

Life in His Name – Part 40
Behold Our God - John 16:25-33
Crosspoint – Dave Spooner – Dec. 17th, 2023

Intro:

- The song “Behold Our God” is based on two primary scriptures. The first is a prophecy pointing to and proclaiming the incarnation:

Isa 25:9 ESV

It will be said on that day, “Behold our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

- This passage is then blended with a passage from the New Testament, which gives us more details describing our God and His salvation in Jesus:

Phil 2:6-11 NIV

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- Behold our God, in whom we have salvation, whose name is above all names, to whom we bow our knee in honor, and in whom we rejoice because we have life in His name. For most of this year, we have been spending our time getting to know Jesus better through the book of John. John tells us he wrote this book for us **so that we would believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that by believing, we would have life in His Name (John 20:31).**
- We have now come to the final words of Jesus before He prays and then is betrayed, crucified, and resurrected. From this passage, we are going to focus on three things we have in Jesus: access to the Father, the truth of all things, and peace in this world.

In Jesus we have access to the Father

John 16:25-28 NIV

“Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. 26 In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. 27 No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. 28 I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.”

- Jesus came from the Father in the incarnation, which we recognize and celebrate at Christmas. He lived His life as a human, perfectly without sin, and was the “lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29) by giving His life to pay the penalty of our sin. Those who love

Him for who He is and received what He has done for them are loved by God. And because God loves them, all those who love Jesus have direct access to the Father.

- This means that we can personally go to God through prayer. We need no mediator nor to have a priest or “saint” or Mary pray on our behalf. You and I have been made worthy to enter into the very presence of God, that He would see us and that we would see Him because of Jesus. Behold our God, who has given us access to the Father because of His love for us and ours for Him. God hears us, and we receive from Him. Rejoice in His salvation.

In Jesus we have truth of all things

John 16:29-32 NIV

Then Jesus’ disciples said, “Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. 30 Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God.”

31 “Do you now believe?” Jesus replied. 32 “A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.

- Jesus said that He was “the truth” (John 14:6), and in our world, the truth is hard to grasp. So many claim that they know the truth, and that “their truth” holds the same weight as the “truth” of another, even when these perspectives are contradictory and opposed to one another. Jesus defines what is true, and by Him, all truth is measured. What He says is true, regardless of all other opinions. He knows what is true about all things, things that were, things that are, and things that are to come. We are to look to Him for what is true, and we can build our lives on the bedrock and firm foundation of His teaching.
- Each of us is building our lives on what we believe to be true. Jesus is the only sure foundation on which we can build that will stand the winds of this world and the fire of examination which is coming (see Matt 7:24-27 & 1 Cor. 3:10-15). Behold our God. In Him, we have the truth of all things, and we can trust Him and build our lives on His truth and in Him. He will always tell us the truth, and He can be trusted. Rejoice in what we have in Christ.

In Jesus we have peace in this world

John 16:33 NIV

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

- In Jesus, we have peace, even as we are in a world that has trouble. This reminds me of Noah and the ark, that those in the ark had peace while they were in a sea that was troubled (Gen. 7). It reminds me of Moses in a basket, as he floated upon troubled waters (Ex. 2:1-10). It reminds me of the disciples in a boat in the middle of a sea. When the storms raged, the prince of peace brought peace to their troubled hearts as He also chose to calm the seas (Mark 4:35-41).
- When Jesus was born, a company of angels sprang forth from heaven and declared, “**Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests” (Luke 2:14).** God’s favor rests on those who are “in Christ” – those who have placed their trust and hope in Him, as their savior, provider, friend, companion and Lord. They bank on and place their entire life on Him, trusting what He said was true, trusting what He promises to be

completed, trusting that He will lead them beside still waters and that they will dwell in the house of the Lord forever (Psalm 23).

- This does not mean we will not face the storms and troubles of this world, but what it means is that in Jesus, we may have peace, knowing that He is greater than all of the troubles of this world. He will see us through the storms and make all things right in the end. Behold our God. In Him, we have peace in this troubled world.

Conclusion

- Let your hearts find their peace in Jesus, trust that He knows all things and you can have full confidence in Him, thank Him that He has given you full access to the Father, that the Father hears you and knows you because you love and follow Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God. If you have not trusted Christ with your life, do so today. Worship Him with gladness of heart, give your life to following Him with abandon, and find your peace in Him in your journey in this world, finding peace that He is with you and peace that He will bring you safely home. Rejoice in your salvation and all the wonderful things we have in Him! Behold your God.
- Prayer people are available and pray.
- We are going to close with a couple more songs that speak of Jesus coming to earth. Let the truth of these songs fill your heart.