

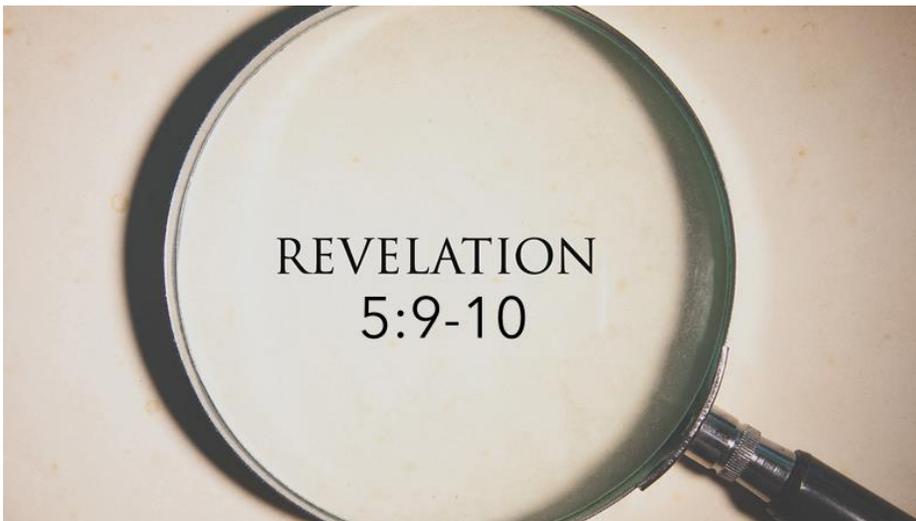


Reigning with the Lamb who Reigns
Revelation 5:9-10

Sooke Baptist Church
Sunday, December 13, 2020
9am, Facebook Live Stream
Noon, YouTube



Coffee/Question:
Describe the ideal
political leader.



The ramifications of what John saw and heard, almost 2000 years ago, impact how you and I, as followers of Jesus live our day to day lives.

v.5 -One of the elders said [to John] Look, the Lion of the tribe of Judah...

v.6 - Then I [John] saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain...

What John saw.... explains this present time in which we are living – in between the resurrection and the return of Jesus to the earth.

The scene which John saw... the Lamb who took the scroll from the hand of Him who sits on the throne, compelled all of heaven to sing a new song....

And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.

¹⁰You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they reign on the earth.”

Revelation 5:9-10

A mighty angel had proclaimed, “Who is worthy to open the scroll?”

The context of chapter 5 impresses upon us that it had to be a human being who opened the scroll.

But no one was found.... because all of humanity has sinned.

There is however... one who is worthy... our Lord Jesus!

Look at why heaven praised Jesus!

And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, **because you were slain**, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.

¹⁰You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they reign on the earth.”

Revelation 5:9-10

It wasn't just that Jesus died... like all of us will.
He had been slain as Isaiah had foretold.



This was what the people of Jesus' day had struggled to understand...and why so many didn't believe he was the Messiah.

This was what the fallen angels had not grasped... and why they thought they had won when Jesus, hanging upon a Roman cross... breathed his last and died.

It still causes confusion to this very day.

And they sang a new song, saying:
“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and **with your blood you purchased for God** persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.
¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they reign on the earth.”

Revelation 5:9-10

This truth leaves us in awe - only the life blood of Jesus the Christ could purchase freedom for humanity from their bondage to sin.

How great is our sin debt... and how much greater is the love of God!

But the sacrifice of Jesus accomplished even more.

And they sang a new song, saying:
“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.

¹⁰ **You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they reign on the earth.”**

Revelation 5:9-10

This is who the followers of Jesus are... **right now** ... we are a kingdom...and we are priests who serve God.

In Jesus we are given a new identity and a new purpose...in this present time. What the people of our culture desperately look for – is found only in Jesus Christ.

And they sang a new song, saying:
“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.

¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and **they reign on the earth.”**

Revelation 5:9-10

Verse 10 describes what the followers of Jesus do...right now.

Most definitely, there is a fuller reality yet to be realized in the time of the new heaven and the new earth.

But in this present time, the followers of Jesus reign on the earth because of the Lamb who was slain.

The NIV has a footnote on the word reign, which says that some manuscripts read “reign” rather than “will reign.”

Both Gerhard Krodel, p.167 and GK Beale, p.118 advocate that the correct reading of the verb is present tense, not future. DJ, p.158

The Scripture itself teaches this.
Look at the text and the tense of the words being used.

You **have made them** to be a kingdom
and priests to serve our God, and they
reign on the earth.”

Revelation 5:10

We are forgiven sinners.

When we come into relationship with Jesus, he makes us... not will make us, but makes us... to be a kingdom and priests who serve our God...in this present time.

Ephesians 2:4-6 confirms.

Again, take note of the tense of the verbs.

Ephesians 2:4-6

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ **made us alive with Christ** even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

⁶ And **God raised us up with Christ** and **seated us with him** in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus...

What grace! What privilege! ...that we should be called the sons and daughters of God!

But in what capacity do we reign?

This is a crucial question.

If we are to understand how we reign in this present time, we need to be clear in understanding how Jesus reigns.

He reigns ...now.

Look again at Revelation 1:4-5 and note the tense.

Revelation 1:4-5

John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:
Grace and peace to you from him who is, and
who was, and who is to come, and from the
seven-fold Spirit before his throne, ⁵ and from
Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the
firstborn from the dead, and **the ruler of
the kings of the earth.**

“Jesus is not will be... but is... the ruler of the kings of the earth.

Ephesians 1:20-22 also confirms this:

[God] raised Christ from the dead and seated him
at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above
all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every
name that is invoked, **not only in the present
age but also in the one to come.**

²² And God placed all things under his feet and
appointed him to be head over everything for the
church...

Ephesians 1:20-22

Jesus is the Ruler of the kings of the earth... in both this present age and in the
age to come.

Look at the sequence!

Take note of the tense of the verbs!

[God] **raised** Christ from the dead and **seated** him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

²² And God **placed** all things under his feet and **appointed** him to be head over everything for the church...

Ephesians 1:20-22

God raised... Christ from the dead.

God seated... him at his right hand.

God placed... all thing under his feet.

God appointed... him to be head over everything.

Look at Matthew 28:18.

Matthew 28:18

Then Jesus came to them and said,
"All authority in heaven and on earth
has been given to me."

Who gave this authority to Jesus?

The Father did.

It is an action completed with continuing ramifications!

What this means is that Jesus reigns over the entire universe, DJ, p.159... over the seen and unseen realms... even though in this present time it looks like he doesn't.

Look at Hebrews 2:8.

Hebrews 2:8

In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him.

Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him.

Has everything been put under the authority of Jesus? Yes!
Is there anything that is not subject to him? No!

It's only from our perspective and this is important to be clear on – our perspective, not the perspective of heaven, but ours...that things seem as if Jesus is not in control.

The testimony of the Father is absolutely clear... there is no power or authority greater than Jesus.

By the wisdom and the plan of the Father...in this present time.... Jesus rules.... in the midst of his enemies.

Hebrews 2:8

In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him.

Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him.

Psalm 110:2

“Rule in the midst of your enemies!”

The Lamb is on the throne.
From the throne the Lamb rules.
This is what John saw in Revelation 5.



Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain,
standing at the center of the throne...

Things are not as they seem.

When we remember this...we live from a place of peace.

If or when we forget this...

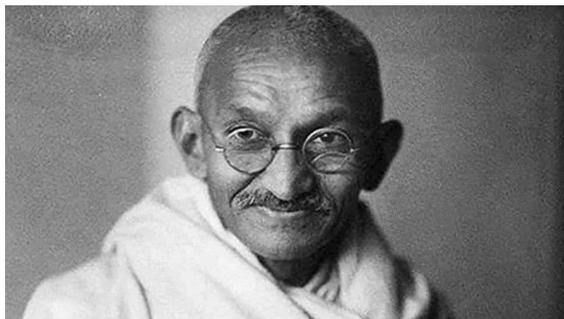


... then we are prone to have anxiety and fear grip our hearts in its cold clammy hands.

The world without God... doesn't understand God's sacrificial love.

The world without God... admires the strong who insist upon and take by force what they believe is theirs.

The world without God... can't wrap its head around love that would lay down its rights for the sake of others.



Mahatma Gandhi was a Hindu who read the New Testament.

He believed evil is not overcome by more evil.

He was convinced violence only leads to more violence, and hatred only spawns more hatred.

He was persuaded only sacrificial goodness can stop evil.

Gandhi was determined to end the rule of Britain in India.

He inspired thousands to stand with him.

But he insisted that those who did would not respond as the soldiers of Britain did.

He was a peaceable man and so was his resistance.

When attacked, he and those with him absorbed the hurt.

When the British troops beat and arrested Gandhi and his followers, he kept saying, "They will not kill us all. Our not echoing their behavior will finally break their hearts." And it did.

Why do I stress this point?

Because how the Lamb reigns in this present time, is how we his followers reign with him.

We are a peaceable people because we follow the Prince of Peace.

Darryl Johnson writes: The Lamb overcame by suffering... suffering with and for the world. DJ, p.160.

The Lamb will lead his people to do the same.

He will lead them to overcome evil by walking right into it...and confronting it with the truth... and if and as it is needed, to absorb what evil dishes out, thereby diffusing it. DJ, p.160.

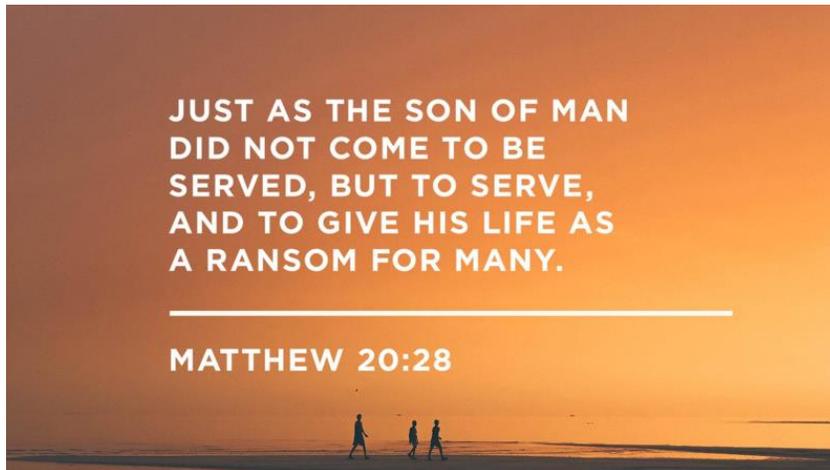
Did not Jesus tell us to bless those who curse us?

Did he not tell us to pray for those who mistreat us?

Did he not tell us to love our enemies?

We reign as our Savior reigns.

When he came to the earth Jesus told his followers that he had not come...



This is the heart of the Lamb who is the Lion of Judah!

He is a servant-King.

Did Jesus not visibly and practically demonstrate this one final time the night before he died?

In the upper room, where they were to eat the Passover meal, not one of the disciples were prepared to assume the role of a servant when it was discovered that the hiring of one had been forgotten.

All of them sat there...



...with dirty feet.

It was Jesus.....who got up...



...it was Jesus who took off his outer clothing
...it was Jesus who wrapped a towel around his waist
...it was Jesus who poured water into a basin
...it was Jesus who went to each individual and washed their feet.

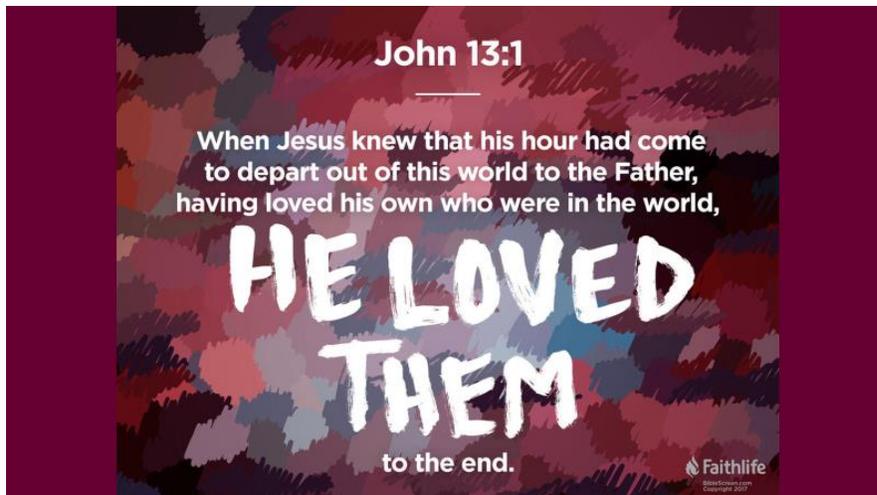
No rebuke could have shattered the pride of the disciple's heart like the actions of Jesus.

Why did Jesus do this?

It was not to shame them.

If the scripture didn't tell us, why Jesus did this, we would get it wrong.

Listen to John 13:1 ...



Jesus served his followers... by washing their feet.... because of love.

The rule of the Lamb who was slain, who reigns from the throne of heaven over the entire universe, seen and unseen, is a rule of love.

Listen to what Jesus said to Nicodemus, John 3:16-17:

**For God so loved the world that he gave
his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not
perish but have eternal life.
For God did not send his Son into the world
to condemn the world,
but to save the world through him.**

John 3:16-17

This present time... in between the resurrection of Jesus and his return... is a time for salvation; a time for rescue, not a time of condemnation.

If we don't get this right, we will not understand how the Lamb reigns, nor how we, his people reign on the earth, as a kingdom and priests who serve our God and others in his name.

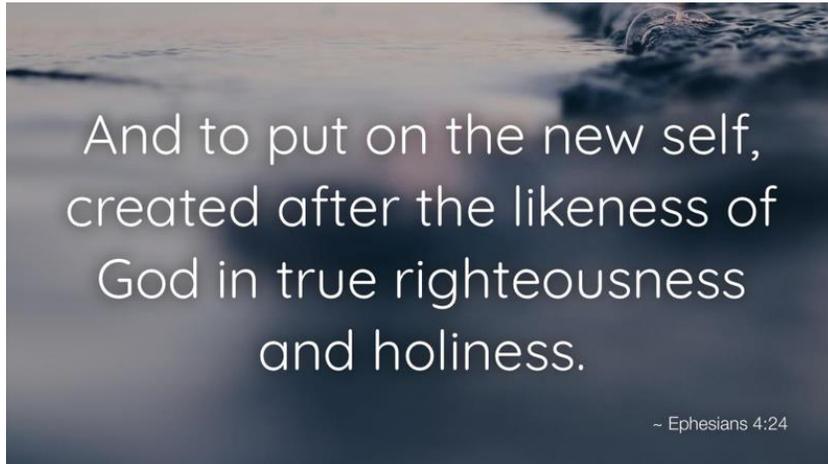
This is what we have been saved for...for the glory of God.
And his glory is made known when we serve others in his name... because of love ... like the love the Father has for the world.

To this end, the Holy Spirit has birthed in every follower a new nature.
Do you realize that being born of the Spirit is an act of new creation?

When God created humankind in the beginning, he made us in his likeness.
But since the fall, it has been the likeness of the serpent... Satan... that has manifested in human nature.

But Jesus the Lamb of God came to Rescue us.

All who trust in him are born from above ... that is, they are given a new nature... a new self... that is like God.



See also Colossians 3:10.

Let's connect this to what Jesus said to Matthew 20:28.

Jesus came not to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom.

This is the new identity of every follower of Jesus.

We are no longer under the power of the serpent. Praise God!

We are no longer his slaves forced to carry out his will. Praise God!

We belong to the Lamb who was slain. Praise God!

We are a kingdom and priests who serve God and others in his name. Praise God!

Jesus rules in the midst of his enemies... the unseen rulers, authorities, the powers of this dark world, the spiritual forces of evil in the unseen realm.
See Ephesians 6:12.

As his people, we do the same.

We need to get this truth and live on the basis of it!!!!

But how do we reign on this earth?

Darryl Johnson identified several things, with which I close.

How does Jesus reign?
He reigns as the Faithful Witness.

Revelation 1:5: 3:14

...⁵ and from Jesus Christ, who is **the faithful witness...**

...¹⁴ These are the words of the Amen, **the faithful and true witness**, the ruler of God's creation.

His followers, likewise, reign on the earth as Jesus' faithful witnesses.
This was Jesus' final command before he returned to the Father.

Acts 1:8

... you are my witnesses....

**We are witnesses...
in word and action.**

We speak the truth of the gospel and we sacrificially love as we have been loved.

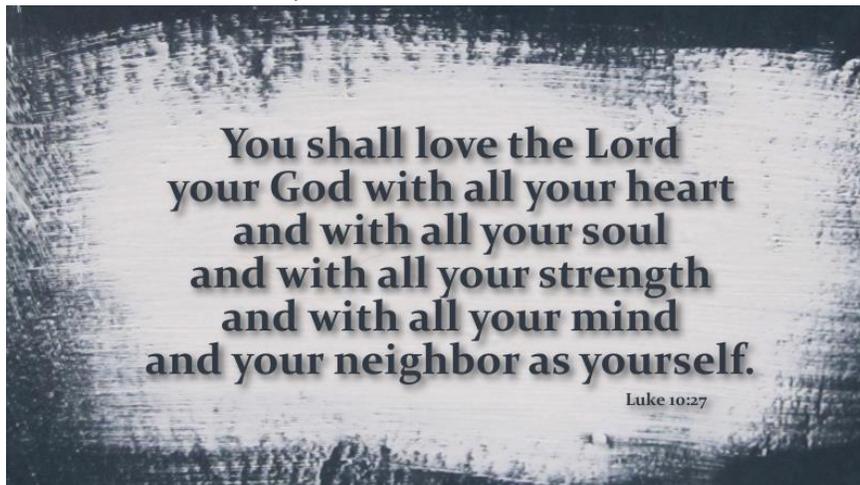
But who do we love?
We love one another.
Remember what Jesus said to his followers...

John 13:34-35

*34 "A new command I give you:
Love one another. As I have
loved you, so you must love
one another. 35 By this
everyone will know that you
are my disciples, if you love
one another."*

We reign on the earth... by loving one another as Jesus loved us...
We choose to serve one another rather than be served.
But there is more.
We reign by loving the people of this world and serving them like Jesus did.

One time, Jesus was asked by a man, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?"
Jesus responded to this question with one of his own, "What does the Law say?"
The man answered, Luke 10:27...



Jesus affirmed the man that his answer was correct.
But the man persisted and asked another question, "And who is my neighbor?"
In other words, "Who am I to love?"

This is when Jesus told a story of a man who was attacked by robbers and who took everything he had and left the man half dead.

A priest travelling on the same road, saw the man, and went to the other side of the road as he passed him by.

A Levite came, and did the same thing.

Remember...the priest and the Levite, were religious people... they were those who had dedicated themselves to love God and their neighbor.

A third person came down the road - a Samaritan.

Remember...who the Samaritans were???



Jews would travel around Samaria to go to Galilee, even though the journey was much shorter if they went through Samaria.

Samaritans were despised, looked down up, and avoided at all costs.



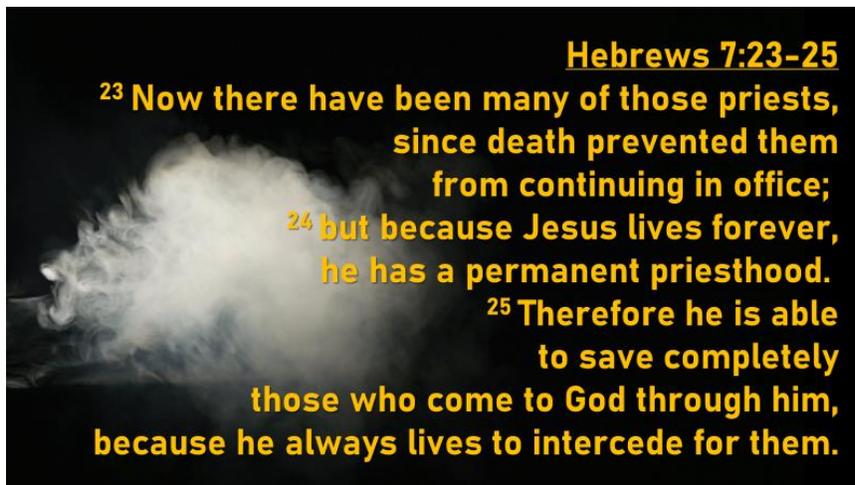
The Samaritan took pity upon the man who had been robbed and beaten.
He stopped and went over to him.
He helped him.
He even delayed his journey to care for him.
And...he assumed the full cost for the man's recovery.

In the story he told, Jesus was clear - one cannot profess to love God and not extend love and mercy to a person whom God has placed before them.

This impresses upon us that the gospel is to be spoken and demonstrated.

This is one of the ways by which the followers of Jesus reign on the earth with the Lamb who reigns from heaven.

Consider this second way in which the Lamb reigns.
Look at Hebrews 7:23-25...



As the great high priest, Jesus lives to intercede for those who come to him.
This is how Jesus completes in his followers what he began.
He speaks to the Father about us.
He asks the Father to grant us grace, which the Holy Spirit mediates to us.

Because it is Jesus who has made us a kingdom and priests to serve God and others, he would have us reign with him, by interceding for the needs of the world.

1 Timothy 2:1-8

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, **intercession** and thanksgiving be made for all people...

**We are witnesses...
in word and action.**

**We intercede in prayer
for the world**

We pray for the people of this earth as Jesus prays for us.

We reign on the earth by bringing the world and its people to the throne through our prayers.

We ask on their behalf for the Lamb's sovereign healing; we plead for the just mercy of God to be extended.

Darryl Johnson

p.161.

Our faithfulness and fervency in prayer for this world, is to match that of Jesus – he would have us pray for others as he prays for us.

What does this say to us?
That our prayers matter!!

This may help us better understand why Satan works so hard to convince us that they don't!

Things are not as they seem.

The Lamb who was slain reigns on the throne of heaven.... and his followers reign with him on the earth...

**We are witnesses...
in word and action.**

**We intercede in prayer
for the world**

...as they witness in word and action... and as they intercede in prayer.

and the humility of Jesus and mistake it for weakness.

To this world, the message of the cross is foolishness

To understand how the followers of Jesus reign in this present time, and to make certain we do not veer into the ridiculous, I need to walk you through the theme introduced last week – that Jesus is the Second Adam.

Here I reference an essay on the Gospel Coalition website written by Brandon Crowe. I acknowledge this truth is meaty and weighty. But I encourage you to grapple with it – for it will leave you in awe of our God.

In Incarnation of Jesus is a glorious mystery.



Jesus has two natures – divine and human – in one person. How could this be?

Through the virgin conception of Jesus... the pattern of natural birth that has been the norm since the creation of Adam and Eve, and has passed on the sin nature...it as broken

Every human being who is born... is... as the Psalmist wrote:

Surely, I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother
conceived me.

Psalm 51:5

But this was not the case with Jesus.

He was born sinless.

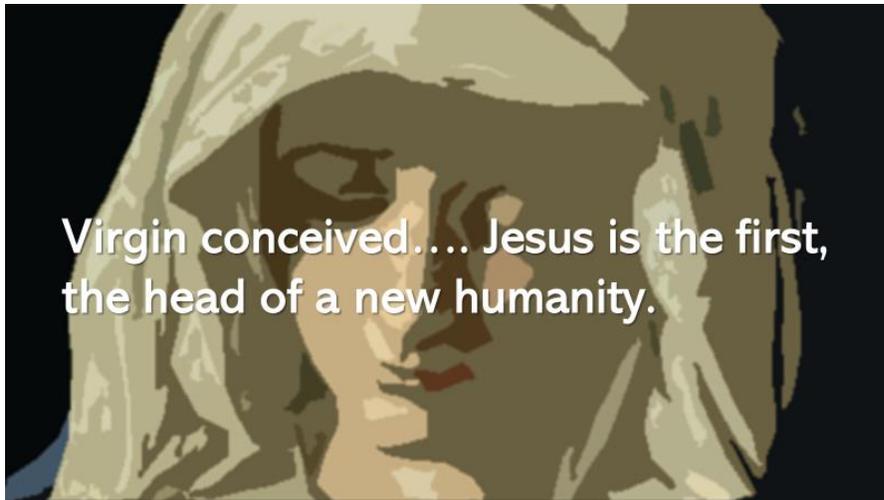
The angel announced to Mary...

Luke 1:31-35

You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." ³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel answered, **"The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."**

The child born to Mary is the holy Son of the Most High God, and...is a descendant of King David - he is truly God and he is truly man.

He was sent by God into the world to be the head of a new humanity.



Virgin conceived.... Jesus is the first,
the head of a new humanity.

This is why the scripture speaks of Jesus as the Second Adam.
Like the first Adam, Jesus acted on behalf of us all.

When tempted by Satan, the first Adam succumbed; and his failure became ours.
But the second Adam resisted Satan in the desert and defeated him.

It was Jesus' victory over Satan in the desert, that
But unlike the first Adam, whose failure when tempted by Satan, opened the door
for sin and death to enter human experience, Jesus, the Second Adam obeyed
God fully when he was tempted in the wilderness after his baptism.

This first round victory by Jesus over Satan opened the way for Jesus' public
ministry of rescue ... and culminated, three and a half years later, when he
willingly gave his innocent life in sacrifice for the sins of humanity.

Because of Jesus and through faith in him, one can be forgiven their sin, and by
the power of God have a new nature created within.

As the second Adam, Jesus is the head of a new humanity who is alive to God...
who have within them a new nature that has been recreated in the image of God.

A key passage regarding Jesus as the Second Adam is...

Romans 5:12-21

This passage teaches that the lifelong obedience of Jesus Christ is the answer to Adam's disobedience.

Just as Adam acted representatively on behalf of us all, Jesus similarly acted on behalf of us all, which means his actions can be counted, that is, attributed vicariously, to those who trust in him.

Acts 4:12 - "[T]here is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind, by which we must be saved."

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/jesus-christ-last-adam/>

Why is this so important?

Consider Romans 5:17.

Romans 5:17

For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness **reign in life through the one man,** Jesus Christ!

As the second Adam... Jesus has saved us from the power of sin and evil... in order that we might reign with him now.