

HE CAME TO HIS OWN AND HIS OWN PEOPLE DID NOT RECEIVE HIM

John 1:11

Zavadka, 13 december 2014

John 1:9-14 *That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. ¹¹ ***He came to his own, and his own received him not.*** ¹² But as many as received him, to them he gave power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: ¹³ Who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 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 1:9-14 [On bol to] pravé svetlo, ktoré osvecuje každého človeka prichádzajúceho na svet. ¹⁰ Bol na svete a svet povstal skrze neho, a svet ho nepoznal. ¹¹ ***Prišiel do svojho vlastného, a vlastní ho neprijali.*** ¹² Ale tým, ktorí ho prijali, dal moc stať sa Božími deťmi: tým, čo uverili v jeho meno, ¹³ čo sa nenarodili ani z krvi, ani z vôle tela, ani z vôle muža, ale z Boha. ¹⁴ A Slovo sa telom stalo a prebývalo medzi nami. A my sme uvideli jeho slávu, slávu, akú má od Otca jednorodený Syn, plný milosti a pravdy.

εἰς τὰ ἴδια ἦλθεν, καὶ οἱ ἴδιοι αὐτὸν οὐ παρέλαβον

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0. INTRODUCTION – CHRISTMAS AS AN UNPLEASANT THEME

- The Great visitor – some kings in the past walked among their subjects in disguise to know how they really are... God came not in disguise – but really became one of his subjects...
- Love for Jesus ⇒ compassion with Jesus.
- the pain of rejection → "...manifestations ...ostracism, stigmatization, betrayal, unrequited love, rejection sensitivity, peer rejection, parental neglect..."¹
- Rejection on the day of his birth – born in the stable.
- Rejection in the days of his adult life and work – opposition, hatred, crucifixion.

¹ LEARY, M. R. *Interpersonal Rejection*, Oxford : OUP, 2001, p. 4.

- **Ps 118:22** The **stone** that the builders **rejected** has become the cornerstone (→ Mt 21:42; Mk 12:10; Lk 20:17; Acts 4:11; 1 Pet 2:4, 7)

1. THE JEWISH CULTURE

1.1 ABRAHAM – THE FATHER

- **John 8:39** "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you are Abraham's **children**, do the **deeds of Abraham**."
- **Rom 4:16** That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring - not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one **who shares the faith of Abraham**, who is the father of us all,
- **Gn 15:6** [...count the stars!] ...And he **believed** the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

1.2 MOSES – THE LAWGIVER

- **John 7:19** Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me?"
- **Mt 22:36-40** "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ And he said to him, "**You shall love the Lord your God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and **first commandment**. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

1.3 DAVID – THE KING

- **Isa 9:6-7** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the **throne of David and over his kingdom**, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.
- **Jer 33:15** In those days and at that time **I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David**, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
- **Mk 11:10** Blessed is the coming **kingdom** of our father **David!** Hosanna in the highest!"

2. THE CHRISTIAN CULTURE

2.1 OUR CHRISTIAN NAMES

- Slovak name of the year 2013 – James
- "Najpopulárnejším menom pre novonarodené deti v SR v roku 2013 je u dievčat **Sofia** a u chlapcov **Jakub**. Rodičia dávali svojim bábätkám aj mená Nina a Natália alebo Adam a Samuel. To však nič nemení na tom, že **najfrekventovanejším krstným menom na Slovensku je stále Mária** s počtom viac ako 329 000 používateľiek. **Prvenstvo u mužov patrí Jánovi**, ďalej nasleduje **Jozef** a **Peter**."²

2.2 OUR CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS CUSTOMS

- Christmas carols
- Christmas church-services

2.3 OUR CHRISTIANLY-BASED LEGISLATION

- Christian origins of the dignity of human beings. Education for all, social mobility etc.
- Christian origins of social care.
- Christian origins of freedoms of plurality of opinion, of expression etc.

² <http://www.minv.sk/?tlacove-spravy&sprava=najcastejsim-menom-ktorym-rodicia-pomenovali-svoje-dieta-v-roku-2013-je-jakub>

3. THE PROPER WAY TO RECEIVE CHRIST → TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

3.1 BE RECONCILED WITH GOD – LIKE ABRAHAM WAS

- If you have a Christian name and Christian parents – you still need to be reconciled with God like Abraham was through faith.
- Jesus calls to repentance (→ Zacchaeus Lk 19)

3.2 GIVE GOD THE FIRST PLACE – LIKE MOSES COMMANDED

- If you follow Christian customs, go to the church Christmas services and sing Christmas carols at home – you still need to give your whole heart to God and love him with all your heart, mind, strength and soul.

3.3 WAIT FOR CHRIST'S SECOND COMING – WHEN HE WILL SIT ON THE THRONE OF DAVID

- If you value our Christian heritage in culture, laws and political institutions – you still need to wait for the Second Coming of Christ to establish his kingdom of justice.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- To celebrate Christmas fittingly we have to think of *how God expects us to receive His Son*.
- It is not enough to go through the motions of Christmas religious customs; we have to be careful to fulfil the purpose of His coming in our inward attitudes and everyday life.
- Jesus came to (1) reconcile us with God – believe in his substitutionary death on the cross, (2) to teach us how to worship and love God – give the first place in your life to God, (3) to establish the eternal Davidic kingdom – wait for Him to come again.