

What Color Was Jesus? Does It Matter

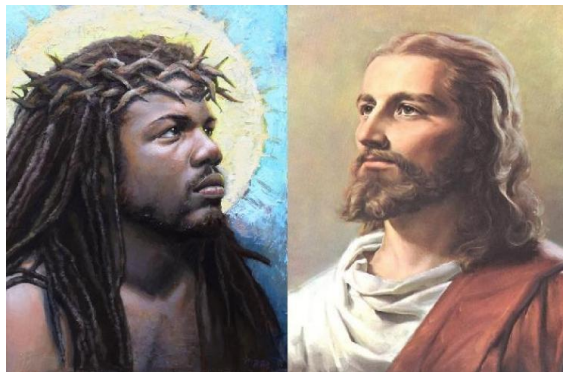
—Harry L. Jackson

Revelation 1:14-15-

14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

This passage in Revelation is not, as some claim, a description of Jesus' physical characteristics, validating some people's claim that He was a "man of color," but rather is the Apostle John's having a vision of Him in His glorified body after His resurrection. John's description is not one of Him in His humanity. The hair of wool (white) speaks of WISDOM. The feet of brass speaks of being tried in the fires of AFFLICTION. We have to remember when reading



Revelation that the majority of the imagery seen in the book is symbolic because this is John being shown a prophetic vision of things to come. As for Jesus' nationality, it has been historically and biblically proven that Jesus was a middle-eastern Jew, and not a blond-blue-eyed European, as He has been popularly depicted, but to even argue about the physical characteristics of the body that he occupied during His time on

earth is an indication that the entire point of His coming has been missed by those who would engage in such debates. In fact, those who fail to allow biblical and spiritual truths to take precedence over personal and popular opinion and humanistic ideology stand the risk of failing to truly understand the dynamic of the Kingdom that Jesus came to establish in the hearts of men, one in which external factors such as race, skin color, nationality and social status have no bearing whatsoever (*See Galatians 3:28, Colossians 3:11*).

The fact that there is no biblical record of Jesus human physical features can be traced back to when God admonished Israel that "Thou shalt not make any graven image" (Ex.20:4), because He knew that when He sent Jesus to die for the sins of ALL humankind, some would miss the point and attempt to claim Him based on external criteria, thereby making Him an IDOL. Isaiah's statement in Is. 53:2 that "There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him" points to that aspect of Christ's nature that reflects the fact that He came to save ordinary, every day people, and that there would be nothing

in his physical being that would cause the human shell that He wore to receive any of the glory that man tends to assign to flesh. God understands the human propensity towards idolatry more than we do, and so He gave Israel an edict to prevent them from making the same mistakes as the nations around them, who worshiped “gods of wood and stone.”

Hence, the Apostle Paul, who had actually seen Christ for himself, tells us in 2 Corinthians 5 that "henceforth know we NO man after the flesh," ESPECIALLY Christ Himself. The argument about what were the racial origins and physical characteristics of Jesus is a pointless and carnal dispute injected into the church by an enemy who would have us arguing over flesh, not realizing that, God, as Christ Himself said, "...is a SPIRIT, and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24). That's what the whole discussion that He had with the woman at the well was about, getting people to transcend the shallow external criteria of race, religious affiliation, nationality, culture, etc., and embrace the life of the SPIRIT. He's NOT the blonde-haired blue eyed fellow on Grandma's living -room wall, and He ain't the dark-skinned guy with the braids, either. He's GOD.