

THE ORIGIN OF THE BODY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

In the first part of the study, I will seek to show from the scriptures that our Lord Jesus Christ was in possession of a body that was not of human/dust origin, but heavenly, of the Holy Spirit. This was and still is unprecedented in the history of the world. Having established this, the second part will focus on the spiritual significance of this fact for our salvation. It stands to reason that since only God alone can save, the flesh and blood through which he redeemed us must be of incorruptible material.

John 1:14 *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

John was one of the few and most authentic witnesses of the Lord. The revelation he received from the Spirit of the Lord was that the ‘word was made flesh’. This was a direct act that did not depend on a human agent – the flesh that was born was of the word of God. This can be said of no other flesh prior to this. It appears that the prophet Jeremiah was also referring to the uniqueness of the virgin birth when he said (English Standard Version): ‘How long will you waver, O faithless daughter? For the LORD has created a new thing on the earth: a woman encircles a man’ (Jeremiah 31:22). Note the KJV has ‘compass’ (surround in other versions).

1Corinthians 15:47 *The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.*

The apostle Paul makes a clear distinction between the origin of Adam and that of the Lord. ‘Is of the earth ...’ (*choikos*) refers literally to a ‘heap of dust’. There is a consensus in the Christian world that Adam and his seed have their origin in the dust, but we have somehow failed to heed the words of the apostle Paul regarding the heavenly origin of Jesus’ body. To believe that the Lord’s body has a ‘heavenly’ origin is actually a matter of salvation.

John 6:51 *I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.*

Notice that Jesus makes it absolutely clear that his flesh has a heavenly origin. Let us keep in mind that this was such a ‘hard saying’ for his audience that many left him. However, Jesus could not deny the fact that his flesh was not of this world, as he later again told his audience. ‘And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world’ (John 8:23). You will acknowledge that no human being who ever lived talked

in such terms. Only Jesus truly knew where he was from; to deny his own words is to court unbelief. In fact, the angel, Gabriel, declared this heavenly origin of the Lord before his birth.

***Luke 1:35** And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.*

What do we mean precisely when we say ‘Son of God’? In biblical terms it actually means ‘flesh and blood/body of Jehovah’. God alone, and none else, begot this body, as Gabriel declares. Therefore, this child, this ‘holy thing’ (body) is God’s own. He does not share it with Adam, Mary or any human being. God declared this a thousand years before Bethlehem: ‘I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee’ (Psalm 2:7). We see this solitary act of God’s begetting in the ‘I’. This is why the angels bowed and worshipped this body – the first begotten because they recognized that it was an extension and inseparable from God’s essence.

***Hebrews 1:6** And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.*

Equipped with this understanding in mind, let us proceed to the second part of this study. One may ask, ‘Does it make a difference whether I believe Christ’s body was of Adam or of God? Allow me to be blunt: to believe that our Lord put on a heavenly, Holy Spirit-begotten body alone, and not an earthly/human one, is a matter of salvation. Please bear with me.

1. Heavenly body necessary to avoid Adamic inherited sin

The whole point about the virgin birth was precisely to circumvent inheriting the sin of Adam. There is a school of theology that teaches that sin is inherited through the father alone. There are no scriptures that corroborate this claim. Paul states that the woman is of the man (I Cor 11:8), so to make such a claim is to forget the origin of the woman. Job confirms the universality of the sinful human condition of all born of women. ‘How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean that is born of a woman?’ (Job 25:4). All Israeli males were to clearly demonstrate their paternal lineage or be excluded. Jesus was the only person who claimed his Father and origin were not of this earth. The Father was in him; in other words, the one God who begot him was in him.

2. Heavenly body necessary to purchase our salvation

Human flesh and blood can never atone for sin. ‘None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him’ (Psalm 49:7). It is for this reason that God begat his own flesh and blood – a new kind in a new order. Because the Lord knew fully well the heavenly and pure nature of his body, he could say: ‘Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you’ (John 6:53). According to the Law of Moses, eating human flesh and drinking blood were strictly forbidden.

Lev 17:12 Therefore I said unto the children of Israel, No soul of you shall eat blood, neither shall any stranger that sojourneth among you eat blood.

In partaking of the Lord’s Supper, we recognize the heavenly origin of Jesus’ flesh and blood. We share in the eternal life that is in Christ’s flesh and blood as we partake of his body with this divine revelation.

*1Pe 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;
1Pe 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

3. Through baptism we put on Jesus’ divine body to enter heaven

Finally, through baptism in Jesus name (Acts 2:38), we cast off the body of Adam and put on Jesus’ heavenly body. Paul reminded the Corinthians that corruptible flesh and blood cannot enter the kingdom of heaven (I Cor 15:50). The body of Adam was made for this earth, although after the Fall we struggle through sickness and age to cope with this world.

Thankfully, God in his mercy prepared his own body for us to put on in baptism in Jesus name because his body alone is suitable for heaven. In Matthew 22: 11 there was a guest who did not have on a wedding garment. In ancient times, wedding garments were provided by the King – for instance, Pharaoh gave Joseph garments to give to his brothers before they entered his presence. Through the act of baptism, we put on the garments of King Jesus which gives us eternal access to his presence in heaven.

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.