebar canal, **the heavens were opened**, and I saw visions of God." Ezekiel goes on to be anointed by the Spirit as a prophet.

Jesus, the Ultimate Prophet

So we have Jesus being identified not only as a prophet, but THE Prophet. The one Moses spoke of that would come. The ultimate Prophet. Look at **Deuteronomy 18:15**, "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen".

Jesus is the ultimate Prophet. He's the Word who becomes flesh reveal God to us. He is like the prophets of old who bring a lawsuit against God's people. Jesus is going to do that in Matthew 5-6. You've heard don't murder. Hate is murder. You've heard don't commit adultery. Lust is adultery. So like the prophets of old, Jesus as Prophet has the role of prosecuting attorney, but instead of leaving them in their guilt, He comes to settle the case.

The Christ Anointed

Jesus is called the Christ. He is the king. For every king, there is an anointing. There is a commissioning of that king.

David's Anointing

Consider David's anointing. **1 Samuel 16:11-16**, "Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here." 12 And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah."

The Kings of Israel were anointed. This is what the title "Christ" means. It means the One anointed to be King. Jesus is YHWH and He is anointed to be King of kings by the Holy Spirit of God.

Testimony of John the Baptist

It was at this point that John was convinced that Jesus was the Messiah. Look over at **John 1:33** (ESV), “I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’”

Christ Anointed as Mediator

We read again **Matthew 3:16**, that when Jesus was baptized: “the heavens were opened to him, and he [John the Baptist] saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him”. Luke tells us the Spirit came down in “bodily form” (Luke 3:22). Theologians and commentators mostly agree that the Spirit came down and brooded over Christ and then was likely assimilated into Him. This is Christ’s anointing with the Holy Spirit. Christ comes to be our Mediator as the God-Man yes. But He does not make full use of His attributes as God. He is our Mediator as a Spirit-filled Man. There is a mystery here, because Christ never ceased from ruling the universe, yet He was a man. As a child He needed to grow. **Luke 2:52**, “Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.” So Christ is Anointed King of kings by the Holy Spirit and filled with the Spirit to carry out the work of redemption.

The Spirit Hovered

We read again **Matthew 3:16**, that when Jesus was baptized: “the heavens were opened to him, and he [John the Baptist] saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him”. We read that the spirit rested on Christ. The word means to hover. It is similar to the Hebrew word in Genesis 1. Look over there. **Genesis 1:1-2**, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was **hovering** over the face of the waters.”

The Picture of the New Creation

So just as we have in Genesis, the Spirit making order out of the chaos of this world. We have Christ accepting His role as Mediator, and taking our chaos upon Him and making order of it. So the Spirit hovers over and rests upon the Christ. He makes Christ the fountain head of the “new creation”. **2 Corinthians 5:17**, “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” Are you in Christ today? Are you a new creation?

Anointing as the Christ

So Christ is given, John says, “the Spirit of God without measure”. And so Christ receives the Holy Spirit, likely the Spirit is assimilated into Christ as the ANOINTING for His office as King and Mediator. He’s going to take our place! He’s going to conquer our enemy. He is the Christ, the King of kings, the Son of the Living God!

Just about that time as the heaven’s open up and anoint Christ as Prophet, Mediatorial Priest and King, a voice comes from heaven and confirms His place as the Messiah, the Son of God.

Spirit-Filled Man

Now think about this as well. Christ came as Philippians 2 says, Christ became of no reputation and did not hold on to the active exercise of His attributes as YHWH. He is YHWH –

every knee will bow and tongue confess that He is JEHOVAH, but He did not operate in the fullness of His deity. He operated as a Spirit-filled man. He took on our humanity and did not grasp at holding onto His exercise of omniscience and omnipotence. From time to time He exercised them, but this was not the norm.

Compassionate High Priest

The writer of Hebrews says this in Hebrews 4:14–16 (ESV), “we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.” You see Christ is a compassionate high priest because He faced temptation like you and I face temptation. He faced it in weakness.

Objection: No Sinful Nature

You might say, yes, but He didn’t have a sinful nature. Neither did our father Adam. Our father Adam fell into sin. Our Savior Christ did not! Hallelujah what a Savior!

IV. The King’s Identification as Messiah / Son (3:17).

Matthew 3:17 (ESV), “and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.””

Echoes of Abraham

So we have echoes from Scripture in Genesis 22, where Abraham sacrifices His Son, his only son, the son whom he loved. Abraham’s love is pointing to how deep the Father’s love is for us!

Echoes from the Servant Song, Isaiah 42:1-4

When we hear this pronouncement, we also think of the Servant songs in Isaiah, promising this One that will come and be PERFECTLY obedient – specifically **Isaiah 42:1-4**, we have God’s perfectly righteous Servant, “Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. 2 He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; 3 a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. 4 He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.”

Jesus is the one in who the Father is pleased. You cannot come to God without coming to Christ. If you come to God and bypass Christ, to you God is a consuming fire! He is like a blazing furnace. You will be consumed. In Christ we are accepted. Accepted in the Beloved One.

The great deception today is that people think they have a relationship with God without coming through Christ. The only relationship they have is that they are God’s enemy.

The Father Pleased

Matthew 3:17 (ESV), “and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.””

What we find in this statement is that there is no other son in whom He is pleased. In Adam all die. In Christ all are made alive. God has never been pleased with any other men. Romans 3:23, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”. Or like Hosea says, “Like Adam,

we have all transgressed the covenant.” How many sons do we have in the Old Testament as types? We have Adam and we have Israel, and both were miserable failures. Christ is the Son in whom the father delights. He is well-pleased!

A Triune Ministry

Finally what we see here is that the Triune God is involved in redemption. Don't think God is reluctant, but gives in to Christ. No, the Father sent Christ into the world. God so loved the world that He gave His only Son.

We see the distinct persons of the Trinity. God is not a shape-shifting God. Some teach that God reveals Himself as Father in the OT, Son in the Gospels, and Spirit in the Acts and Epistles. This is called the Oneness doctrine. We don't find that at all in the Scriptures. God is three persons in one being. We have the offices and roles within the Trinity.

There was no disorder in the Trinity. This is an encouragement. The plan was shared within the Trinity to save you. God the Father planned it. God the Son paid for it. God the Spirit empowers your salvation.

It's like JC Ryle said: In the beginning God said: "Let us make man", and here it's like the Triune God is saying "Let us saved man".

God is for you He wants to save you.

Conclusion: So Christ is revealed to you. What should our response be? Let us close with Psalm 2 to answer that.

Psalm 2 Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his anointed, saying, 3 "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. 5 Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, 6 "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."

7 ¶ I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. 8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

10 ¶ Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. 11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.