

33 Years Missing From Heaven



This sermon lesson is about who the Lord Jesus Christ is and the 33 years he spent away from heaven here on earth. Have you ever given it any thought about how God felt when Jesus was away from heaven and on earth for those 33 years? This means that Jesus was not physically at God's side for the 33 years he spent here on earth. These are 33 years missing from heaven and all eternity. Did you ever wonder if God missed His Son? Did you ever wonder what the scene was like in heaven during those 33 years that Jesus was missing? Did you ever think about how heaven must have felt when the Son of God was not physically there at the right hand of the Father, but voluntarily gave up his throne of glory to spend 33 years on earth with a bunch of ungrateful, rotten, dirty sinners, that rejected and talked about him, and spat on him because he

claimed to be the Son of God? Has this ever crossed your mind? Well, this post will address these questions. In addition, we will attempt to describe those 33 years missing from heaven, and reveal who the Son of God is, and why it is so important that we know him personally.

Jesus Shared God's Glory of Which We Are Made Partakers

Jesus sat in all eternity being eternal himself (Micah 5:2; Revelation 1:8, 11). Therefore, there is a chunk of time (33 years) missing from the time of all eternity (heaven). Never before has this ever happened. God would interrupt eternity, put it on pause, for 33 years so His Son could come to earth and do His will, namely, bringing many sons unto glory. See Hebrews 2:10. Jesus, the captain of our salvation, shared the same glory that God had, before he left heaven to come to earth for 33 years.

The WORD became flesh and dwelt among us. See John 1:1-2, 14; 17:5; Philippians 2:6; Hebrews 1:3.

Not only is he indeed the very glory of God, but he revealed and witnessed to man the glory that he shared with the Father, by word, and by the supernatural miracle working power of God. See John 10:37-38; 14:10-11. It is remarkable to me that he has graciously allowed anyone who believes in his name to share in his glory, which is in essence the glory of God, the Father Himself. See John 17:22; Romans 8:17-18. This is some amazing stuff! Before Jesus left heaven he had in mind, not only his suffering and death (Philippians 2:5), but also our being made partakers of his glory (John 17:21; Colossians 3:4; 1 John 3:2).

What was the scene like when Jesus left the portals of glory to come to live on earth as a man with all of our propensities for hunger, thirst, sleep and even anger? See Matthew 21:18; Luke 4:2; John 19:28; Mark 4:38; 3:5. Jesus as a man was no super-man. He was all human, and tempted in all points like we are, yet without sin. See Hebrews 2:18; 4:15. He came to show us how to be full over-comers.

In order to get the victory we should follow in his steps. See 1 Peter 2:21-23. We should imitate Christ in every way. He had prayer, obedience and the Holy Ghost to help him. We can too!

It must have saddened the Father to see His Son leave heaven to come to earth only to be rejected and spat upon. Now this was part of the Father's will that His Son come to earth and be rejected and die (Isaiah 53:3, 10; Galatians 1:4). Did heaven rejoice when the Son of God left heaven for earth or did all of heaven mourn? It must have been a little bit of both having his death, burial, resurrection and apparent victory over Satan in view. Jesus was born in dire circumstances. His life was hazard the moment he was born (Revelation 12:4). He was a clear target for the enemies of God. All of the forces of darkness wanted to destroy him so that the will and miracle salvation plan of God would fail. God had to supernaturally protect His Son from these forces of darkness and evil, and the people that wanted to hurt and destroy him. See Matthew 2:16-18.

The Word of God Made Flesh

Jesus disciples got an opportunity to witness his glory firsthand. This was based on the miracles Jesus did and the words he spoke. See 1 John 1:1-3; John 1:14; 2:11. Jesus' words had power. His words got immediate results because Jesus' words were the words of God the Father. See John 14:24; 17:14, 17. In fact Jesus was the very Word of God made flesh. The very expression of God, "... And God said..." See Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26, 29; John 1:1, 14. The Bible in the book of John declares that, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was WITH God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning WITH God". See John 1:1-2. Now this is a famous passage of scripture and is memorized, rehearsed and interpreted by many so-called Christians. Notice that I capitalize the word "with" for emphasis. This is important and is missed by many people who have studied this passage. Most people only focus on the part where it reads: "and the Word was

God”, in order that they might prove that Jesus was God. Now Jesus is not God the Father, but is just as divine as our Father God is.

How can Jesus be WITH God and be God at the same time? The word with implies to accompany, to be in proximity, to be in association or connection with another. Jesus was with God and shared His very glory, but Jesus is not God the Father, as some so erroneously teach and preach. See Ephesians 4:5-6; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 15:24. However, they were together in the beginning and shared the same glory and the same throne, but are both separate and distinct in the Godhead, being one in unison and purpose. See John 10:30; 12:45; 14:8-11; 17:11, 21-22; 1 John 5:7; Ephesians 4:3-6; Revelation 22:3. God, the Father, and the Son, Jesus Christ, distinction and unity can even be seen in the usage of the uppercase letters LORD יהוה and the lowercase usage of Lord אֲדֹנָי throughout the Old Testament. See Psalm 110:1 as a good example of this usage.

Jesus is the very self expression of God. He is just as Divine as God the Father is. See Philippians 2:6; John 5:18; 10:33. He manifested God’s glory and power in both word and deed to a dying and sinful world. See 1 Timothy 3:16; John 1:1-2, 14; Hebrews 1:3. Before Jesus appeared from heaven God had to prepare him a body to tabernacle or dwell in. See Hebrews 10:5, 10; 2:14; Luke 1:35; John 1:14. This was no doubt a fleshly and human body that could feel and experience everything we could. The body that God prepared or fitted for Christ is a body that was no different from yours and mine.

Before we delve further into the body of Christ, let us take a closer look at John 1:1. The construction of the Greek is a little different than our English rendering of the verse. It sounds better to our English speaking ears to hear it the way it was translated. In fact the Greek gives us insight into the Godhead of God and Christ. Take a look at the Greek text:

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος, καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος.

This verse is translated in our Bible as “In the beginning was the word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” However, the last part of this verse literally reads ...and the Word was with the God, and God was the Word. We see below that the Greek shows us that Christ (the Word) ὁ λόγος was with ἦν πρὸς God θεός, ("Theos", God, is in the nominative case, it is a noun, it is the subject in the Greek, it should not be translated "a god" as the Jehovah Witness erroneously claim and do). This shows us that Christ is alongside God, near God, in close proximity. Here is how the Greek looks when diagramed and illustrated. Note, God inhabits the center, while the Word, Christ, the expression of God, is alongside God, in the bosom (which shows close proximity and intimacy) of the Father (John 1:18).

- A. The Word ὁ λόγος
- B. God τὸν θεόν
- B. God θεός
- A. The Word ὁ λόγος

Jesus is the Word of God made ALIVE, that is, flesh. See John 1:14. The Word made flesh but had his own will (Luke 22:42; John 5:30) and was submissive to the Father in every way, one-hundred percent of the time. See Philippians 2:7, 8; 1 Peter 2:22.

A Body Thou Hast Prepared For Me

Jesus' body had to be made like unto yours and mine. How else could he be tempted in all things as we are, but yet be without sin? See Hebrews 4:15; 1 Corinthians 10:13. This was a special body, specially created by God through the supernatural, miracle working power of the Holy Ghost, which overshadowed Mary. See Luke 1:35. Many were waiting and expecting the Messiah. And like so many of her day, Mary thought

this body would come about by natural and sexual means (Luke 1:34), but this was not to be the case. This Jesus born of the miracle working power of the Holy Ghost would increase in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man (Luke 2:52). This Jesus would be a full overcomer, not straying towards the left, or the right, but one who was sent to do the will of God. See Hebrews 10:7, 9. Jesus was God's commandment keeper. No Devil, no one living at the time of Jesus or thereafter could ever convince (that is, convict or prove) him guilty of sin. See John 8:46. He was the spotless and sinless Lamb of God, wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. See Isaiah 53:5. Only God's personal standard of holiness and righteousness could ever be accepted by Him. Man's righteous deeds just would not do. It was none other than God's own righteousness (the righteousness of Christ) that God accepted on our behalf, namely, Christ, who was without spot or blemish, and crucified.

Jesus Christ as the spotless Lamb of God took upon his sinless body our ugly and dirty sins. This pleased the Father and was according to His perfect will. See Hebrews 10:10. God had to pour His life into Christ in order to redeem an ungrateful and sinful mankind. No other person or way would do. It would have to be Christ.

It must have went way down, deep into the heart of the Father to see His only begotten Son mocked, spit upon and killed by people who did not even know him. This would have been an appropriate time for God's wrath to fall upon their disobedient heads, but God did not do that. Instead His wrath fell upon the head of His Son, but His mercy fell upon us sinners. What a mighty paradox! God's wrath fell upon His only begotten Son and His mercy fell upon those that mocked, spit upon, and killed His Son. Don't tell me that God does not love you and me. And what a great love He has loved us with. If God has given so much of Himself to us shouldn't we be debtors unto God? Don't we owe Him our undying gratitude? Doesn't He deserve our praises and thanksgiving?

What Kind of Body Does Christ Have in Heaven?

In the Spirit Christ appears in heaven as a lamb that was wounded to death; as a lamb that was slain. The book of Revelation in chapter five gives us a look into the portals of glory. The scene is as follow: God is seated on His throne and in His right hand is a book that is sealed on the backside with seven seals. An angel proclaims loudly, who is worthy to take the book from God's hand and open it and loose the seals thereof. However, no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. (So no man in heaven, earth, or hell was able to open and look at the contents of the book in God's hand). This caused John to weep bitterly because no man was found worthy to take the book out of God's hand and open it. But one of the elders said unto John, weep not: behold the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. John describes Christ: And I beheld, and lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, **STOOD A LAMB AS IT HAD BEEN SLAIN**, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. Read Revelation 5:1-6.

This is highly spiritual language and Jesus is the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world. Therefore, this Jesus is worthy and can take the book out of the hand of God without rebuke or shame. Thomas reached his finger into the wounds of Jesus' hands, and reached his hand into Jesus' side. See John 20:27. This is that body that ascended into heaven. See Luke 24:50-51; Acts 1:9. Now flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 15:50). This is God's general rule and cannot be changed or put aside even for Christ. Therefore, Christ's body when he ascended was changed from a physical body to a spiritual, quickening (life-giving) spirit. See 1 Corinthians 15:36, 40, 44-49; John 6:63. The seven eyes of the Lamb in Revelation 5:6 show us that the Spirit comes from Christ and God.

In heaven Christ's spiritual body unlike our human body is no longer susceptible to hunger, thirst, or sleep. It is a celestial body, not an earthly body that is susceptible to decay and corruption. So our bodies will be like unto Christ's in the rapture and resurrection of the dead. See 1 Corinthians 15:50-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 1 John 3:2.

In his 33 years on earth Christ has accomplished all of these things for us, and for the glory of God, and the church. Let us never forget the Father's free gift of love and mercy towards sinners, and Christ's gift and sacrifice to bring many sons to God!

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