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One Century in the Service
of our Lord Jesus Christ

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Newz of His

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Guided by His Word,
Serving in His Love

The Four Visions of the Christ

From the moment sin entered this world, man has longed to see a remedy that could restore him to peace with God. For those to whom God revealed Himself, this remedy was not a hypothetical hope, but the certain hope of one day beholding a specific Redeemer from God, Jesus the Christ. The Bible describes four distinct visions of Jesus.

I. The Futuristic Vision

In judgment of the first sin, the LORD God said to the serpent:

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman,
And between your offspring and hers;
He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."
- Genesis 3:15

From that moment, God's people would look for that Rescuer to be revealed. Adam, the patriarchs, national Israel – all these waited for that moment. By faith, they believed God, bringing the sacrifices that symbolically covered their sins. Many simply offered their sacrifices without searching for deeper meanings, but the sages knew there must be more. Once, in private, Jesus told Peter and the Twelve:

"Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."
- Luke 10:23, 24

2. The Fleshly Vision

In Jesus, God revealed that which kings and prophets had longed to see. But, rather than to important men like prophets and kings, Jesus revealed the Father to ordinary men. One of them described the awesome duty this placed upon the Twelve:

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard,
which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our
hands have touched – this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.
- 1 John 1:1

3. The Faith Vision

The Apostles would loyally bear witness to Christ, but people would either believe them or not. Could twelve ordinary men convince others to see Jesus with eyes of faith? After all, one of the Twelve did not believe the others

after he missed Jesus' appearance to the group following His Resurrection. Thomas demanded to examine the wounds of Jesus. Jesus gave Thomas that opportunity but told him: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29).

How could these men convince others when they could not convince one of their own? They needed help, so they were told to wait in Jerusalem to be "clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). Now the Holy Spirit works to assist us to embrace this faith vision of Jesus:

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.
- 1 Peter 1:8, 9

4. The Final Vision

"Now we see a poor reflection as in a mirror then we shall see face to face."
- 1 Corinthians 13:12

All who have seen Jesus through the ages will share this final vision. For now, we cannot behold the glorified Christ. Reckoned as saints, we are still sinners in practice. One day we will see Him. That is **not** wishful thinking. That is our well-established and certain hope in Christ - established by His cross, proven by His Resurrection, and assured by His promise.

This final vision is the object of all Christian hope. We have not touched Jesus, yet we believe He rose from the dead. We have never seen Jesus with earthly eyes, but we love Him. Our knowledge of Christ is largely experiential, and yet, there must be some basis in history for our faith. Peter and his fellow-Apostles convinced us that what they witnessed fulfills that for which our spirits long. God's Book of books records their testimony. We presently pursue the holiness that fits us for heaven. But, we are sustained not so much by our progress as by God's own promise. We endure not because our hope is wishful, but because it is certain:

"Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure." - 1 John 3:2, 3



Karl's Korner