

JESUS UNIQUENESS [004]

John 1:1-18; Col 1:15-20

WHAT MAKES JESUS UNIQUE?

Part 2

3] Jesus, the only name under heaven by which we might get saved

An image of the apostle Peter when speaking before the Sanhedrin comes to mind when we hear the words found at Acts 4:8-12 where he said;

8Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! **9**If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, **10**then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. **11**Jesus is ‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.’ **12**Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” [NIV]

True then and true now. Of the billions of humans that have been born and lived on planet Earth, Jesus of Nazareth is the only name under heaven by which we must be saved. Why so? Let’s let Peter tell us as 1 Pet 1:18-21 which says; **18**For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, **19**but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. **20**He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. **21**Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. You noticed Peter’s reference to a lamb without blemish or defect. What is Peter’s implication? To understand, let’s go to Gen 4:1-5 which reads; **1**And the man knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man with the help of Jehovah. **2**And again she bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. **3**And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto Jehovah. **4**And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And Jehovah had respect unto Abel and to his offering: **5**but unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. That early on, Abel understood that sacrificing a life would be necessary to recover from man’s fall. As a herder of sheep, he offered the life of some of the firstlings of his flock, a lamb[s], to Jehovah, even their fatty pieces. Fat in the bible denoted the best and most valuable part of an offering, therefore

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representing giving the very best to God. Jesus was referred to by John the Baptist at John 1:29 as; The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! [NIV] Paul's inspired words at Heb 9:12-14 shows how Jesus fulfilled the scriptural pattern of a blood sacrifice when it says; **12**He did not enter by the blood of goats and calves, but He entered the Most Holy Place once for all by His own blood, thus securing eternal redemption. **13**For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that their bodies are clean, **14**how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself unblemished to God, purify our consciences from works of death, so that we may serve the living God! Then in vs 22 he adds; **22**According to the law, in fact, nearly everything must be purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. It would be good to review the entire 9th chapter of Hebrews for greater clarity on this point. Since a perfect man forfeited the lives of all men, a perfect man would be needed to balance the scales of Divine justice. The only other perfect man to live on Earth was the man Jesus. Mt 20:28 shows that Jesus clearly understood this and had already as good as offered himself up as a ransom sacrifice with the words; **28**just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many [paying the price to set them free from the penalty of sin]." [AMP] By inspiration, Paul helps us to see how the scales of Divine Justice are balanced by Jesus at Rom 5:15-17; **15**But the free gift [of God] is not like the trespass [because the gift of grace overwhelms the fall of man]. For if many died by one man's trespass [Adam's sin], much more [abundantly] did God's grace and the gift [that comes] by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, overflow to [benefit] the many. **16**Nor is the gift [of grace] like *that which came* through the one who sinned. For on the one hand the judgment [following the sin] *resulted* from one trespass and brought condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift *resulted* from many trespasses and brought justification [the release from sin's penalty for those who believe]. **17**For if by the trespass of the one (Adam), death reigned through the one (Adam), much more *surely* will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in [eternal] life through the One, Jesus Christ. [AMP] This again underscores the uniqueness of Jesus Christ. Jehovah is the savior in heaven from Gen 3:16 forward with the promise to provide a seed to break up the works of the devil, and Jesus is the ONLY savior under heaven. Jehovah will not allow anyone in heaven or on Earth to enjoy eternal life without acknowledging Jesus as the Wonderful Counselor, Eternal Father, Mighty

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God and Prince of Peace. Jesus is now something that Jehovah will never be: The firstborn from the dead.

4] Jesus' uniqueness in being the firstborn from the dead

As just stated, Jesus is something that Jehovah never will be, and that is the firstborn from the dead. Why do we say that? Because the scriptures plainly proclaim in numerous places that Jehovah is eternal. Isa 40:28; **28**Have you not known and have you not heard, that God to eternity is LORD JEHOVAH, who created the ends of The Earth? He is not weary and is not fatigued by labor, and there is no searching of his understanding! [HPBT] Gen 21:33; **33**Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beer-sheba, and there he called on the name of •Yahweh, the Everlasting God. [HCSB] Ps 90:2; **2**Before the mountains were born, before You gave birth to the earth and the world, from eternity to eternity, You are God. [HCSB] Ps 93:1,2; **1**Jehovah reigneth; he is clothed with majesty; Jehovah is clothed with strength; he hath girded himself therewith: The world also is established, that it cannot be moved. **2**Thy throne is established of old: Thou art from everlasting. [ASV] Jehovah NEVER had a beginning and will NEVER have an end. He is the Alpha and the Omega. He was never born, and he cannot die. He alone is the Almighty. Jesus, however had a beginning according to scripture. Col 1:15,16; **15**He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation, **16**because in Him were created all things in the heavens and upon the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or lordships or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and unto Him. [BLB] Everything in existence came into existence THROUGH Jesus. Everything in existence was created THROUGH Jesus, not BY Jesus. Then by inspiration, Paul brings a powerful point to our in vss 17&18; **17**He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. **18**And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and firstborn from among the dead, so that in all things He may have preeminence. **19**For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, **20**and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through the blood of His cross.[stauros] [BSB]. For how many centuries has Christendom clouded this blatant and obvious fact. JESUS DIED and Almighty God Jehovah cannot die. Is not the DEATH of Jesus the very foundation of true Christianity? The DEATH and RESURRECTION of Jesus was foretold and accomplished. Acts 2:22-24; **22**Men of Israel, listen to this message: Jesus of Nazareth was a man certified by God to you by miracles,

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wonders, and signs, which God did among you through Him, as you yourselves know. **23**He was delivered up by God's set plan and foreknowledge, and you, by the hands of the lawless, put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross. **24**But God raised Him from the dead, releasing Him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for Him to be held in its clutches. Now look at vs 36; **36**Therefore let all Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ!" [BSB] Acts 4:8-12; **8**Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people! **9**If we are being examined today about a kind service to a man who was lame, to determine how he was healed, **10**then let this be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. **11**This Jesus is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.' **12**Salvation exists in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." [BSB] Peter said He and all the apostles were witnesses of Jesus death and resurrection, so when Peter said that God raised up the dead Jesus, which God was he referring to? There can be no doubt whatsoever that he was referring Jehovah, the God of the Jews, indeed the Almighty God of all. That Jehovah made him Lord and Christ, and that Jehovah gave Jesus all authority in heaven and on Earth, and that there is not another name under heaven by which we must be saved is beyond question. So, I have to ask you, can Almighty God die? The Mighty God Jesus can and did, but he can do so no more, for He was raised to an immortal life according to scripture, so says Rom 6:9; **9**For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. [BSB] And what did Jesus himself say at Rev 1:17,18; **17**And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. And He placed His right hand upon me, saying, "Fear not. I am the First and the Last, **18**and the Living One. And I was dead, and behold I am living to the ages of the ages, and I have the keys of Death and of Hades.[BLB] Jesus knew that he was destined to die for the sins of men and beautifully illustrated at John 12:23&24 where he said; **23**But Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. **24**Truly, truly, I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a seed; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. So as Rom 8:29 states; **29**For those He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers. Jesus was the firstborn in the sense that He, as 1Pet 3:18 says; **18**For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit

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[ESV] Jesus was the first to be put to death in the flesh and raised as an immortal spirit creature. He was the first to be raised directly by Jehovah from the dead to immortal spirit life and the last; because ALL others raised to immortal spirit life will be through Jesus as is everything that is in existence is through Jesus. In addition to uniquely being the firstborn from the dead, Jesus is uniquely the MESSIAH.

5] Jesus uniquely occupies the role of The Messiah [Christ]

The messiah was first referenced in prophecy at Gen 3:15 in this way when sentencing the original serpent; **15**And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. [BSB] The seed of the woman, Jesus, was the means to break up the works of the devil as verified by 1 Jo 3:8 which says; **8**The one who practices sin is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the very start. This is why the Son of God was revealed, to destroy the works of the devil. [BSB] More than 300 prophecies in the Hebrew Scriptures were fulfilled in Jesus identifying Him exclusively as the Messiah. No other human has impacted the world of mankind more than Jesus. These bible prophecies are invaluable in unmistakably identifying the ONE human out of the billions of humans that would be born, that THIS ONE is the promised seed of Gen 3:15. Gal 3:16 hits the nail squarely on the head when it says; **16**The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ.[NIV] This person, Jesus, is the only one out of the billions of humans born that could bring about the beautiful reality of Gal 4:4-7 where it says; **4**But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, **5**to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. **6**Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out “Abba, Father.” **7**So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir. Jesus, the Messiah, is the only one who could do what Eph 1:3-10 lays out; **3**Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. **4**For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love **5**he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— **6**to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. **7**In him we have redemption through his blood, the

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forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace **8**that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, **9**he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, **10**to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. [NIV] Only the promised seed, Jesus, can make this our reality. He is the one designated by Jehovah to accomplish what 2 Cor 1:20 says; **20**For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. [NIV] There is not another name under heaven that can bring this to pass. What this encompasses is summarized in the prophecy found at 1Cor 15:24-28 which says; **24**Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. **25**For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. **26**The last enemy to be destroyed is death. **27**For he "has put everything under his feet." Now when it says that "everything" has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. **28**When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all. [NIV] Jesus himself testifies to this in numerous places such as Jo 6:37-40; **37**All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. **38**For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. **39**And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. **40**For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day." [NIV] And at Jo 5:19-23; **19**Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. **20**For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed. **21**For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. **22**Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, **23**that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him. [NIV] Look at vs 30 of Jo 5; **30**By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me. [NIV] Again Jo 14:9-11; **9**Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? **10**Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my

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own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. **11** Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. [NIV] Though there are many other scriptures that make the point, the final one we will consider is Jo 17:20-23 where our Lord prayed for all his disciples with these words; **20** "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, **21** that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. **22** I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— **23** I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. There is no holy trinity that issues forth from Jehovah God the Almighty, there is a Holy Unity; and no one has stated the dynamics of that unity more succinctly than our Lord and savior Jesus in the afore cited passage. Jesus ALWAYS acknowledges his submission to his Father, Jehovah. This is what will be scripturally verified in the next segment.

6] Jesus Has the unique responsibility to prepare mankind to meet their God

2Cor 1:20 says; **20** For all the promises of God are "Yes" in Christ. And so through Him, our "Amen" is spoken to the glory of God. Only HIS death as a perfect human sacrifice could put mankind on the path to adoption as 'sons of the living God.' Heb 9:11-15; **11** But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that have come, **f** He went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made by hands and is not a part of this creation. **12** He did not enter by the blood of goats and calves, but He entered the Most Holy Place once for all by His own blood, thus securing eternal redemption.

13 For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that their bodies are clean, **14** how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself unblemished to God, purify our consciences from works of death, so that we may serve the living God!

15 Therefore Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, now that He has died to redeem them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. **16** In the case of a will, it is necessary to establish the death of

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the one who made it, **17**because a will does not take effect until the one who made it has died; it cannot be executed while he is still alive.

18That is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood. **19**For when Moses had proclaimed every commandment of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, *i* along with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people, **20**saying, "This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep."

21In the same way, he sprinkled with blood the tabernacle and all the vessels used in worship. **22**According to the law, in fact, nearly everything must be purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

23So it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. **24**For Christ did not enter a man-made copy of the true sanctuary, but He entered heaven itself, now to appear on our behalf in the presence of God.

25Nor did He enter heaven to offer Himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. **26**Otherwise, Christ would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But now He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

27Just as man is appointed to die once, and after that to face judgment, **28**so also Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who eagerly await Him. To that we say, Amen!! Come Lord Jesus. That Jesus fully understood this judicial action is evidenced by his words at Mt 20:28 where he said; **28**just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." He reiterated his understanding of this at the last evening meal with his faithful apostles at Mt 26:28 when saying; **28**This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Only the blood of a perfect man, as was Adam, could ransom mankind. Paul's inspired understanding of this is forcefully demonstrated at Rom 5:12-20 which says; **12**Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, so also death was passed on to all men, because all sinned. **13**For sin was in the world before the law was given; but sin is not taken into account when there is no law. **14**Nevertheless, death

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reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who did not sin in the way that Adam transgressed. He is a pattern of the One to come.

15But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many! **16**Again, the gift is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment that followed one sin brought condemnation, but the gift that followed many trespasses brought justification. **17**For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive an abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

18So then, just as one trespass brought condemnation for all men, so also one act of righteousness brought justification and life for all men. **19**For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

20The law came in so that the trespass would increase; but where sin increased, grace increased all the more, **21**so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. [BSB] Only the ransom Sacrifice of Jesus could prepare us to meet our God Jehovah. Future podcasts will again touch on these matters, but for now the 6 points we want to take away from this podcast #4 are: 1] Only Jesus had a pre-human existence. 2] Only Jesus is the only begotten Son and only begotten God. 3] Jesus is the ONLY name under heaven by which we may be saved. 4] Only Jesus is the firstborn from the dead. 5] Only Jesus rightly occupies the role of Messiah. 6] Jesus has the unique responsibility to prepare mankind for adoption by Jehovah. Now in podcast #5 we will examine the uniqueness of the Holy Spirit. This is brother Ed signing off for now and looking forward to our next journey. Until then.