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A Bible Study

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The Rest of the Story

BY RICHARD JORDAN

Paul lists seven steps in our Lord's humiliation:

"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" (Phil. 2:5-8).

Then comes "*the rest of the story.*" Christ is exalted, not in gradual steps but *all at once*, and is given a name to match His exalted position:

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

"And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:9-11).

Many have wondered how the name so associated with His humiliation can also be the name of His exaltation. The seeming impossibility of this has led to several rather fanciful ideas.

Some feel that "the name which is above every name" is not the name "Jesus" at all, but rather a name yet to be revealed. It is argued that the expression "the name of Jesus" has the sense of "the name which *belongs to* Jesus." In other words, to a new name He will one day be given.

While this sense is quite *possible*, it does not necessarily follow that a new and different name is involved. If, for example, we say, "At the name of Smith every knee shall bow," what would be the natural response to the phrase, "the name of Smith"? Does not this name *belong* to Mr. Smith? Are we obliged now to find a new and different name at which to bow?

Often Revelation 19:12 is used in support of this idea: "...and He had a name written, that, no man knew, but He Himself." But isn't this clearly saying that no one *fully understands* who He is? Isn't this at least implied by the fact that no less than *four* names are given Him in this very passage?

On another hand some insist we should never allow the name "Jesus" to stand alone, that we should never use it by itself, but rather we should always give the Lord His full title: *the Lord Jesus Christ*. We, too, are in favor of giving our Lord His full title, but this writer at least finds this argument to be a bit overdrawn.

It is true that in scriptrue only those who had contempt for the Lord-or who thought themselves on equal terms with Him-ever *addressed* Him as "Jesus"(e.g., Matt.8:29; 27:22, Acts 17:7, cf.John 13:13). But it is equally true that genuine believers refer to Him by this name many times (e.g., Matt, 2:1, Acts 7:55, II Cor. 4:10, 11 etc.). Thus to remove every use of the name "Jesus" from our lips, even going so far as to strike its presence from hymns of worship and praise, seems unnecessary-- and unwise.

No believer instructed in the great message committed to the Apostle Paul would ever be guilty of the flippant use of our Savior's name, [The Charismatics of our day will have much to answer for in this regard, for not only do they sully His name with their mindless emotionalism but they lay open the door for "another Jesus" to enter the midst of the unsuspecting (II Cor.11:1-4, 13-15).] for it is this grand message that *exalts* that name above all others!

The name "Jesus" was given to our Lord in association with "the days of His humiliation"-- when He humbled Himself and "was made in the likeness of men". Matthew 1:21 gives us the angel's instruction to Joseph:

"And she shall bring forth a son, and THOU SHALT CALL HIS NAME JESUS: FOR HE SHALL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS".

The name "Jesus" is thus forever associated with His becoming flesh, and thus with Calvary, where "*in the body of His flesh*" He died in shame for our sins. But wait-now with the revelation of "*the preaching of the cross*" this has become His very *glory* and will be through all eternity!

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (I Cor.1:18).

"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world ." (Gal.6:14).

"And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beats and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

"Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.

"And every creature which is in heaven ,and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying , Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever" (Rev.5:11-13).

Thus the name "Jesus" no longer speaks merely of His humiliation; rather that name has been *glorified* by what He *accomplished* through "*the death of the cross*". Hence, Paul declares it to be "*the name which is above every name*"-for through the revelation of the mystery given to him we know *the rest of the story!*



WHAT DID THEY BELIEVE?

John records the reaction of Peter and John upon entering the empty tomb by saying:

"Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen cloths lie,

"And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

"Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and SAW, AND BELIEVED" (John 20:6-8).

The very next verse, however, declares:

"For AS YET THEY KNEW NOT THE SCRIPTURE, THAT HE MUST RISE AGAIN FROM THE DEAD" (V.9).

Since they could not believe something they did not know about , just what was it that John *believed*? Most commentators seem to assume they believed that Christ was risen. We are grateful to Pastor Mac Register of Mesa, Arizona for pointing out that the context of John 20 suggests something quite different. Review the account for a moment:

Mary goes alone to the tomb early in the morning. Finding the stone rolled away, she runs to Peter and John in something of a panic with news of her discovery, and exclaiming, "*They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him*" (v.2).

Peter and John then run to the tomb. Upon arriving Peter goes in first with John following. They see the grave clothes lying on the slab- but no body. At this point the record says, "*he saw, and believed.*" Believed *what*? It seems obvious that John believed Mary's report that Christ's body had been stolen-"*for as yet they knew not the scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.*"

It was not until some time *later* that they came to understand that Christ was indeed resurrected. After His appesrance to them in the upper room, we are told:

"Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

"And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day" (Luke 24:45, 46).

Only after having been thus enlightened did they understand-and believe. Only then could they reflect back and recall the truth which was not comprehended at the time:

"When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them: and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said" (John 2:22).

The Christian is a person who can be certain about the ultimate even when he is most uncertain about the immediate. This fact should bring an inner peace the world [knows nothing about and no psychological technique can provide.](#)

SHOULD CHRISTIANS BE COMMUNISTS?

Webster's *New Collegiate Dictionary* defines communism as, "A theory advocating the elimination of private property. A system in which goods are owned in common and distributed to all as needed."

This is exactly the condition we find described in the Jewish assembly in Jerusalem in the days immediately following Pentecost. The record is clear:

"And all that believed were together, and HAD ALL THINGS COMMON; and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need" (Acts 2:44, 45).

"And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: NEITHER SAID ANY OF THEM THAT OUGHT OF THE THINGS WHICH HE POSSESSED WAS HIS OWN; BUT THEY HAD ALL THINGS COMMON.

"And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and DISTRIBUTION WAS MADE UNTO EVERY MAN ACCORDTNG AS HE HAD NEED" (Acts 4:32, 35).

Today we see communistic systems around the world seeming to crumble, and many Christians are rejoicing in their fall and extolling the virtues of our free enterprise system. How can these two positions be reconciled? If the church on the Day of Pentecost operated on what is by definition a communistic system, (Not, ofcourse, the atheistic materialism of godless Marxism), are we right to oppose communism today? Should our government and/or churches be operated in obedience to Acts 2:44, 45 and 4:32-35?

In order to answer these questions we must understand why the church at Jerusalem was operating under a communistic system. Obviously, this was God's will for the church because they were doing it under the divine guidance of the Holy Spirit.

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:1, 4).

This supernatural Holy Spirit guidance is what made the communistic system possible. The Holy Spirit *caused* these men to make proper decisions and maintain proper heart attitudes.

As Peter declared, this supernatural guidance was in fulfillment of longstanding prophecies to the nation Israel:

"But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

"And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy" (Acts 2:16-18).

The prophet Ezekiel had declared:

"For I WILL TAKE YOU FROM AMONG THE HEATHEN, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

"Then will I SPRINKLE CLEAN WATER UPON YOU, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

"And I WILL PUT MY SPIRIT WITHIN YOU, AND CAUSE YOU TO WALK IN MY STATUTES, AND YE SHALL KEEP MY JUDGMENTS, AND DO THEM" (Ezek.36:24, 25, 27).

In Acts 2 we see the beginnings of the fulfillment of all the three parts of Ezekiel's prophecy. First, Israel was regathered (Ezek.36:24):

"And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven" (Acts 2:5).

Second, water baptism for forgiveness of sins was preached (Ezek. 36:25):

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38).

Third, the Holy Spirit was supernaturally given (Ezek. 36:27):

"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the spirit gave them utterance" (Acts.2:4).

Clearly what is happening in early Acts is the beginning of Israel's kingdom blessings based upon the institution of their New Covenant. This is what Christ had promised Israel in His earthly ministry. They were able to live under the communistic system because they were preparing to enter into their kingdom where all poverty and need would be eliminated:

"Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?"

"Therefore take no thought, saying, what shall we eat? Or, what shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?"

"(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek :) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

"But SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD, and His righteousness; and ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU" (Matt. 6:25, 31-33).

On the other hand, as we enter the dispensation of grace and the ministry of the Apostle Paul, we see a definite change in the system which was in effect on the day of Pentecost. Paul makes clear in his epistles that a communistic system is no longer God's will for His people. For example:

"For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

"Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

"Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensamble unto you to follow us.

"For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat" (II Thess.3:7-10).

"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel" (I Tim.5:8).

No longer are we commanded to rid ourselves of riches, but rather to use those riches for God's purpose. See I Timothy 6:17, 18.

Why is there this change in economy from the early Acts period to the epistles of the Poul? The answer is clearly given to us in the book of Romans. There God tells us that the nation Israel has been set aside for a time and their kingdom blessings have been delayed:

"For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that BLINDNESS IN PART IS HAPPENED TO ISRAEL, UNTIL THE FULNESS OF THE GENTILES BE COME IN"(Rom.11:25).

“God’s program for the present age of grace is not to bring in the kingdom and its economy. Rather He is forming a spiritual body of believers known as the Body of Christ and giving them a heavenly hope and prospect.

Many leaders in the professing church today have given very mixed messages on the subject of communism. Many desire a “*return to Pentecost*” and yet extol the virtues of our capitalistic system. The only scriptural solution to this contradiction is to realize that the communistic system of early Acts was in fulfillment of Israel’s prophecies in preparation for their kingdom.

The wicked, Godless communism that we see today is a man-made perversion of God’s system. God’s economic system for the dispensation of grace is not found in early Acts; rather it is free market system based on the principle revealed in Paul’s epistles.

Strictly Personal:

“GOOD MEN GONE BAD”

The above tag is now being placed up the editor and others by those who continue to rail in opposition to the *King James Bible*. Not only have they slandered and misrepresented our teachings beyond the point of honest disagreement, now they have taken to warning that we are truly evil and *dangerous*--absurdly crediting us, it seems, with responsibility for almost every evil imaginable, regardless of its source, all the while suggesting we should be grateful they aren't "telling all"!!

Occasionally we get inquiries from friends wondering how we are "holding up" under all this. We are happy to report that we are doing quite well. God’s grace is marvelous and we long ago purposed to obey Romans 12:14-21 in these matters where they affect us personally. The resulting peace and contentment have been more than we could have asked.

Frankly, we understand what is going on. It is nothing new or unique-or to get overly excited about. The evidence is clear enough for anyone to read: A small oligarchy of modern-day Diotrepheses (III John 9, 10) have allowed their "evil imaginations" to

run wild in a effort to defend their power bases. They are, plainly put, religious bosses who want to have their own way. Things such as honesty, integrity, fair play--to say nothing of brotherly love--must take a back seat .*SELF-JUSTIFICATION* is always the hallmark of such activity--all in "the name of the truth," of course (Prov. 16:2;20:6;21:2;30:12, II Cor. 10:12).

It is true that many believers have been disgusted and turned off by these tactics. Indeed, it is sad to see brethren wasting God's people's funds and their own time in what amounts to a smear campaign designed to justify themselves at any cost .They have *manufactured a phony* "crisis"--one which they then decry, blame on others and see sympathy for having to "fight." The fact is there is *no* fight--just a lot of wind from one side of the field. The telling truth is that they even hold it against us for *refusing* to fight with them!

As for us, we press ahead. We still believe the *King James Bible* is the Word of God for English speaking people. These brethren can have their mixed porridge. One booklet being advertised and recommended as "scholarly" concludes: "By this standard the New International Version *is* the word of God. The New American Standard Version *is* the word of God. The Amplified Bible *is* the word of God." If that's their position (and it is), they can have it! We'll press on. (Compare the *KJV* readings in Mark 1:2,Luke 2:33,Col. 1:14,Mtt.1:25,Luke 2:14,Mtt.6:13,Luke 24::42,I John 5:7, etc. With *any* new version you will easily see for yourself that they are *not* the same--and that the difference is serious).

When they demand that their view be submitted to as the *only* allowable one, we'll press on without them if that is their choice. We have no interest in returning their anger and insults but will seek, by God's grace, to obey Eph. 4:29-32.

We still believe the *King James Bible* must be rightly divided to be rightly understood. We are still preaching and teaching that rightly-divided Book from coast to coast both personally and through the *Grace Journal*, audio and video tapes, Bible study literature,radio and soon, we trust, television. We are still training men for the ministry and helping establish grace churches. In short, the work goes on.

If others want to waste their time in petty, selfserving activities they'll have to do it without us (See Neh.6:3).

"Brethren, pray for us." We need it--and count on you for this!



Never believe a thing because a "great Bible teacher" says it. There is only one Great Bible Teacher--the Holy Spirit. He teaches *only* what is in the Scriptures--of which He is the Author.

