

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM HEAVEN

Following the baptism of Christ, there immediately came this announcement from heaven.

Matthew 3:17 (NKJV)

17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

This announcement served as God the Father’s affirmation that indeed Jesus is the God-ordained Messiah. This was the KEY point and message of Christ’s baptism. It fulfilled all righteousness in that it was God’s appointed way to endow Jesus with the Spirit and thereby affirm His Messiahship in conjunction with John the Baptist’s ministry. It was the capstone fulfillment of John’s prophetic ministry.

“Three times in the ministry of Christ we have the Father verbally speaking from heaven. 1) At Christ’s baptism, 2) at Christ’s transfiguration (Mt. 17:5), and 3) just prior to the Cross (Jn. 12:28). The significant thing about the baptism of Jesus was the authentication from heaven.” – ***The Bible Knowledge Commentary***

Here in Matthew 3:17 the voice of the Father conflated two Messianic emphases from the Old Testament Scriptures as seen in Psalm 2:7 and Isaiah 42:1. Both of these are rich Messianic texts.

This shows that Jesus is the Messiah and that His Messiahship is to be understood in light of the Old Testament servant prophecies depicting the coming Messiah.

Psalm 2:7 (NKJV)

7 “I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

The emphasis in this Messianic Psalm is that the Son is given rule over the nations. In Christ’s baptism, God the Father recognized Jesus for who He was as His Son. The phrase “***Today I have begotten You***” is applied to His resurrection in Acts 13:33.

As God, Jesus was always the SON. From all eternity, He was over all creation, including the angels. But in His incarnation Christ humbled Himself and was put in a position (functionally) of being a little lower than the angels according to Hebrews 2:9. But then in the resurrection something happened. Christ, not only as God, but now also as the God-

MAN was exalted to a position far above all principality and powers (cf. Eph. 1:20-22). In the resurrection, Christ's humanity now shared in the glory that His God-hood had eternally known (cf. Jn. 17:5). In that sense, God says, ***"Today I have begotten You."*** (cf. Phil. 2:9-11; Heb. 1:5).

Jesus did not become God's Son on the occasion of His baptism, but rather God the Father simply recognized Him for Who He already was.

"He did not become the Son at His baptism, however, as some have assumed, for the Father had loved the Son 'before the foundation of the world' (John 17:24)." – **Henry M. Morris**

Understand that saying Jesus is the "Son of God" emphasizes His nature as being that of God. It means He is the very order and nature of God. This is consistently how the N.T. uses this title. It is a title of DEITY.

Matthew 14:33 (NKJV)

33 Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him [to be attributed ONLY to God], saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

John 5:18 (NKJV)

18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.

The Jews consistently understood the title "Son of God" to mean that Jesus was Himself very God – which is true. It is a title of DEITY emphasizing that Jesus has a very special and unique relationship with the Father (cf. Jn. 1:18; Eph. 1:6). That Jesus is God's Son was both John's testimony in conjunction with Christ's baptism as well as that of God the Father (cf. Jn. 1:34; Mt. 3:17).

The phrase in 3:17, "in whom I am well pleased" ties with the Messianic Servant passage in Isaiah 42.

Isaiah 42:1 (NKJV)

1 "Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.

Realize that God saying, ***"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"*** was stated by the Father at the beginning of Christ's ministry. It

looks back over the last 30 years of mostly silence, in what are called the “**hidden years**” in Nazareth. There in the “**routine**” of life, God had quietly been preparing Jesus for this time when He would be revealed as the Messiah and then go forth to His public ministry culminating in His sacrifice on the cross and resurrection. Thus, the Father affirmed that Christ, as His Son, “*had lived in perfect harmony with Heaven.*” (John Phillips)

How wonderful that the Father affirmed all those “**silent years**” of preparation. They weren’t wasted years. God the Father was well pleased with His Son. This, too, was part of God’s plan.

It is a good reminder that just because we aren’t always in the public eye, just because we might be in a “silent time” where it seems we are just biding our time, yet God has a purpose, and His timing is perfect. And in those times, as we are faithful to walk with God, we can be well pleasing to Him, even though these mundane or routine times might not seem as exciting or fruitful. It all works together for good for those who love God (Rom. 8:28).

God was well pleased with His beloved Son. He is the One in Whom God’s soul delights.

He pleased God supremely because He was the perfect Servant/Slave. His obedience was 100% all the time. He did nothing but please the Father in His role of humility. There was no exception. He never sinned.

Note that the Trinity is represented in Isaiah 42:1 and three other places in Isaiah.

Trinitarian References in Isaiah

Isa. 42:1 “I,” “My Servant,” and “My Spirit”

Isa. 48:16 “the Lord GOD,” “I,” and “His Spirit”

Isa. 61:1 “the LORD,” “Me,” and “the Spirit of the Lord GOD”

Isa. 63:7-10 “the LORD,” “the Angel of His presence, and “His Holy Spirit”

The reality of the Trinity is also clearly seen here in Matthew 3:16-17. The Son is baptized; the Spirit descends; and the Father speaks (cf. Mt. 28:19;

Jn. 15:26; 1 Cor. 12:4-13; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 2:18; 1 Thess. 1:2-5; 1 Pet. 1:2).

“Not only is the Trinity foundational, it is also unique to Christianity. Of the three major monotheistic religions of the world (Judaism, Islam, Christianity), only Christianity teaches the Trinity. Human reason, however, cannot fathom the Trinity, nor can logic explain it, and, although the word itself is not found in the Scriptures, the doctrine is plainly taught in the Scriptures. ... the Trinity...is arguably the most distinctive doctrine of Christianity. ...Understanding that God is a Triune God and always has been a Triune God became the cornerstone of Christian theology that distinguished it from paganism and from other monotheistic religions.” – **David Burggraf**

“Denying the doctrine of the triune nature of God is often the distinguishing mark of a cult or false religion. There is no way to compromise on this truth. It’s a perfect example of why it’s so illogical to claim that all religions are the same.” – **Daryl Witmer**

“All sorts of people are fond of repeating the Christian statement that “God is love.” But they seem not to notice that the words “God is love” have no real meaning unless God contains at least two persons. Love is something that one person has for another person. If God were a single person, then before the world was made, He was not love.” – **C.S. Lewis**

THE TRINITY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Baptism of Jesus – Mt. 3:16-17

The Son was baptized
The Spirit appeared as a dove
The Father Spoke

Baptism of all believers – Mt. 28:19

All believers are baptized in the name of
The Father,
the Son,
and the Holy Spirit.

Angel Gabriel’s words to Mary – Lk. 1:35

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you.”
“The power of the Highest will overshadow you.”
“The Holy One will be called the Son of God.”

Indwelling in all believers – Rom. 8:9-11

“Spirit of God dwells in you.”

“Christ in you.”

“the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you.”

Paul’s benediction – 2 Cor. 13:14

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ”

“The love of God”

“The communion of the Holy Spirit”

So, note the theme that Matthew is driving home:

Jesus meets all the OT genealogical requirements to be the Messiah (check).

Jesus as Messiah, in accordance with prophecy, was born in the right place -Bethlehem of Judea. (check).

The Messiah, in worship, would receive gifts from the Gentiles. Thus, the wise men came from the East to worship the newborn King of the Jews (check).

Jesus lived in Nazareth, fulfilling the prophetic portrait that He would be a despised person (check).

Jesus had a forerunner crying in the wilderness in keeping with Messianic prophecy (check).

Jesus experienced a most unique anointing of the Holy Spirit at His baptism in keeping with Messianic prophecy (check).

See the pattern? The life of Jesus Christ perfectly matches the fulfillment of all the Messianic prophecies in the Old Testament! He truly is the Christ – the prophesied COMING ONE Who would be the divine/human Savior.

The only question that remains is this: Is He your personal Lord and Savior? It’s not enough to know the truth intellectually; we must respond to it from the heart!

The Bible says....

Acts 16:31 (NKJV)

31 So they said, “**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved**, you and your household.”

And it also says,

“Behold, now is the accepted time...” (2 Cor. 6:2)

The last invitation in the Bible is “Come” (Rev. 22:17). No one can do it for you! Come to Christ – Believe in Him today!