

The Holy Spirit reveals and
exalts Jesus

THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALS JESUS

- It is only through the Holy Spirit that we can know Jesus
- 1. Cor 12: 3: “no one can say Jesus is LORD except by the Holy Spirit“
- John 16: 14: “He [the Holy Spirit] will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.“

The Holy Spirit reveals Jesus by giving light on the Word of God, especially

- through the words of Jesus
- through the Gospels

The Spirit's work of revealing Jesus is a lifelong need for us. It is one of the most important elements in our spiritual growth.

The apostle Paul strives “for you (Colossians) and for those at Laodicea ... that their hearts may be encouraged as they are knit together in love, to have all the riches of assured understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, of Christ, in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” (Col. 2: 1 - 3)

THE TITLES OF JESUS

Each title that Scripture gives to Jesus is a revelation of his Person and Mission.

It is not just a question of knowing what the titles are, but of having the Holy Spirit open up their meaning. Many of the titles have a prophetic character.

Son of Man

This seems to be Jesus's preferred way of speaking about himself.

“Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head.” (Matt. 8: 20).

“But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins” (Matt. 9: 6).”

“Who do you say that the Son of man is?” (Matt. 16: 13).

The Son of man refs include end-times sayings.
“then will appear the sign of the Son of man in
heaven ... and they will see the Son of man
coming on the clouds of heaven” (Matt. 24: 30)

See also Matt. 24: 37, 39, 44.

“When the Son of man comes in his glory, and
all the angels with him, then he will sit on his
glorious throne” (Matt. 25: 31).

OT Background: Ezekiel, where God regularly addresses the prophet as son of man. See 2: 1; 3: 1, 4, 10, 17; 4: 1, 16; 5: 1; 6: 2; 7: 2; 8: 8, 15.

Son of man here expresses something of the smallness of the prophet in the presence of the glory of God (compare Ezek. 1:28 and 2: 1).

Dan. 7: 13: “with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man”. See then v. 14.

Son of man expresses something profound about the Incarnation. The self-emptying, the kenosis of the Son of God, who becomes a vulnerable man, but filled with the Holy Spirit. He will be the instrument of overthrow of worldly pride, the one who comes to eternal glory.

Messiah

Messiah means the Anointed One of God. In Greek this became Christos, Christ.

Messiah is a specifically Jewish title. For the Jews, the Messiah will be a descendant of David, rule over the land of Israel, gather the Jews from the corners of the earth, restore them to Torah obedience, and bring peace to the world.

The Messiah is the Promised One. To call Jesus the Messiah is to say: You are the One for whom we have been waiting, the One promised to Israel from of old.

Andrew to Simon (Peter): “We have found the Messiah.” (John 1: 41).

Confession of Peter: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (Matt. 16: 16).

Revealed to him by the Father (Matt. 16: 17).

LAMB of GOD

“The next day he [John] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, **“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”** (John 1: 29).

John knows this prophetically by the revelation of the Holy Spirit.

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!” (Rev. 5: 12). See also Rev. 5: 6, 8, 13; Rev. 7: 10, 17; 14: 1, 4, 10; 19: 7; 21: 9, 22 - 23; 22: 1, 3

John 1: 29 combines the images of the Suffering Servant, who was led „like a lamb ... to the slaughter“ (Is. 53: 7) with the Paschal Lamb who symbolizes the redemption of Israel (Ex. 12: 1 - 13).

“Christ, our paschal Lamb, has been sacrificed.“ (1 Cor. 5: 7).

“I saw a lamb standing, as though it had been slain” (Rev. 5: 6).

The marriage feast of the Lamb: Rev. 19: 9.

This linking of the Lamb with the union of Jesus Christ and the Church teaches that this covenant union is the fruit of the sacrifice of Jesus: “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up (paradōken) for her“ (Eph. 5: 25). Same Greek word in John 19:30.

WORD of GOD

This title is unique to the writings of John.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1: 1).

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth” (John 1: 14).

See also 1 John 1: 1 - 3.

Jesus as the Word of God means Jesus is God's message. He is what the Father wants to say, and to reveal.

“Christ, the Son of God made man, is the Father's one, perfect, and unsurpassable Word. In him, he has said everything; there will be no other word than this one.” (Catechism, 65).

Jesus is “the wisdom of God“ (1 Cor. 1: 24).

“In Him (Christ) are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge“ (Col. 2: 3).

It is by the Holy Spirit that these treasures are revealed: “what no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him, God has revealed to us through the Spirit.“ (1 Cor. 2: 9 - 10)

GREAT HIGH PRIEST

This title is unique to the Letter to the Hebrews.

First mention: Heb 4: 14: “we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens“

In Hebrews, JESUS exercises his priesthood **in the heavens**, where he is ever presenting his poured out blood to the Father.

See Heb. 8: 1 - 2: “a minister in the sanctuary”

“But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent ... he entered once for all into the Holy Place” (Heb. 9: 11 - 12)

Revelation of the Spirit to author of Hebrews. Bold thought - Jesus as high priest when he does not come from the tribe of Levi and is not a son of Aaron (see Heb. 5; 7: 11 - 14).

Similar teaching to Jesus, the high priest, who “always lives to make intercession for them” in 1 John but in different language. In 1 John, Jesus is the Advocate: “if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2: 1).

BAPTIZER WITH HOLY SPIRIT

The witness of John the Baptist:

“He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.” (John 1: 33).

“Jesus was revealed as the One who came to baptize humanity in the Holy Spirit: he came to give men and women life in abundance (cf. Jn 10:10).” Benedict XVI, Angelus message on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, January 13, 2008.

This image of Jesus as the baptizer in the Spirit is a description of the entire ministry of Jesus. He has come to give his life, to pour out his Spirit, to give the Spirit “without limit” (John 3: 34).