Behold: Seven Glimpses of Jesus

Preacher: Andrew R.
Date: October 18, 2026
Church: 16th Avenue Gospel Chapel
References: John 1, Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Isaiah 42:1; John 1:29; Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:5; Revelation 1:7; Revelation 5:5; Matthew 25:6; Romans 5:8

Announcements: Go Beyond Conference

I am pretty sure from the people that were walking down that a lot of what I was going to say about this is for them. So I'll give you a little glimpse of this, what it is. And Harold, I commit Harold to continue reminding you about this because this is coming up next year—if Jesus hasn't come.

On April 10th, MSC is launching next year a program for 15-year-olds to about 30, 30-ish. So how many of you are in that age bracket? How many of you are you? I'm going to make you stand up. And I'm going to embarrass you. No, no, I don't want to embarrass you. How many of you are between 15 and 30 years old? Or 31, 32, 33? Okay: one, two, three, four. Good. And there's many that have gone down that I think would have been in that age frame, approximately.

So this program—and there's a brochure right at the end. I think we put some on the table there, right, Harold? At that table there at the back. So you can pick it up. And if you go to the QR that's right inside, you will get more information on the website of MSC. You cannot register for the event yet because the website is going through major changes, but by January it should be done and finished.

Go Beyond is an MSC initiative designed to inform and inspire the next generation of Canadian young believers towards active involvement in local churches and global missions. And it is rooted in the MSC's Acts 13 missions model, where the Holy Spirit calls, the local church sends, and the worker goes.

So at Go Beyond—and we've given it a conference structure—you will learn about evangelism, discipleship, and missions. You will hear about authentic stories from mission workers, interactive discussions with some workshops and time of prayer, discovering short-term mission trips and training opportunities. So this is very, very interesting and exciting for younger youth and young adults. So I really encourage you to have this in mind.

For April 10th, the place here in Vancouver where this Go Beyond conference will be held is already confirmed: it's Heather Bible Chapel. Heather Bible Chapel. So it's not that far from here; I think it's maybe three kilometers, quite close. And God is moving. God is moving, and He's inviting you to move with Him. So let's Go Beyond together.

Go Beyond aims to create opportunities for the next generation to learn more about missions. And our goal is to ignite a movement of passionate young peoples committed to making Christ known among all the nations. So those of you who are in that age group, 15 to 31, 32, 33, around there, you're invited to register. You will be able to do it eventually with that QR cue card that will take you to the MSC website, which will allow you to register for that event, April 10th, 2027—if Christ has not come or if He hasn't taken us. And we will be here with Leticia, so we would love to see you.

The Divine Spotlight: "Behold"

I had an idea of what I was going to share this morning, but I changed. And some of the songs that we sang, that one, "His Name Is Wonderful, His Name Is Wonderful," kind of confirmed that I was going to change the topic that I was going to share with you this morning. And could we finish with that song after the sermon? Do we have—yeah, it's okay? Okay, "His Name Is Wonderful."

The word that I want to share with you this morning—and I'm going to do it in about 15, 20 minutes, so I'll be short—is **behold**. That's the word that we're going to kind of stop and stare at and think about: **behold**.

"Behold" is a word that comes up in the Bible quite a bit. And it's a word that if you're at work, if you're at university, if you're with your family, you don't use that much. Or am I wrong? Do we listen to that word often? **Behold**? What does it refer to? What does it mean?

The interesting thing is, in the Bible, we find this word many times. But I'm going to just read slowly seven occasions where this word **behold** refers to Jesus.

First of all, the word **behold** in Scriptures is often used as a divine spotlight, where God wants to call our attention upon a person, drawing our attention to something profound, usually with a sense of awe or revelation. When used in reference to Jesus, these "beholds" are deeply significant, pointing to:
1. His identity: who Jesus is,
2. His mission: why did He come to earth, and
3. His glory: because He's outstanding.

He's way beyond our imagination. We can conceive a person and describe a person by what we see in that person and his actions, but Jesus goes beyond those descriptions. And He is glorious. And we sung about His majesty, His greatness. And this word, **behold**, draws our attention to something profound, deep, usually taking us from awe, expectation, and revelation of who Jesus is.

And we are going to read these verses. They're notable "beholds" referring to Jesus in the Bible.

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1. His Miraculous Birth

The first one refers, behold: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive." His miraculous birth. The way Jesus was born: there was no man that met Mary; Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit of God Himself. And we read this in Isaiah chapter 7, verse 14:

> [Isaiah 7:14 NKJV]
> Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Somebody that never had sexual relationships. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

That word Immanuel means—somebody knows? Somebody would like to say it out loud? "God with us." God with us. God, Creator of all things. God, who brought all things into existence. Because it is hard to understand that existence of things and ourselves as people comes from nowhere. Anything that exists does have a beginning. This building did not appear all of a sudden; it was designed, planned, and built by God. And all creation talks about this incredible way that God has been present and creating and bringing things together and making things happen.

God with us in the person of Jesus. Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, Jesus Christ. God with us, Immanuel.

And this is fulfilled in Matthew chapter 1. And we won't read it, but in verse 23:

> [Matthew 1:23 NKJV]
> "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

Jesus' birth was not ordinary. He is God. He is God with us, and He came to us to meet our need. Behold, the virgin shall conceive: His miraculous birth.

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2. His Humble Mission

The second **behold** that refers to Jesus in the Bible is the one that we find in Isaiah 42, verse 1: "Behold My Servant." And it talks about His humble mission. That verse in Isaiah 42, verse 1 says:

> [Isaiah 42:1 NKJV]
> "Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.

Behold My servant. What do we see among the nations today? War. And more war. And when one war seems to finish, there's another one that starts. And behind war, we often just look at governments and forget that there's people behind the scene, and there's a lot of people that perish. With the war among Ukrainian and Russian military powers, the things that we see in general, in the past month there have been almost 10,000 deaths. That's the world that we live in, where injustice reigns.

And we say, "Why these wars?" And we may ask God, "Why do You allow these wars?" And God is in control. And this is a good discussion, and we could spend hours talking about this, and to be honest, as humans, we would not be able to answer all of those questions. But one reality is that the human heart has walked away from God. The human heart has given its back to God and the truth of God.

And here, Isaiah talks about this Servant. Behold, this Servant: He's the Chosen One from God, Jesus Christ. He will bring forth justice to the nations. We do not see that yet, but it is coming. God the Father presents His chosen Servant, His Son, Jesus Christ, empowered by the Spirit to bring justice. And He will do it.

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3. His Sacrificial Role

But as we continue, we are going to go to the third **behold**: "Behold the Lamb of God," His sacrificial role. John, the Gospel of John, chapter 1, verse 29:

> [John 1:29 NKJV]
> The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away that sin, that injustice that's among all nations and down the entire history of humankind, who takes away the sin of the world. He's the Lamb of God.

John the Baptist unveils Jesus as the true Passover Lamb, the one that the Jews had to go to every year and sacrifice. Now, for the nations, Jesus was coming to be the Savior, to go to the cross, to die on the cross. The perfect Lamb, sinless, the One that could bring true hope to humankind.

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4. His Triumphal Entry

The fourth: "Behold, your King is coming," His triumphal entry. Zechariah 9, verse 9: "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion." So as you've seen, I have taken you through some of the books that you sang this morning, so we have to learn that song very well to get all of those books in order! And Zechariah 9:9:

> [Zechariah 9:9 NKJV]
> "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.

And the fulfillment of that prophecy of the Old Testament, we see it in Matthew 21:5:

> [Matthew 21:5 NKJV]
> "Tell the daughter of Zion,

> 'Behold, your King is coming to you,
> Lowly, and sitting on a donkey,
> A colt, the foal of a donkey.' "

The humble King, that One who everybody praised, was going to be crucified. And in Matthew 21:5, we see the fulfillment of this righteous **behold**: King who is coming, who is righteous and who has salvation to give to everybody who recognizes that Jesus is the Savior. He was coming on a donkey. The humble King arrives not in force, not for war, but in peace.

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5. His Second Coming

And the fifth: "Behold, He is coming with the clouds." As He went, He is coming in the clouds and with the clouds, and that talks about His second coming. He's gone, but He's coming back. Revelation chapter 1, verse 7:

> [Revelation 1:7 NKJV]
> Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

Even those who nailed Him to the cross, even those who rejected Him today, everybody will see Jesus coming. This **behold** marks the moment all people from all nations, from all history, will come to that point and recognize, "Oh yes, oh yes, Jesus was the Savior. Jesus was the King."

For those of us who have said yes to Jesus and we've given our heart and our life, our soul to Jesus as a Savior, we are at peace with this. But there will be many that rejected Jesus Christ, and they will be saying, "Oh yes, He is the King." Behold, the One that is coming no longer as a servant, but the reigning King.

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6. His Victorious Power

The sixth: "Behold, the Lion of Judah." Talks about His victorious power. Revelation also, chapter 5, verse 5:

> [Revelation 5:5 NKJV]
> But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

Weep no more. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah.

It is interesting because Jesus is both the Lion and the Lamb, conquering death through sacrifice. That's why it is so important to understand the power of resurrection, because if there was no resurrection, there would have been no salvation. As Apostle Paul says, our faith would be vain. Jesus is both Lamb and Lion: the Servant who suffered, but the Lion that has conquered death through resurrection.

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7. His Return for His Church

And the seventh **behold**, and the final one: "The bridegroom is coming," His return for His church. What a day! Matthew 25:6. As followers of Jesus Christ, our life is not here. Our life is short. I could leave this building in a few minutes and something happen to me that I'm gone. This body of flesh is gone, no breath left. Bye-bye world, I'm gone, but I have hope. I know where I'm going, and I can trust God for my outcome.

Behold, the bridegroom is coming. Matthew 25, verse 6:

> [Matthew 25:6 NKJV]
> "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'

But at midnight, there was a cry: "Behold, the bridegroom, Christ! Come out to meet Him!"

And that's a call for all of us this morning, this afternoon: to be ready for when Jesus returns. He is coming for His bride. He is coming for His church. How will God find me?

Behold. Behold.

Remember what it means and the purpose of this word in the Bible: used as a divine spotlight—Jesus Christ—drawing your attention to Him. Something that's profound, that is

real, that awakes in us a sense of awe and revelation. Deeply significant for us, pointing to who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in the future.

The Call to Trust in Christ

My question for you this morning is: have you put your trust in this Jesus Christ? Have you put your trust in Jesus? Has your life been awakened to the reality that there must be something more to this? Have you ever thought where your soul will go? Will it be with Jesus?

There's a beautiful verse that I would like to finish with in Romans chapter 5, verse 8:

> [Romans 5:8 NKJV]
> But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

In Spanish, this verse goes the following way:
Mas Dios muestra su amor para con nosotros en que siendo aún pecadores, Cristo murió por nosotros.

Is there somebody that could say that verse in Chinese by memory or reading it, please? I would love to hear it in Chinese for the first time, please. Somebody has it? Or close? I cannot read Chinese. Yes. Yes. Fantastic.

But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. That's our reality. We're all sinners. But because God loved us so much, who did He send? The **behold**. The **behold**: Jesus Christ.

He is the answer to your emptiness. He's the answer to your questions. He is the answer to the lack of hope and purpose in your life. He is the reason of our existence.

The best thing that we can do is today come to Jesus. Recognize Him as your Savior. Surrender to His will and invite Him to your life as your personal Savior.

Could we sing that song, "His Name Is Wonderful"? Thank you very much, and Lord bless you all.

Closing Hymn and Remarks

[Congregation sings]
His name is wonderful, His name is wonderful,
His name is wonderful, Jesus my Lord.
He is the mighty King, Master of everything,
His name is wonderful, Jesus my Lord.
He is the great Savior, God of all ages,
Almighty God is He.
Come, come before Him, we'll dance before Him.
His name is God in all, Jesus my God.

Harold Summers:
Amen. Thank you, Andrew. And that was a beautiful outline, wasn't it? Chases from the conception of the Lord Jesus Christ all the way to the end.

The question, of course, is: where is He in? Some people say when you die, that's the end. That's not what we're told to behold the Lord Jesus about. There's a lot more about the Lord Jesus after He died, and there's a lot more about the Lord Jesus after we die.

And so I tried to make a list, Andrew, of the items that you mentioned. Four of the seven are all about what happens after Jesus died, and maybe after we die.

The fourth one is, "Behold, your King is coming." Is He your King? The King is coming, there's no question about that, but He's not everybody's King. When He comes, He's going to take His own, but He's going to have to reject those who said, "I don't want Him to be my King." He won't make you His King, and if you reject Him, He will come as King, but not your King. What a terrible thing.

And then after that, He comes with clouds. He's going to be coming for the saints. That's marvelous.

He's the Lion of the tribe of Judah. He's going to come not just as the Lamb anymore; He'll be coming as the Lion. He'll declare Himself unquestionably the boss.

And then behold the Bridegroom. What's the end? The end is a happy marriage. We get to marry Jesus. He will marry us. We live with Him forever. What a marvelous eternity it's going to be: an eternity with our heavenly Bridegroom. Hallelujah.

So His name is wonderful, and we just rejoice in it. Behold: keep looking, keep gazing at, keep reading the Bible and looking for Jesus. Keep learning more and more and more about Jesus. He's the object of our beholding, and that's the way it should be.

Lord, we thank You for this morning. Thank You for Andrew and for His message to us. Thank You for the prospects that we have in Jesus. We're delighted that we can behold Him through the Bible and then through life. We're just so pleased for all He's done for us. So we give thanks now. We pray that You'll bless us, and we thank You for all Your goodness to us. Bless those downstairs, Lord. Bless the Sunday school and the seekers. And, Lord, may we all, by the grace of God, having beheld the Lord Jesus Christ, may we all say, "Jesus, I want You to save me. I want You to take away my sins. I want You to become my Savior and my Lord. And, frankly, I'd like to be the bride and live with You forever." We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

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