

## **His Name Shall Be Called Wonderful (11) Firstborn Of Every Creature**

The expression, “*Firstborn*”, as it relates to the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, is found a number of times in the New Testament Scriptures. This divine title, in its various occurrences, individually and collectively, reminds us of the exalted preeminence and majesty of His superiority and supremacy manifested in His divine offices and attributes.

In the book of Colossians, Paul used this lofty title to emphasize the deity of the Lord Jesus and His preeminence and priority over all created beings and things. Paul wrote concerning Him, “*who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature*” (Col. 1:15).

In the phrase, “*the image of the invisible God*”, the word, “*image*”, indicates the very essence and nature of God. The Lord Jesus Christ is the perfect expression of God, the visible representation and manifestation of God.

The statement, “*the firstborn of every creature*”, does not in any way suggest that the Lord Jesus is the first of created beings. Rather, this divine title gives the Lord Jesus a place and position of supremacy and sovereignty, of dignity and dominion and of preeminence and priority over all of creation.

In the book of the Revelation, the Lord Jesus is referred to as, “*the beginning of the creation of God*” (Rev. 3:14). Here again, it is not the sense of the first created being, but the originator of creation. Following the expression, “*the firstborn of every creature*”, the apostle Paul stated emphatically, “*For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist*” (Col. 1:16-17).

In the book of Romans, Paul referred to the Lord Jesus as, “*the firstborn among many brethren*” (Rom. 8:29). The term, “*firstborn*”, in this context does not refer to a biological birth or the order and time of birth. It refers to the distinct dignified position of the Son of God as first in kind and rank and brings those who have been born into the family of God into a privileged relationship with Him.

It is the Father’s express desire, determined from ages past, that all who have received the Spirit of adoption, through faith in Christ (Rom. 8:15), be conformed to the image of His unique Son. Peter reminds us that Christ has left us an example that we should follow His steps (1<sup>st</sup> Pet. 2:21).

As we meditate on the Word of God, in daily communion with our Lord Jesus, we are changed into His image from glory to glory by the Spirit of God (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 3:18). John tells us that Father has bestowed such love upon us, that we should be called the sons of God and soon, we shall be like our Lord Jesus, for we shall see Him as He is (1<sup>st</sup> Jn. 3:1-2).

As the “*Firstborn*”, the Lord Jesus has been appointed heir of all things (Heb. 1:2). The psalmist wrote concerning the Lord Jesus, “*I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession*” (Ps. 2:7-8).

The amazing truth is, those who have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour, are children of God and as such, are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:14-17). Believers will

not only behold the glory of the Lord Jesus (Jn. 17:24), but will also share His throne in a coming day (Rev. 3:21).

The Lord Jesus is also referred to as, “*the firstborn from the dead*” (Col. 1:18). He is the first to rise from the dead in a glorified body, never to die again. His resurrection out from amongst the dead, demonstrates His preeminence over all things, including death. As the “*firstborn from the dead*”, or as Paul referred to Him in his letter to Corinth, “*the firstfruits of them that slept*” (1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 15:20), His resurrection guarantees the resurrection of all believers in a coming day.

In the book of the Revelation, He is the “*first begotten of the dead, and the Prince of the kings of the earth*” (Rev. 1:5). This verse announces the sovereignty of our Lord Jesus Christ, as well as His supremacy over the kings of the earth.

In the same verse, He is described as, “*him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood*”. The word, “*loved*”, as it is used here, is the sense of an ongoing, continuous love. His love is demonstrated in the fact that He has washed us from our sins in His own blood. The “*Firstborn*” has the power to loose and to release from sins. He has declared, “*The Son of man has power on earth to forgive sins*” (Matt. 9:6; Mk. 2:10).

The writer of the epistle to the Hebrews reminds us that as those who have trusted Christ, we have not come unto Mount Sanai which burned with fire and where the law was given (Ex. 19 & 20), but unto the city of God, the heavenly Jerusalem and the “*church of the firstborn*” (Heb. 12:18-24).

The expression, “*church of the firstborn*”, refers to all who have been redeemed through the precious blood of Christ. The Lord Jesus declared, “*I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*” (Matt. 16:18). The apostle Paul wrote in the book of Ephesians, “*Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it*” (Eph. 5:25). As he addressed the elders of Ephesus, he reminded them of their responsibility to the church which was purchased with the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28).

As the “*Firstborn from the dead*”, He is seated at the right hand of God, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in the world to come. God has given to Him to be the head of all things to the church which is His body, the fulness of Him who fills all in all (Eph. 1:20-23).

*Firstborn over all creation,  
All things fashioned by His word;  
His alone the highest station,  
Hail the mighty, sovereign Lord.*

*Came to earth in condescension;  
Holy child, incarnate One;  
Beyond human apprehension,  
Behold Mary's Firstborn Son.*

*Firstborn of the congregation,  
Purchased with redeeming tide;  
Bow each knee, in adoration,  
Blood bought church, for which He died.*

*See Him, now, in resurrection,  
Christ, the Firstborn from the dead;  
Every creature in subjection,*

*To the Church's living head.*

*His, the universal reigning,  
Firstborn right, by royal birth;  
All within His realm remaining,  
Crown Him Prince of kings of earth.*

**Bernie Payne**