

Who is Jesus? - Daniel Bishop

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **16** For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. **17** And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. **18** And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the pre-eminence. **19** For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, **20** and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

COLOSSIANS Chapter 1 verses 15-20

- **He is the image of the invisible God:** The word translated image (the ancient Greek word *eikon* [Strong's G1504]) expressed two ideas:

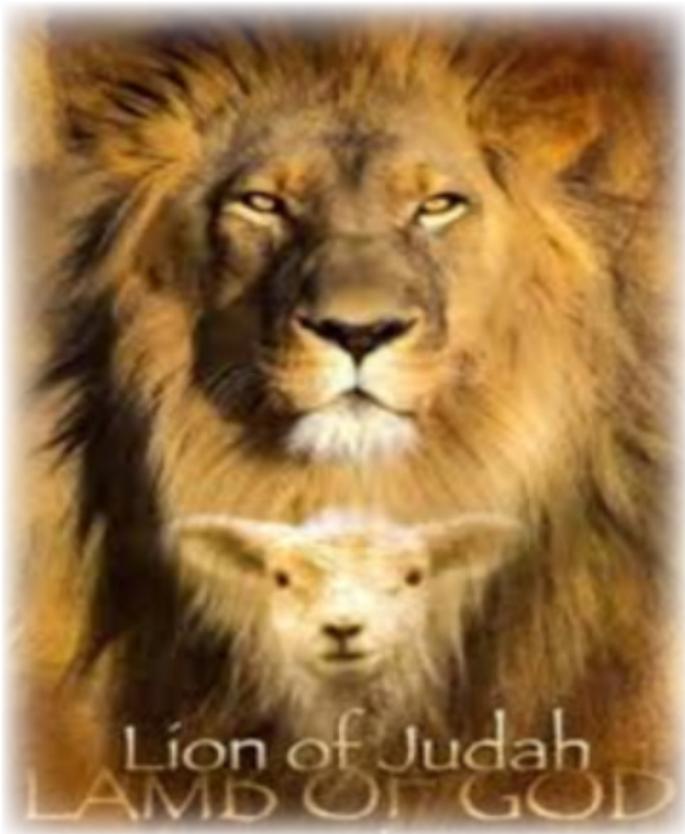
1. *Likeness*, as in the reflection in a mirror.
2. *Manifestation*, with the sense that God is fully revealed in Jesus.

- If Paul had meant to say that Jesus was merely similar to the Father, he would have used the ancient Greek word *homoion*, which speaks merely of a similarity in appearance. The stronger word *eikon* used here proves that Paul knew that Jesus is God. It means that "Jesus is the very mirror image / reflection of God the Father."

- **The firstborn over all creation:** **Firstborn** (the ancient Greek word *prototokos* [Strong's G4416]) can be described as either 'priority in time' or 'supremacy in rank'. As Paul used it here, he probably had both ideas in mind, with Jesus being begotten, not created, which means Jesus 'was before all created things' and 'of a supremely different order than all created things' because He is God.

The concept of Firstborn and of Jesus being God's direct image is also mentioned in **Hebrews 1.1-8**:

¹ An1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, ² Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; ³ Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high: ⁴ Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. ⁵ For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? ⁶ And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten [jesus] into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. ⁷ And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. ⁸ But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.



- Jesus is firstborn in time because He wasn't created. So, He was before all things and He is also the firstborn in Rank and express image of the Father.
- **For by Him all things were created:** There is no doubt that Jesus is the Author of all Creation. He Himself is not a created being. When we behold the wonder and the glory of the world Jesus created, we worship and honor Him all the more. The world was made by Him with all its beauty.
- Jesus is an artist, designer, engineer and Architect all rolled into one.
- The intricacy of Creation cries out to the glory of the Supreme Creator.
- When I was reading this, a song called 'How great Thou art' came to mind:

***Oh Lord my God,
When I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.***

Scripture also speaks of the lord Jesus creation:

Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

- **Whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers:** Paul is emphasising that no matter who thinks they're in control, whether that be the Roman Emperor of the time / Satan / demons / powerful men / Emperors or Empresses, God created them all. They are all ultimately under His authority and will one day have to stand before Him and give an account of themselves. Jesus is King and one day **every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord.**

- **In Him all things consist:** Paul is expressing that Jesus is both the Creator! The Sustainer of life! and the reason all things exist and consist!
- Picture this: The Lord Jesus has the ability at atomic level to cease His power of holding all things together. Without the Lord Jesus's sustaining power, the Earth would implode.
- **Head of the body, the church:** This describes Jesus' relationship with the Church. He is our Head; He is the King. In other parts of scripture He is also described as the Groom and the Church His Bride. The Bride cannot be a Bride without the Groom [Christ]. The body cannot function without the Head [Christ]
- **The Lord Jesus is our all in all!**
- **That in all things He may have the preeminence:** This is a fitting summary of the verses found in **Colossians 1.15-20**. The Greek word is *proteuo*. Strong's [G4409] says 'to be first in rank and influence'.
- The dictionary says: 'superiority, supremacy, greatness, excellence, distinction, prominence, predominance, eminence, peerlessness, transcendence, importance, prestige, stature, fame, renown.'
- By using this word **preeminence**, Paul is making Jesus' rank very clear! Paul is probably also setting the tone for the rest of the letter regarding the known heresy mentioned earlier.
- **Colossians 2 verses 8-10** says **Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.** ⁹ **For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;** ¹⁰ **and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.**
- By stating Jesus' pre-eminence, he is renouncing the heresy in **Colossians 2 verse 8**

For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell:

- 2 Key words are being used **fulness & dwell**
- **Fullness:** This translates the ancient Greek word *pleroma*, and was really just another way of saying that 'Jesus is truly God of denoting the totality of His Divine powers and attributes'.
- **Dwell:** This translates the ancient Greek word for *permanent dwelling*. There is an entirely different word used for the sense of a temporary dwelling place. Paul wanted to emphasize the idea that Jesus was not *temporarily* God, but is *permanently* God.
- By stating **in Him all the fullness should dwell**, Paul is again renouncing the heresy in **Colossians 2 verse 8**

In this chapter Paul is hammering home who Jesus is. Paul has said **He is the image of God, First-born of all creation, Creator, the eternally Pre-existent, the Head of the Church, the Fullness of God, the Pre-eminent One, and by Him all things exist.** Paul is renounces again the heresy in **Colossians 2 verse 8**.

- **And by Him to reconcile all things to Himself Through the blood of the cross:**

Jesus' atoning work is full and final!

John 3.16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3.36

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life.

There is an open invitation to anyone who will believe on the Lord Jesus. That:

if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Hallelujah!



John 3.17

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Acts 4.12

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

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In summary verses 15-20 shows us **Who Jesus is and who our identity is in.**

1. **We only have our inheritance and identity because of who Jesus is.**
2. **Jesus is our identity. So, a deeper understanding of who Jesus is reveals a deeper understanding of who we are and who created us!**
3. **Jesus is fully God. He is the image of God, First-born of all creation, Creator, the eternally Pre-existent, the Head of the Church, the Fullness of God, the Pre-eminent One, and by Him all things exist.**
4. **If you want a true summary of who Jesus is and in whom our identity is, in please re-read verses 15-20 out-loud. That is who our God is and He has no equal, Amen!**