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THE WONDERFUL CHRIST
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01 -- ONE OF CHRIST'S NAMES IS "WONDERFUL"

One of the characteristics of the Lord Jesus Christ is abundance. His nature is so great and His attributes so many that it requires many names to reveal Him. One of His names is "Wonderful." Isaiah wrote in his prophecies concerning Christ's coming: "Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given ... and His name shall be called wonderful" (Isa. 9:6).

This great evangelical prophet, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, was enabled to look into the future and see the coming of the Wonderful One. We, too, need the Holy Spirit to give us a revelation of the Wonderful Christ.

The name "Wonderful" is to be employed of Christ, not in His Deity alone, but in His Deity and humanity. This is one of His names in relation to His incarnation. To the regenerated soul, Christ is ever wonderful. Wonderful means full of wonder.

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02 -- WONDERFUL IN HIS ETERNITY

As the Son of the Father, He was without beginning. He lays claim to eternity. This is a sublime doctrine and one which we are not able to fully explain. In the eternal past, He always was with the Father and is just as old as the Father. He always has been equal with the Father in essence and attributes. He always was with the Father and in His bosom as the Beloved One. Christ is the eternal object of His Father's love. Throughout the eternal past, the Father lavished His eternal and infinite love on Christ, Who in return reciprocated. The unity and fellowship between the Father and the Son was infinite and holy. Christ was wonderful in His eternity. The Anticipation of Redemption was Wonderful

Christ was the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. As the eternal Son He fills eternity to eternity. He lives in the eternal past, present and future. He knew the end from the beginning. Christ has no afterthoughts. He is never surprised. In the eternal past, He knew man would sin and need a redeemer. The needed redemption was planned and provided for in the eternal past, and with the One Who is always the same, this was eternally settled in heaven as an accomplished fact.

The marvel and wonder of creation and redemption is that originally man was created in the image and likeness of God. Man sinned and lost the image and likeness of God. The penalty for sin was death. He who created man, made this law and attached the penalty to it, Himself paid the penalty and died to redeem man.

Man needed a redeemer -- a substitute; One who was perfect and holy; One who could take man's place and pay the penalty for sin; One who could give life and restore the image and likeness of God in man.

The redeemer of the human family must be God and He also must be Man. A mere man would not have the capacity to make atonement for the whole race, but only for one individual, and

God Who is eternal and self-existing, could not die. The mystery has been solved in the incarnation. While God cannot die, and man does not have the ability; man can die and God has the ability. Deity possesses the power and humanity the right in becoming the Redeemer of man.

This is a wonderful thought that the second Person of the Trinity could take upon Himself a human nature (His own image and likeness in which He created Adam) and become a member of the human family to redeem us. Salvation could not be provided for fallen angels for they stand upon their own righteousness. They were not created in the image and likeness of God. Christ could not take the nature of angels on Himself, for that would mar the Godhead. But created in the image of God, man who sinned and is guilty of sins of which angels are not guilty may be redeemed. Surely it is wonderful that salvation could be provided for sinful men! The anticipation of redemption was wonderful in that He was the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world and this in the sight of God was an accomplished fact.

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03 -- WONDERFUL IN HIS BIRTH

Christ's coming was promised over four thousand years before He came. He was predicted to be the Seed of the woman -- the seed of Abraham -- of David. Many holy men of old longed for His coming and to see the days of Christ, but they only in vision saw His coming as they looked through the mist of time.

When the fullness of time came, the second Person of the Trinity was sent from the bosom of the Father, leaving heaven and the throne of the Father, to come to this world, to assume a human body and nature, and become a member of the human race. It was essential for the Redeemer to be a citizen of heaven and of earth, even God and man.

A virgin was to be the mother of Christ. Mary was chosen by God to be this virgin. This virgin was espoused to Joseph. Both were descendants of David: Joseph through Solomon, and Mary through Nathan. Jesus was the Son of Mary, but not of Joseph. The Scriptural accounts of the virgin birth are true. The birth of Christ is just as virtuous as is the new birth. If Christ were not born of the Holy Ghost in the incarnation, neither has He been born anew in our hearts by the Holy Ghost in the new birth. Matthew and Luke, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, write and tell us how the birth of Christ was accomplished in Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 1:26-35.

These are days when many disbelieve and deny the miraculous birth of Christ. They ask the question: "How can a virgin conceive and bear a son?" These do not consider the supernatural power of God. If God can make a woman (Eve) without a mother, He also can make a man (Jesus) without a father. There are four methods employed by God in the making of man. First, God took some dust and made a man. Secondly, God took a rib and made a woman Thirdly, God instituted the natural way of husband and wife, even by a father and mother. And fourthly, God took a woman and by the power of the Holy Ghost, made a man.

Adam had neither father nor mother. Eve had no mother. We each have a father and a mother. Christ had no human father. Adam was created and Eve was formed. We all were generated. Jesus was begotten.

There never was a birth like the birth of Christ. All other persons are the seed of man. He was the seed of the woman. Generation is paternal not maternal. The Scriptures say: Abraham begat Isaac; Isaac begat Jacob; Jacob begat Judah, etc. The birth of Christ was not paternal, but maternal.

We all have a human father -- not so Christ. We all were born with a sinful nature. Christ did not possess a sinful nature in His birth. We all came into the world to live; He came into the world to die. We all are the offspring of Adam. He was before Adam, from eternity.

No son of Joseph could have become the Redeemer of the human family, but would need a Redeemer, for in Adam all die. This wonderful Christ was the Redeemer of His own brethren, of His mother and Joseph the husband of Mary; also of the entire world.

No son of Joseph could be born pure and holy, without a sinful nature and free from the curse of the fall.

No son of Joseph could claim all that Christ claimed to be and declare Himself to be the Son of God.

No son of Joseph could claim to be from all eternity and without beginning.

No son of Joseph could claim to be Deity, but only humanity.

No son of Joseph could be worshipped, answer prayer, or forgive sins.

No son of Joseph had inherent life, neither could He lay down His life and take it again, nor could He give life to anyone.

If we consider His incarnation and condescension to become Man we can but admit that His birth was wonderful.

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04 -- A WONDERFUL BABY

Christ was the most wonderful Baby ever born in the world. Even a Baby Whose coming was announced four thousand years before He was born; yet when He did come, there was no preparation made for His coming such as mothers now make for a prospective child. This wonderful Baby was wrapped in swaddling clothes. He who was the greatest in heaven was born the humblest on earth.

As we consider Him, there are mysteries too wonderful to explain. He Who was God, yet became Man, was "Immanuel," that is, God with us. This Babe Who was lying in a manger, literally was God. He was a Babe -- yet God.

A Babe (an infant just born) -- yet He Whose goings forth have been from old, from everlasting.

A Babe in a manger -- yet He Who came from the Father's throne in heaven.

A Babe born of a woman -- yet He Who created all things.

A Babe sustained in the bosom of His mother -- yet He Who gives life, sustains and upholds all things by the word of His power.

A Babe helpless and dependent -- yet omnipotent.

A Babe not able to walk -- yet omniscient.

Truly this was a wonderful Baby! Well might the wise men worship and present gifts to Him! Well could Simeon take Him in His arms and bless God and become blessed and say: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy Servant depart in peace, according to Thy Word: for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation!" This Babe of Bethlehem was wonderful.

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05 -- WONDERFUL IN HIS LIFE

There never was a life like the life of Christ. In His infancy, He was pure and innocent. All other babies are innocent, but not pure. As a boy, He was always obedient. His mother never had to call Him the second time before He obeyed, neither did she have to say: "Jesus, don't do that," or "Why didn't you do that?" or "I told you not to do so," etc. He never became angry or lied or disobeyed; but was obedient, truthful and honest.

One of the wonders in the life of Christ is the silence that surrounds His early years. From His infancy to His manhood, when He was thirty years old, only one incident is recorded, which happened in the temple when He was twelve years old. It was good of the Holy Spirit to give us an inspired record of an event in this period of His life to reveal to us what things Christ was interested in while He was a boy. As a boy, He was about His Father's business. He went with His parents to the Passover. While at the temple, He did not play games on the outside or come in late for services, but was on time and took part. Here He heard the doctors and asked them questions. Here this wonderful Boy was placed in the midst of the doctors as their teacher. The questions He asked and the answers He gave astonished the doctors and no doubt enabled them to see a deeper significance in the Passover than they ever had before.

The reason the Spirit does not give a full history of His life during these years is that this was not the object of His coming. Jesus came into the world to die. A full account of His death is

given in the four Gospels. The Holy Spirit placed great emphasis on the fact of His redemptive death. It has been said if the thirty-three years of Christ's life were as fully recorded as the last week preceding His death, the Bible would be eighty times larger than our completed Bible. His life from His infancy to His manhood, though briefly recorded, was wonderful.

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06 -- WONDERFUL IN HIS BAPTISM AND ANOINTING

When the time came for Christ to enter His public ministry, being thirty years of age, He came to His forerunner who was baptizing in Jordan. The great ministry of John the Baptist was to initiate Christ into His ministry and to introduce Him to the people as the Messiah and the Lamb of God. It was revealed to John, that as He baptized, One would come to Him on Whom the Spirit should descend and rest on Him and that that One would be the Son of God. John was called to bear witness to this fact. When Jesus came to John to be baptized of Him He declared and said, "I have need to be baptized of Thee and comest Thou to me?" Jesus answered and said unto Him, "Suffer it to be so now." John recognized the greatness of Christ, and it was humiliating for him, being inferior, to baptize a superior One Before John consented to baptize anyone his applicant was called to repent and confess his sins. When Christ was baptized, He had no sins of His own to confess. As Jesus was being baptized, He prayed and the heavens were opened as a result of His praying. Then the Holy Ghost actually removed as a Person in all of His essence, attributes, power, gifts and graces, came down on the earth, henceforth to reside in the body of Jesus which He had constructed in His miraculous birth. Christ possessed this capacity and possibility, for He was sinless and holy, and was the Son of God as well as the Son of Man. The various relationships and operations of the Holy Spirit in Christ from His anointing to His glorification made possible the manifold operations and relations of the Spirit in Man. It qualified Christ as a Man for His substitutional work and also for our experiential good. The Holy Spirit descended in bodily shape like a dove to rest on Christ. A dove is an emblem of innocence and purity. Christ did not possess any sinful nature as we do when the Spirit came to take possession of Him. The Spirit now became incarnate in the body of Christ.

Never before in the history of man had anyone in this manner received the Spirit. The Holy Spirit in the past had come on people for specific work, but when that work was accomplished, the Spirit again was removed. People in Old Testament times were empowered by the Spirit, but not baptized.

The Holy Spirit rested on Christ in all of His essence and attributes. The Spirit was given to Him without measure. We obtain a beautiful picture of this anointing in the Old Testament when Aaron the high priest was initiated into the priestly office. Before Aaron received the application of the blood he was anointed. Oil was poured on him, which dripped from his beard, ran down his body, dripped off his fingers and feet. This was a type of the anointing of our Great High Priest, Who, before He entered His ministry was anointed by that which the oil symbolized -- the Holy Spirit -- and He Who had no sins to be forgiven and also He Who was anointed before His blood was shed on the cross.

In the anointing of Christ, the Holy Spirit took possession of Him, filled Him, empowered Him, employed Him, enabled Him to offer Himself in sacrifice to God, then raised Him from the dead, changing His body and carrying Him up in the ascension to the Father's right hand where He was glorified. But these were not all the reasons why Jesus was anointed by the Spirit. He was anointed for our experiential benefit. The Holy Spirit resided in the body of Christ till He ascended into the heavens, which again opened to receive Christ with the Spirit still residing in His person. When the day of Pentecost came Jesus shed the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit left heaven in all of His personality, robed in the nature of Jesus, to come into the world to become incorporated in the church and to take possession of all who have been born of the Spirit. The coming of the Spirit was conditioned on the ascension of Christ back to the Father. (See John 7:37-39; 14:18-26; Acts 2:33). These are wonderful truths to behold. The Spirit can regenerate us, then we have a life -- a capacity which He can fill, empower and use. Also, the Spirit is in the world getting a bride ready for Christ. When this specific work is done, the Spirit will raise all the saved dead and change the living and carry them up to meet Christ to be with Him forever. His anointing with the Spirit was wonderful and enabled Him to perform a wonderful ministry. Christ Was Wonderful in His Conflict with Satan As we follow this wonderful One filled with the Spirit, we see Him being led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. The temptation of Christ by Satan was a necessity. The first Adam, when tempted, yielded and failed; thus, he involved the whole race in sin and defeat. Jesus Christ, the last Adam became a Man to take man's place, fight man's battles, overcome his enemies, pay his penalty and restore his fellowship with God. He must begin where the first Adam failed. Thus before Jesus began His life's work, the Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil.

It is interesting to compare the temptation and environments of the first Adam with those of the last Adam and the results of each one's temptations.

The first Adam was created by God, the last Adam, as God was eternal; as Man, He became.

The first Adam stands as the head of the entire human race. The last Adam is the Head of the redeemed race of the sons of God.

The first Adam was tempted in a garden, but the last Adam was tempted in a wilderness.

The first Adam feasted in a garden, while the last Adam fasted in a wilderness.

The first Adam lived amidst trees which were pleasant to the sight and good for food. The last Adam, while tempted, was in a wilderness among thorns, weeds and thistles, and was with the wild beasts.

There was no curse before the fall; therefore, the animals were tame and had no furious nature. Christ in the wilderness was with the wild beasts (Mark 1:13). During the forty days and nights the wild beasts may have come near to Christ to devour Him. He may have heard the wolves howl, the bears growl, and the lions roar. Hissing serpents may have crossed and recrossed his path, but none of these hurt Him for He was holy and possessed the power of dominion which Adam had lost in the fall. Christ was conqueror over these beasts.

The first Adam when tempted, yielded and failed: the result was he failed and lost all his rights as ruler, involving the entire human race in sin and death. We may not be able to comprehend all that was lost in the fall. Many good blessings had a sad ending and many evil things had a sad beginning.

The last Adam did not yield when tempted. The result of His wonderful victory was that He returned in the power of the Spirit; He regained the battle which Adam lost in the fall, and He qualified to begin His ministry. Now He was ready to enter the ministry and do the work which His Father had sent Him to do and which He consummated in a glorious triumph.

Jesus was tempted the entire forty days in which He was in the wilderness. When these days were ended then came the climax of the temptations as recorded in Matthew and Luke. If Satan fails now, he will forever have failed and become a defeated foe. Jesus was tempted in all points as we are, apart from the sinful nature. There was nothing in Him which responded to the Devil. During these forty days, Satan tempted Jesus in every possible way he could, but with no effect. Jesus resisted and defeated Satan. Then Satan departed and left Him for a season. What else could he do after he was defeated! Satan now was a conquered foe, for he, as it were, had wasted his whole round of shots and did not get any game. Christ overcame him by the power of the Spirit, the Word of God, faith, obedience and patience. Christ fired three Scriptures at Satan and completely and forever defeated him. Christ employed these three passages of Scripture out of the book of Deuteronomy. This is the book of obedience. It seems that Satan has had a special enmity against this book ever since he was defeated. It is no wonder that wicked men and critics deny the authorship and authenticity of Deuteronomy.

Our wonderful Christ was victorious over Satan in the wilderness; in His ministry; in His death; in His resurrection and also in His ascension. We, too, may be overcomers through our victorious Christ. The wonderful Christ won a wonderful victory over Satan in the temptation, which brought wonderful results to mankind.

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07 -- WONDERFUL IN HIS MINISTRY

Christ said, "For even the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister and to give His life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). His ministry was short (three and one-half years); nevertheless, it was powerful. As we behold Christ returning from the wilderness in the power of the Spirit after His great victory over Satan, He selected a few followers so that they might be with Him and that He might send them forth. Christ's ministry was three-fold: He went about teaching His followers, preaching the gospel to the poor, and healing the sick (Matt. 4:23). Christ was the most wonderful Teacher that ever came into the world. He taught men the way of salvation and how to enter into the kingdom. He could expound the Old Testament Scriptures until men's hearts burned within them. He gave new and added revelations which form a part of the Holy Scriptures. Christ taught many truths by giving parables. He taught with simplicity and preached with authority.

Christ was the world's greatest Preacher. His messages were freighted with love and power. When this great Preacher preached and taught, He sat and the congregation stood. This is just the reverse order of today in which the preacher stands and the congregation sits.

His miracles were many and mighty. They were an evidence of His Deity. Christ turned water into wine; healed the sick; cleansed the leper; opened the eyes of the blind; cast out demons; multiplied bread; stilled the tempests; raised the dead and forgave sins.

His words were quick and powerful. People were astonished at His doctrine, for He spoke with authority. It is recorded of Him, "Never man spake like this Man." By virtue of His words He instructed the people and healed them. Everything was subject to His words for they were words of truth and life.

The four Gospels writers give us four pictures of this wonderful Christ and His ministry. Matthew, a Jew, writes his Gospel for the Jews and presents Christ in a manner that appeals to Jews. He is presented as their Messiah and King Who came according to the Old Testament prophecies. Mark writes his Gospel for the Romans and presents Christ in a manner that appeals to the Romans, even as the Mighty Conqueror over all evil forces. Luke writes his Gospel for the Greeks and presents Christ as the perfect Man. John writes his Gospel for the church and presents Christ in His Deity. Christ taught the people, preached to the poor and healed the sick without a salary or fees. In His ministry, even as in His nature, He was wonderful.

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08 -- WONDERFUL IN HIS PASSION

Christ came into the world with His face set toward the cross. Again and again, His life was sought from His infancy to the cross; but not till the fullness of time came would He die. No man could take His life, for He must lay it down of Himself. When the time drew near that He should be crucified He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem.

During the last week before His death, He was severely tried by the Herodians and Pharisees, who were the political and religious classes of their day. These could not agree in their doctrine nor practices; but when it came to rejecting Christ, they did fellowship and agree among themselves. These two classes tried to entangle Christ in His talk. Together they came to Christ and with flattering words asked Him a question concerning whether it was lawful to give tribute to Caesar or not. Christ could not answer "yes," for then the Pharisees in their religion would disclaim Him as their Messiah; neither could He say "No," for then the Herodians in their political power would arrest Him. This wonderful Christ perceived their wickedness and called them hypocrites. He was more than able to answer their questions and in His wisdom He made them answer their own question by asking them another question. In the question which He asked them, Christ inferred that if they had rendered to God the things which belonged to Him they would never have needed to pay tribute to Caesar; but because of their sins they were made subject to the Roman yoke.

Next came the Sadducees or the higher critics of their day who did not believe in spirits, angels, the resurrection, or the supernatural power of God. Christ also wonderfully answered them, exploded their errors and doctrines, informed them that they were mistaken and ignorant, and did not know the power of God.

Last of all, Christ asked the Jews a question concerning Himself: "What think ye of Christ? Whose Son is He?" They answered, "The Son of David." Then Jesus asked them again: "How then doth David by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit call him Lord?" They did not believe in His miraculous conception nor in His Deity. The questions and Scriptures which He gave asserted both His Deity and His humanity. In this manner He silenced His critics so that from then on, no one was allowed to ask Him any more questions.

Christ knew the time when He would be taken and crucified. In the midst of this He was peaceful. As He went into the garden after the supper, He singled out Peter, James and John to go with Him to watch and pray. This was the hour of the prince of darkness, when it seemed that all hell was turned loose on Him. His soul was exceeding sorrowful, even unto death. As He went a little further, He fell. His humanity was pure and sinless, and now as the time drew nigh that He was to be made an offering for sin, as our sins were laid on Him which touched His spotless humanity, the effects were so painful that it seemed to crush out His life. He sweat, as it were, great drops of blood. After praying and sweetly submitting to His Father's will, He was strengthened by an angel. He was to die on the cross. Christ then was led by an angry mob to the high priest, where He was condemned on false accusations. He was then led to Pilate who was the Roman governor. Pilate never before had such a case to judge. As accusation after accusation came in against Him (and all were false), He did not answer. People spit on Him, but He did not spit back. They smote Him, but He did not smite back. Pilate even marveled at His silence. Instead of Jesus being released, Barabbas was set free, and Jesus was condemned to be crucified.

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09 -- WONDERFUL IN HIS DEATH

On the cross He hung in shameful nakedness. Sin stripped man and made him naked. Thus, Christ in the sinner's place must suffer and die to provide a covering -- a robe of righteousness for us.

On the cross Christ was made a curse to redeem us from the curse and to lift the curse from us.

On the cross, Christ paid the penalty for our sins. He suffered untold agony. Mistreated, falsely accused and mocked, with pierced hands and feet and a bleeding back and brow -- this was great agony -- but not as a drop of the ocean compared to the intenseness of His spiritual suffering. If He had been a mere man we might measure the suffering of the crucifixion; but no one can fathom His suffering because He was the God-man, Who possessed Deity.

On the cross, God the Father reached back over the four thousand years of time and gathered up all the sins of all the people of all time, with their curse and penalty and laid them on

His Son. Then God the Father reached forward through time and gathered up all the sins of every sinner -- your sins and mine -- and all that are not yet committed even to the end of time and laid them on Him. From Adam the first sinner to the last one there will be -- all sins of all men were laid upon Christ, the innocent One. Then the Father turned His back on the Son and forsook Him while His soul was made an offering for sin. It was what the Father did to the Son that atoned for our sins. We read: "It pleased the Lord to bruise Him" (Isa. 53:10). That is, it pleased the Father to bruise the Son instead of us. We should have been bruised, but He was bruised for us -- this is substitution. All sins were laid on Him; this is what crushed Him. No wonder every bone in His body was out of joint! No wonder every muscle in His body melted! No wonder His heart was broken! (Read Psalm 22).

On the cross, Christ died for us. Oh, blessed thought! It was we that should have died -- naked before God -- forever separated from God -- forever to suffer remorse and condemnation.

No death was like the death of Christ. Man dies because he can live no longer. Jesus did not die because He could not live longer. He came into the world to die. Then His death must be voluntary. People die because of sickness, weakness, and accidents. Everything is done to sustain life, but in spite of all that physicians and nurses can do, there comes a time, when, as Solomon describes in Ecclesiastes 8:8, "There is no man that hath power over the spirit, to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death; and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it." But not so in the death of Christ. When the fullness of time came, He voluntarily dismissed His spirit. He could not die in any other manner. Death had no claim on Him. He must give His life. No man could take it from Him.

Christ died a death of deaths. He tasted death for every man. He was forsaken that we might be accepted. He did not die of exhaustion, for before He expired, with a loud voice He shouted, "It is finished." Christ was wonderful in His death and He died a wonderful death which should bring eternal wonder to the redeemed.

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10 -- WONDERFUL IN HIS RESURRECTION

Christ was the firstfruits from the dead. He came forth in a resurrected body which can never die. All who were restored to life like Jairus' daughter, the widow's son and Lazarus were not resurrected, but restored to life. There was resuscitation of life. They died again. But Christ is alive forever more. When Lazarus came forth, he was bound hand and foot and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus gave instructions to "loose him, and let him go." Jesus, too, when buried, was wound in linen clothes. When He arose, death was conquered and the bands of death were broken for death could not hold Him. He did not come forth bound, but free. He left the grave clothes in the tomb. When Peter and John entered the sepulcher, they did not see Christ there, but they saw the linen clothes. Up to that time, there was no resurrection like that of Christ. But all who believe that Jesus died and rose again, and are possessed by the Spirit Who raised up Jesus from the dead, they, too, will be raised up and changed at Christ's coming (See I Thes. 4:14; Rom. 8:11). Then this corruptible shall put on incorruption and this mortal shall put on immortality. He was the firstfruits of the saints who sleep, that is, the deceased. At His coming there will be a great

harvest. We, too, will be wonderful in the resurrection. We, too, will be alive forevermore and never die. His resurrection was wonderful.

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11 -- WONDERFUL IN HIS POST-RESURRECTION LIFE

A crucified, risen, living Christ, in His humanity, with nail-prints in His hands and feet and with pierced side, appeared to His own. There are thirteen different appearances of Christ recorded in the Gospels, I Corinthians and Revelation. Christ showed Himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days. But Peter said in his sermon to Cornelius that the risen Christ was seen only by witnesses chosen before, who did eat and drink with Him. He no longer needed to eat to sustain His body. However, He ate with His disciples to prove His resurrection. Christ's humanity now was not dependent on blood in His veins to live, for that had been shed. His body was not limited. He could appear and disappear at will. He could enter doors which were closed. This period of His life was wonderful.

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12 -- WONDERFUL IN HIS ASCENSION

Enoch walked with God and he was not for God took him. Elijah went up in a whirlwind and a fiery chariot. Neither Enoch nor Elijah died, nor were resurrected. But Jesus died and also rose from the dead. He ascended into heaven in the body which the Holy Ghost gave Him in His incarnation, in which He lived, labored and died. It was the indwelling Spirit in His humanity Who carried Him up. A cloud received Him out of sight. He ascended as the firstfruits from the dead and also as a representative Man to open a new and living way for all to ascend into heaven who believe in Him.

Enoch and Elijah were not taken up in a changed or glorified body, but in their natural bodies. Christ's body was changed and He was the first one who obtained an immortal body. It was a spiritual body (I Cor. 15:44). When Christ was glorified, He sent the Spirit back into the world to gather out a Bride -- the body of Christ -- which when completed, He will also resurrect and change this entire body and carry it into heaven to be united with Him, our living Head Christ was wonderful in His ascension.

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13 -- WONDERFUL AS THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST

The high priest stood between God and the people. He represented God before the people and the people before God. Jesus Christ, the Great High Priest, not only was the Priest, but He also was the Offering, the Sacrifice and the Offerer Who offered Himself in sacrifice to God and died as our Substitute.

After the sacrifice was slain on the day of atonement, the high priest took some of the blood in a vessel and entered into the most holy place to sprinkle the blood and appear there for all the people. When the high priest entered in before the mercy seat, it was for every Israelite. But this had to be repeated every year. When Jesus offered Himself before God, it forever satisfied the Father in heaven and His sacrifice never needs to be repeated.

Our High Priest is now sitting at the right hand of the Father in heaven. This indicates a finished work. The tabernacle of the Old Testament sacrificial system was a chairless house. We never read of the high priest sitting in the tabernacle as he ministered in behalf of the people. His work was never finished. There was no finality to his ministry, but there was in the ministry of Christ. Christ is now appearing before the Father in our behalf. He represents us before the Father. The Father sees us in the perfection of His Son -- without a flaw, without spot, without blame. Jesus is also our Intercessor. He pleads His atoning merits before the Father in behalf of sinners and His own. The seventeenth chapter of John, which is the high priestly prayer of our Great High Priest, is still being perpetuated in heaven.

As Jesus Christ is appearing in heaven and exercising the functions of a High Priest, the Holy Ghost is in the world convicting, regenerating and sanctifying all who believe in Christ. While Jesus is preparing for us a place, the Holy Spirit is preparing a people for that place. While Jesus is tarrying, the Holy Spirit is selecting a Bride. Some day Christ will have the place ready, then the Spirit also will have a people ready. Then Christ will return to receive His own to Himself in the heavens.

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14 -- WONDERFUL IN HIS COMING

There are two stages in His coming: namely, the rapture and the revelation. At the rapture, He will come for the church. At the revelation He will come with the church. At the rapture, He will come to take His bride out of the world. At the revelation, He will come back to this earth with the Bride to set up His kingdom.

The rapture is the hope of the church. This is the event the saints are looking forward to with great expectancy. Our heavenly Bridegroom then will give a shout and the dead in Christ will hear His voice and be resurrected. The living members of His body will be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. Together the dead who have been raised and the living who have been changed will be caught up to meet the Lord. This will be a wonderful event for the Church. One look on His wondrous glory will change us and we will be like Him.

At the revelation, He will come as the King of kings and the Lord of lords. He then will be King over all kingdoms. He also will come as the True and Faithful Witness. Then every eye will see Him as He rides a white horse and a sword which is His word will proceed out of His mouth. He will make war with His enemies, scrap all armies and navies and then all wars will cease. Neither will they learn war any more. As the True and Faithful Witness, He will reveal Antichrist in his vile character and will destroy him with the brightness of His coming. He will be the True

One, the True Heir of this world, the True Christ, and the True Ruler. He will be the Faithful One in all He does and righteous in all His works. His coming in glory and power will be wonderful.

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15 -- WONDERFUL IN HIS REIGN

Before the Lord Jesus Christ will reign and set up His kingdom on the earth, this earth must be cleaned up. Satan will be bound and cast into the bottomless pit, where he belongs, during the entire reign of the thousand years on earth. Satan has been the usurper for six thousand years and in these years of his crooked trail there has been untold sorrow, suffering, bloodshed, strife, disappointment and death. Jesus Christ and Satan are not getting along together and both cannot reign at the same time. This world will be cleaned up politically, morally, physically, religiously and doctrinally. Then the King also will be the Prince of Peace. The curse which has covered the earth for six thousand years will be removed. King Jesus will enforce His redemptive rights. Vegetation will thrive; sickness and death will largely be abated; the longevity of life will be restored and the earth will enjoy great peace and blessing under Christ's glorious reign.

After the glorious reign, Satan must be loosed, the people sifted and those who have lived in a hypocritical state during this period of time will then be classified. Satan will receive a great following and with these will attempt to make war against the saints, but fire will fall from heaven and destroy them. Christ must reign until the last enemy is conquered and every one rewarded according to his works. Christ will be wonderful in His glorious reign.

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16 -- WONDERFUL IN ETERNITY

Christ will forever be wonderful to all the saints in heaven. There will be new revelations of His wisdom; new manifestations of His power; new beauties of His grace and glory as ages roll on. We shall see His beautiful face. He will charm and captivate all heaven. We shall never become tired of looking upon His face. His wonders will ever increase and never cease.

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17 -- THE WONDER OF WONDERS

In heaven and earth and under the earth the wonder of wonders is that we make so little of this wonderful Christ. Surely the angels wonder at man and do not understand why such intelligent beings, who have such a wonderful Book -- the Bible -- deny, ridicule and reject this wonderful Christ.

The name of the Lord Jesus Christ is exalted above every other name. Every knee must bow and every tongue confess this name to the glory of God the Father. Throughout the ages of the ages in eternity, glory, honor, praise, might and power will be ascribed to the wonderful Christ.

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THE END