

THE EXACT REPRESENTATION IS THE PERFECT REPRESENTATIVE



**FOR THE SON OF GOD, JESUS CHRIST, WHO WAS PREACHED AMONG YOU BY US
... WAS NOT YES AND NO, BUT HAS BECOME YES IN HIM.**

FOR AS MANY AS ARE THE PROMISES OF GOD, IN HIM THEY ARE YES.

(2 CORINTHIANS 1:19A–20A LSB)

To read the Old Testament without reference to Christ is like reading a mystery novel with the final chapter torn out. All the clues are scattered throughout the story, but without the finale no one could be sure of the explanation of the mystery or the identity of the one in whom all interest has been aroused. The gospel of the Son

of God, as proclaimed by Paul, is the final chapter of God's story, which explains all, and without which everything which precedes remains enigmatic and 'up in the air.'

Barnett, P. (1988). The message of 2 Corinthians: power in weakness (pp. 39–40). InterVarsity Press.

REVIEW: God spoke long ago in the prophets, and in the last days God spoke to us in his Son.

- (Hebrews 1:1-2a LSB) God, having spoken long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days spoke to us in His Son.

1. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the exact representation of God and so is the perfect representative to fulfill the promises of God.—He is the “yes” man of God

- (2 Corinthians 1:19–20 LSB) **For the Son of God, Jesus Christ**, who was preached among you by us—by me and Silvanus and Timothy—was not yes and no, but has become yes in Him. 20 **For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes.** Therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.

The numerous promises of God, given through the mouths of many prophets at different times and places, all converge like so many lines at one point, the Son of God ... There is no ambiguity ... It is as if God is saying 'Jesus Christ, my Son, is my "yes" to every promise I have ever made'. ... Because God's promises come true in Christ, we say the Amen through Christ to the glory of God. [Barnett, P. (1988). *The message of 2 Corinthians: power in weakness* (p. 39). InterVarsity Press.]

2. The necessary message—the word of the cross—had to be delivered by God in Person as flesh and blood, cf. 2:14-15.

a. God had to become a man.

- (Hebrews 2:14–15 LSB) Therefore, **since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same**, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

b. So God became a man.

- (Isaiah 7:14 LSB) Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin **will be with child and bear a son**, and she will call His name Immanuel.
- (Isaiah 9:6 LSB) For **a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us**; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

c. God alone saves and Jesus saves so Jesus is God.

- (Isaiah 43:11 LSB) I, even I, am Yahweh, And **there is no savior besides Me.**
- (Isaiah 45:22 LSB) **Turn to Me and be saved**, all the ends of the earth; **For I am God, and there is no other.**
- (Luke 2:11 LSB) For today in the city of David **there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.**
- (John 4:42 LSB) And they were saying to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and **know that this One is truly the Savior of the world.**”
- (2 Timothy 1:10 NLT) And now he has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of **Christ Jesus, our Savior.** He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News.
- (Titus 2:13–14 LSB) Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of **our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ**, 14 who gave Himself for us **that He might redeem us** from all lawlessness, **and purify for Himself a people for His own possession**, zealous for good works.
- (1 John 4:14–15 LSB) **We have beheld and bear witness that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.** 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

3. The Son in Hebrews is Jesus Christ who became flesh and blood to deliver God's word regarding salvation—the gospel—on the cross.

THE ONE WHO WAS THE EXACT REPRESENTATION OF THE IMAGE OF GOD WAS THE PERFECT REPRESENTATIVE TO DIE ON THE CROSS FOR OUR SINS.

- (Hebrews 1:3 LSB) ... **the radiance of His glory** and **the exact representation of His nature** ... **accomplished cleansing for sins** ...
- (John 14:9b LSB) **He who has seen Me has seen the Father**; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’
- (John 1:14 LSB) **And the Word became flesh, and**

dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- (1 Corinthians 15:3 LSB) For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that **Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.**
- (1 Corinthians 1:18 LSB) **For the word of the cross** is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it **is the power of God.**
- (Philippians 2:5–8 LSB) Have this way of thinking in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 **who, although existing in the form of God,** did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 **but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a slave, by being made in the likeness of men.** 8 **Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

4. The biblical evidence for the superiority of Jesus Son of God leaves absolutely no doubt that he alone qualifies to represent God in the flesh and deliver his final word of the cross.

a. The Son was appointed heir of all things, 1:2b.

b. The Son created the worlds—literally the ages, 1:2c.

- (Hebrews 11:3 LSB) **By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God,** so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.
- (1 Corinthians 2:7 LSB) But we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the wisdom which has been hidden, **which God predestined before the ages to our glory.**

1:2 worlds, ages ... αἰών αἰῶν ... an age; the earliest times; eternity; the world; time and now and forever.

c. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His nature, 1:3a.

- (Hebrews 1:3 LSB) Who is **the radiance of His glory** and the **exact representation of His nature,** and upholds all things by the word of His power; who, having accomplished cleansing for sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

1:3 radiance ... ἀπαύγασμα [apaugasma / ap-ow-gas-mah/] ... of Christ in that he perfectly

reflects the majesty of God; shining forth, of a light coming from a luminous body.

1:3 ... exact representation ... χαρακτήρ [charakter /khar-ak-tare/] ... the instrument used for engraving or carving; the mark stamped upon that instrument or wrought out on it; the exact expression (the image) of any person or thing, marked likeness, precise reproduction in every respect, i.e. facsimile.

d. The disciples saw Jesus and therefore saw the Father.

- (John 14:7–9 LSB) **If you have come to know Me, you will know My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.** 8 Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” 9 Jesus said to him, **“Have I been with you all so long and have you not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”**

e. The Old Testament Scriptures pointed to the glory of God being revealed in Christ.

- (Isaiah 40:3–5 LSB, Matthew 3:1-3) **A voice is calling, “Prepare the way for Yahweh in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.** 4 Let every valley be lifted up, And every mountain and hill be made low; And let the rough ground become a plain, And the rugged terrain a broad valley; 5 **Then the glory of Yahweh will be revealed,** And all flesh will see it together; For the mouth of Yahweh has spoken.”

John the Baptist quotes this Isaiah prophecy.

- (Matthew 3:3 LSB) For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet, saying, “THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, **MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD,** MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!”

f. The Old Testament Scriptures bore witness to Christ as the one they needed for eternal life.

- (John 5:37–40 LSB) And **the Father who sent Me, He has borne witness about Me.** You have neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form. 38 And you do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe Him whom He sent. 39 **You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that bear witness about Me;** 40 and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.
- (2 Corinthians 4:4 ESV) In their case the

god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, **to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.**

- (1 Corinthians 2:7–8 LSB) But we speak God’s wisdom in a mystery, the wisdom which has been hidden, which God predestined before the ages to our glory, 8 **which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.**

g. The Son upholds all creation by the word of his power, 1:3b.

- (Hebrews 1:3b LSB) **And upholds all things by the word of His power;** who, having accomplished cleansing for sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

h. The Son accomplished cleansing for sins by his in-person payment for our sins on the cross, 1:3c.

- (Hebrews 1:3c LSB) **Who, having accomplished cleansing for sins,** sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

i. The Son sat down at the right hand of God, 1:3d.

- (Hebrews 1:3d LSB) Who ... sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

j. The Son is superior to the angels, 1:4-14.

i. He is better than the angels and has inherited a name far above every name that is named.

- (Hebrews 1:4 LSB) Having become so much better than the angels, **as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.**
- (Philippians 2:9 LSB) Therefore, God also highly exalted Him, **and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name.**
- (Ephesians 1:20–21 LSB) Which He worked in Christ, by raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 **far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named,** not only in this age but also in the one to come.

ii. He is the Son—begotten of the Father, 1:5.

- (Hebrews 1:5 LSB) For to which of the angels did He ever say, “YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU”? And again, “I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME”?

iii. The angels worship the Son and are his ministers, 1:6-7.

- (Hebrews 1:6–7 LSB) And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, “AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM.” 7 And of the angels He says, “WHO MAKES HIS ANGELS WINDS, AND HIS MINISTERS FLAMING FIRE.”

iv. The Son is God and rules from his eternal throne, 1:8-12.

- (Hebrews 1:8–12 LSB) But of the Son He says, “YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE SCEPTER OF UPRIGHTNESS IS THE SCEPTER OF YOUR KINGDOM. 9 “YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS; THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED YOU WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE YOUR COMPANIONS.” 10 And, “YOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING FOUNDED THE EARTH, AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS; 11 THEY WILL PERISH, BUT YOU REMAIN; AND THEY ALL WILL WEAR OUT LIKE A GARMENT, 12 AND LIKE A MANTLE YOU WILL ROLL THEM UP; LIKE A GARMENT THEY WILL ALSO BE CHANGED. BUT YOU ARE THE SAME, AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END.”
- (Psalm 45:6 LSB) **Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;** A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

v. The Son is promised ultimate victory, 1:13

- (Hebrews 1:13 LSB) But to which of the angels has He ever said, “SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES AS A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET”?
- (1 Corinthians 15:57 LSB) But thanks be to God, **who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!**

vi. The angels serve those who inherit salvation, 1:14.

- (Hebrews 1:14 LSB) **Are they not all ministering spirits,** sent to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?