

# I Want to Look Upon His Face

Allen Webster

I've never seen a photo, video, a marble bust, or so much as a rock etching that shows what Jesus really looked like.

Yet I have no doubt that Jesus lived, and that He was the Son of God (John 20:30-31). I firmly believe that He is in heaven and that He will come back one day (Acts 1:9-11; John 14:1-2).

## I.

No vision of Him is necessary right now.

- ▶ We do not need to see Him in order to believe in Him. We “walk by faith, and not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7). Faith is “The substance of

things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1).

- ▶ We do not need to see Him in order to be blessed by Him: “Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed” (John 20:29).
- ▶ We do not need to see Jesus in order to love Him: “Whom having not seen, ye love” (1 Peter 1:8).

But I still want to see Him!

The Bible promises that one day we will. John wrote, “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him” (Revelation 1:7). Not only will Christians see Him, but we will also remain in His presence! “And so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore, comfort one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

## II.

What would it have been like to live two thousand years ago and to have seen Jesus? One who did see Him was an old man named Simeon. Simeon lived in Jerusalem and had been told by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until “he had seen the Lord’s Christ” (Luke 2:26).

When Joseph and Mary took baby Jesus to the temple, Simeon met them. The historian Luke records the scene: “Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: for mine eyes have seen thy salvation” (2:28-30). One day, too, we will lay eyes on Him for the first time and like Simeon it will be the highlight of our lives.

## III.

There is a sense in which we “see” deity now. We see Christ through His Word and His world (Psalm 19). We speak of seeing God in the face of a child, the flower of the field, the precision of the planetary orbits, and the complexity of DNA. Sir Isaac Newton said that he could take his telescope and look millions of miles into space. “But when I lay it aside, go into my room, shut the door, and get down on my knees in earnest prayer, I see more of Heaven and feel closer to the Lord than if I were assisted by all the telescopes on earth” (<http://www.sermoncrafters.org/>).

The New Testament holds out the hope for more than this—that we can one day see God (Hebrews 12:14). Moses was once allowed to see the goodness, glory, and “hinder parts” of God (Exodus 33:17-23), but he was warned, “Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live” (33:20).

The Bible makes it clear that “no man hath seen God at any time” (John 1:18; cf. Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:27). Job believed he would see God: “For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God” (Job 19:25-26). Jesus promised us: “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God” (Matthew 5:8). John confirms that in heaven we will be allowed to see God’s face (Revelation 22:4).

William M. Dyke became blind at age ten. Nonetheless, he grew into an intelligent, witty, and handsome young man. While attending graduate school in England, he became engaged to an English

admiral's daughter. The admiral insisted that William have a new procedure to restore his sight. Hoping against hope, William wanted the gauze removed from his eyes during the wedding so the first thing he saw would be his wife's face. As she came down the aisle, William's father unwound the bandages—*not* knowing if the operation was successful. When the last layer came off, William looked into his bride's face for the first time. He said, "You are more beautiful than I ever imagined."

Like this young groom, we will one day see our beloved for the first time during a wedding (Revelation 19:9). We shall "look upon his face" (Revelation 22:3-4). When Jesus came the first time He had "no form nor comeliness" and "no beauty that we should desire him" (Isaiah 53:2). He visited earth from heaven in a form that most did not recognize (John 1:10-14). Yet when He appears the second time, Jesus will be more beautiful than any picture ever painted of Him or any thought ever imagined of Him. It will be worth the years of waiting to one day "see Him as He is" (1 John 3:1-2).

What is required for one to get to see the Son of God? A person must become a part of the family of God. One does this by being born again of the water and the Spirit (John 3:1-5). This means that one is re-born spiritually by being baptized in water according to the Holy Spirit's teaching in the Scriptures (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

To be scripturally baptized one must be a penitent believer who confesses Jesus as God's Son (Romans 10:9-10). Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. He that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16). Peter preached, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). Following baptism when sins are washed away (Acts 22:16), one

must continue to walk in the light with the Lord until He comes, or until we pass over to the other side through the door of death (1 John 1:6-10).

During the time of William E. Gladstone, many people would travel across the Atlantic Ocean just to look on his face. Can you think of a more thrilling thought than that our eyes will look upon the face of the One who redeemed us from our sins?

The songwriter summarized our thoughts beautifully when he penned these words and set them to melody:

What a day that will be,  
When my Jesus I shall see;  
And I look upon his face,  
The One who saved me by His grace,  
When He takes me by the hand,  
And leads me through the Promised Land;  
What a day, glorious day that will be.

For information, contact Jacksonville church of Christ, P. O. Box 520, Jacksonville, AL 36265; Phone: 256.435.9356; Fax: 256.435.9546. info@jville-coc.org. Order tracts directly at [www.HousetoHouse.com](http://www.HousetoHouse.com).

\$0.35

ISBN 978-1-60644-055-1

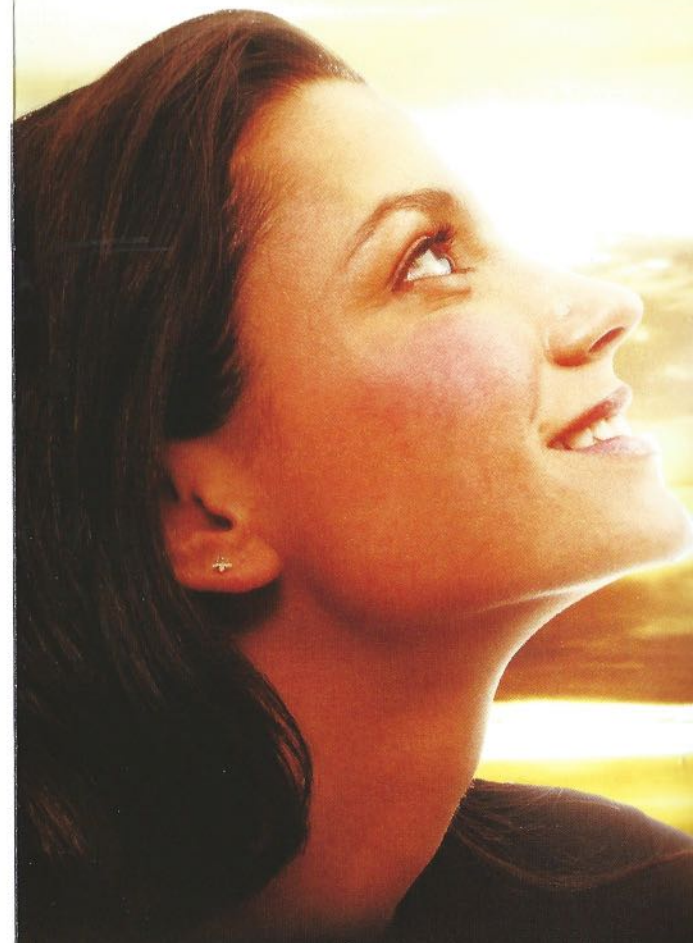


9 781606 440551

5 0035



# I Want to Look Upon His *Face*



by Allen Webster