

Understanding Christ as the Logos: The Word, the Image of YHVH, and the Heir of All Creation

Rick Matthews

Introduction

The identity and nature of Jesus Christ have been subjects of deep theological reflection throughout Christian history. Central to this discussion is the understanding of Christ as the Logos (Word), the "firstborn over all creation," and the "image of the invisible God." This article explores these concepts and their implications, particularly in the context of Christ's relationship with the Father, His role as heir, and the shared inheritance believers have with Him.

The Logos: The Word of God

The Gospel of John opens with the profound statement: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1). Traditionally, this "Word" (Logos in Greek) is understood as referring to Christ.

However, Logos can also be interpreted as the broader concept of God's divine communication—His will, wisdom, and plan—which was perfectly embodied in Jesus Christ. Christ came to the world to teach the Word of God, often emphasizing that the words He spoke were not His own but those of the Father who sent Him (John 12:49-50). This underscores His role as the ultimate messenger and embodiment of God's Word. By becoming flesh, the Logos made the invisible God visible and accessible, fully revealing God's will and character to humanity.

The Oneness of Christ and the Father

Jesus' declaration, "The Father and I are one" (John 10:30), points to the profound unity between Him and the Father. This unity is not merely about agreement in purpose but reflects a deeper oneness in being and essence.

Christ's mission was to reveal the Father to the world, acting in perfect alignment with God's will. His statement, "If you've seen me, you've seen the Father" (John 14:9), further emphasizes that He is the perfect reflection and image of YHVH.

This oneness extends to believers, as Jesus prayed for them to be one with Him and the Father, just as He is one with the Father (John 17:20-23). This unity is achieved by believing in and embracing all that YHVH is—His nature, actions, and characteristics. By aligning themselves with God's will, believers are invited into the same oneness that Christ shares with the Father.

Christ as the Image of YHVH

The Apostle Paul describes Christ as "the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation" (Colossians 1:15). As the image of YHVH, Christ perfectly reflects and reveals God's nature.

His actions, teachings, and very being are in complete harmony with YHVH's will, making Him the visible manifestation of the invisible God.

This concept is crucial to understanding Christ's role. Being the image of YHVH means that Christ doesn't just represent God; He is the exact expression of God's essence and character. In Him, the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily (Colossians 2:9), making Him the definitive revelation of God to humanity.

Christ as the Firstborn and Heir

The phrase "firstborn over all creation" has led to various interpretations. One perspective is that this indicates Christ was created, being the first in time—the first act of God's creation. This view aligns with the idea that Christ is the beginning of God's creative work and serves as the foundation through which all else was created (Colossians 1:16).

Supporting this view is the concept of Christ as the heir of all things. Scripture states that God appointed Christ as heir (Hebrews 1:2), and believers are called to be "heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ" (Romans 8:17). This shared inheritance emphasizes a familial relationship between God, Christ, and believers. As the firstborn, Christ holds the preeminent position, and believers, as co-heirs, are invited to share in the inheritance and status that Christ has received. This also ties into the idea that believers are to be sons of YHVH, like Christ. Scripture teaches that those who receive Christ are given the right to become children of God (John 1:12). This status as sons and daughters of God means that believers share in the inheritance that Christ, the firstborn, has received, becoming part of God's family and participating in His divine nature.

Conclusion

The understanding of Christ as the Logos, the image of YHVH, and the firstborn over all creation offers profound insights into His identity and role in God's plan. Whether viewed as the created firstborn or the preeminent heir, Christ's relationship with the Father and His role in the divine plan emphasize His unique position as the one who fully reveals God to humanity. Believers, through their unity with Christ, are invited to share in His inheritance, becoming sons and daughters of YHVH and participating in the divine life that Christ embodies. This exploration of Christ's nature and role highlights the depth of the relationship between God, Christ, and believers, offering a richer understanding of what it means to be one with God through Christ.