

THE ETERNAL SONSHIP OF CHRIST

By

Darrell Sutton

Jerusalem, in Jewish thought, has always been considered the center of the world, and rightly so, if we view it from a prophetically religious vantage point. If you have ever stood on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, and studied the Arabic calligraphy inscribed on the Dome of the Rock, you would have found some interesting Arabic sentences, which deny the truth of the Sonship of Jesus. This is a significant point, not only in Muslim history but also in Muslim theology. The eternal Sonship of Christ is hard to reconcile for people who deny that he was ever crucified, Sur.4:157,158. Muslim historians claim that when Omar had finally conquered and entered Jerusalem, he requested to be taken to a holy site. Thereafter, a priest took him to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher where he denounced the idea of a crucified Jesus. Later he was taken to the Temple mount and upon standing in such a consecrated place decided to build the Dome of the Rock to the glory of his god. First of all, the Arabic inscriptions were meant to be a rebuke & an affront to Christians of the day who believed in God, the Father, God, the Son and in God, the Holy Ghost. A certain and sure denial of the trinity is one of the underpinnings of Islam. For the believer in Christ, the Triune Godhead provides us with the biblical picture needed to understand the scripture and the Body of Christ's role as a unified whole. The inscription on the Dome of the Rock affirms surah 112 in the Quran, which says

“In the name of God the merciful and compassionate, (1) Say, He is God, the One, (2) God, the eternal. (3) He does not beget and he was not begotten. (4) And there isn't anyone comparable to Him.” (Translation is my own).

The above words are not only a mouthful but, also, a good sampling of Islamic theology. Furthermore, they do illustrate why Muslims are so opposed to the truth claims of Holy Scripture. The Bible tells us that *“he is anti-Christ that denieth the Father and the Son” I John 2:22b*. The two offices, Father and Son, are antithetical to the whole of Quranic teaching. Yet, the apostle *John gives us behind the scenes insight into the spirit that has possessed Islam's doctrine and polity* for the past 1500 years. No wonder martyrs amass wherever Islam reigns supreme. There is a great deal of hatred towards those who accept (as truth) the God/Son relationship. Here, I believe, is a good place to iterate a basic tenet of the Christian faith. On the basis of Jesus' position and redemptive work at Calvary, all of us who have been baptized into His body are also, now, included as sons & daughters of God. By attacking this main truth, Muslims seek to confirm the faith of their adherents and overthrow the faith of unstable Christians who are having doubts about their own salvific experience in Jesus. Take Philadelphia as a case in point, Islam is on the rise there as multitudes flock to mosques in order to hear a message they *'think'* imparts peace. According to John, this false sense of peace is irrelevant! Outside of Christ and apart from His shed blood there is no salvation. The apostle Peter corroborates John's testimony in Acts 4:12 in which, he says *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”* You may try and wander thru the pages of the Quran looking for relief, but ultimately, if you don't come through the blood of Jesus you will never find lasting freedom from the guilt and shame of sin. Jesus' yoke is easy and His burden is light Matt: 11:30. So why not come to Him to find the answers to all of life's questions?

To deny that Jesus is the *only begotten* of the Father is to overturn the entire plan of salvation. Jesus, according to scripture, was *“the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” I Peter 1:19,20* The idea of world deliverance is not the result of some blunder made by man in the Garden of Eden, it is the operative work of an eternal Godhead who desired to see His purposes fulfilled as the *'Word'* became flesh *John 1:14*. It is important to remember that Christ became a man so that you & I could become like Him. This, in effect, is what it means to be a Christian. In this way, the crucifixion & resurrection of Christ ensures that any and all who make their way to the foot of the old rugged Cross, will find rest unto their souls and an adoption in the Kingdom by the Holy Spirit. So now, this relationship with our heavenly father brings comfort and assurance. Whereas, the Muslim wanders along in a disconnected state from his or her god,

the Christian finds himself held together by love in a divine entanglement. It is every bit as miraculous as the existence of the Triune Godhead!

The above words in sur. 112 begin with ‘SAY...’ Consider the impact of a confession of this nature. To say that God did not beget Christ and that Jesus is not begotten of the Father is to nullify the active work and omnipotence of the Lord in your life and ministry. Now, imagine more than 1 billion people saying this daily; a sound, which reverberates throughout the nations repeatedly. *Is this the word that we want being prophesied over the United States of America? Absolutely Not! For, our history is wrapped in red, white, and blue symbolism that is an ever constant reminder of freedoms available only in Jesus. What God has SAID in His Word, should be believed and reiterated by His Body! Since the Head and the Body are one we should be declaring those things that the Word declares and boldly proclaiming that “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” John 3:16.* This verse is the antidote to the illness laid bare in surah 112. Seeing that there is no Son in Islamic thought there can be no salvation either. *John stated this plainly when he said whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father. I John 2:23a.*

With the Coming of the Lord so close, it is incumbent upon us to *draw near with true heart in full assurance of faith... Heb 10:22* Each town, village and city in America is but one miracle away from a move of God. In the Jerusalem of long ago, amid the shadows of Temple ritualism and Greco-Roman myth, the early Church ministered with great grace upon them. I believe that if we live close to God during these last days that manifestations of the earlier Grace will continue in the Church of Jesus Christ. All over the world The Lord Jesus Christ is pouring out His Holy Ghost and those earnest seekers are being filled and overflowing with his amazing presence. A Church on fire is being born in Iraq, believers in Indonesia are gathering by the thousands as early as 700am in the morning to hear the word preached, God’s Church in Africa is exploding and Jerusalem is once again the scene of exciting Christian endeavors, all because men & women are saying the same thing. They are all saying **“I believe in God and in His Son Jesus Christ!”** Why don’t we get on the same page as those who are trumpeting this truth and shout it in praise to the King!

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MINISTER’S CORNER

You have a ministry to fulfill

PART 2 OF 3

by Ron Jutze

Last month, I shared that the scriptures reveal your ministry assignment is the result of a “heavenly vision” in the heart of our Master, the Lord Jesus Christ. This “heavenly vision” is a Divine assignment to be expressed through your ministry service here on earth. According to *Eph.4:11-12*, Ministry Gifts are assigned, by Jesus, for the purpose of equipping the church to fulfill the assignment He gave to HIS body in the earth before He returns, *“to proclaim the gospel in all world” Mark 16:15-18, and “make disciples of all nations” Matt 28:18-20.* Fulfilling your ministry assignment is vital to the effectiveness of the church fulfilling its assignment in the earth. Jesus needs you; that’s the reason He called you. The next thought I’d like to share with you concerning “fulfilling your ministry” assignment is that **Your Ministry Assignment has an appointed grace to fulfill it.**

Every ministry assignment has a grace from God to accomplish the task entrusted to them. This includes the ministry the Lord has entrusted to you. This grace is the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said in *Luke 4:18-19* concerning his earthly ministry **“the Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted...”**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon you to accomplish the assignment the Lord has entrusted to you. The apostle Paul confirms this in *Eph.3:1-2* **“for this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you”.** You have a stewardship of God’s grace, an anointing of the Holy Spirit, available to assist you in all aspects of preaching, leading and serving the people you have been entrusted with. **This grace is given to you in order to profit the work of Christ in the people under your influence.** As a minister, you are the instrument God uses to bless people. This grace from God is upon you to impact others. When we keep this in the proper perspective it works the virtue of humility in us, because we recognize that God choose us as His instrument to use, but the people we influence are “the target” of His blessing. Therefore this grace or “anointing of the Spirit” is upon us as a minister, but channeled to the people we are serving to bless and enhance their lives with Christ.

Reflection for the heart:

Do I rely more on my personal strengths or the grace of God in fulfilling my ministry assignment? I pray that God uses this to assist and strengthen you as you continue in ministry.