

# BEHOLDING HIS GLORY

*Sermons on the Person and Work  
of the Lord Jesus Christ*

By J. K. Popham

*Jesus, in whom the Godhead's rays  
Beam forth with mildest majesty,  
I see Thee full of truth and grace,  
And come for all I want to Thee.*

Edited by Matthew J. Hyde



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The cover photo is of Portree Bay, Isle of Skye photographed on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2010 by Steve Taylor. We would like to sincerely thank him for allowing the reproduction of this photo.

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## Introduction

The sermons and prayer meeting address contained in this little book were all preached by James Kidwell Popham (1847–1937) at Galeed Chapel, Brighton, where he was pastor for over 50 years. They were not preached consecutively, but all date from the last 10 or so years of his ministry. Most of the sermons were originally circulated in typescript, as transcribed from the stenographer's notebooks by the late Miss Sybil Baker.

The subject matter of these sermons is one of the central themes of Mr Popham's ministry, namely the person and work of the divine Saviour. They were mainly preached from verses in the first chapter of John's Gospel, although a few additional sermons on the same theme have been added. So many of the errors which are prevalent in the church today touch the person of the Lord Jesus Christ — God and man in one person — and consequently not only undermine his work, but also detract from his glory. From Mr Popham's treatment of the texts, however, it is clear that these truths are central to the faith of the Lord's people.

It is our desire that readers of these sermons may gain a glimpse, by the working of the blessed Spirit, of "his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father," and that they may thus worship him in the beauty of holiness. This book was well received when it was first published in 2010. Having been asked to reissue it, we have taken the opportunity to edit the text for consistency and add an

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additional two sermons which focus especially on aspects of Christ's glory absent in the first edition: Christ's glorious death and the glory of his offices.

## And the Word

Prayer Meeting Address, Friday evening,  
2<sup>nd</sup> August, 1929

John 1:1–18

This doctrine of Christ alone saves sinners — he is the new and living way to God. What a mercy, therefore, that God has made this revelation of himself! “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.” If we were not so carnal, had not so much enmity and unbelief and hardness of heart, how we should be running to God, asking him to reveal this mystery to our hearts!

“And the Word,” the eternal Son of God, “was made flesh.” There is no [comprehensive] understanding of this. All the knowledge of God in the Church is apprehensive, not comprehensive. Who can rightly comprehend the truth of the glorious being of “I AM THAT I AM”? and who can comprehend the mystery of the second person in the Godhead becoming flesh, dwelling among sinners, revealing his glory so that sinners behold it, “the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,” and seeing him full of grace and truth? What we need is grace to save us and truth to instruct us. Grace to subdue sin and truth to gird up the loins of our mind. Grace to comfort us and truth to enable us to cleave fast to him who is truth.

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O, I wish for myself and for you that we might have clearer views by faith of this divine mystery, of which Paul speaks, saying, “Without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness. God was manifested in the flesh, seen of angels, justified in the Spirit, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into heaven”!

Dear friends, the greatest attainment of faith will be found in that word in the Hebrews, “Without faith it is impossible to please him, for he that cometh to God must believe that he is.” That is a great attainment — to believe that God is. To believe that God is, is to believe in his eternity, in the Trinity of his persons, and to believe in his love, that love that moved the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost to a saving power in delivering lost sinners from their sins and from a deserved hell. It also includes the belief that, to do this, to make this salvation known, it was necessary that the second Person in the Trinity should become man. “The Word was made flesh.” God’s pre-existent Son said to his Father, “Lo I come, a body hast thou prepared me.” And involved in this being made flesh is the reason of it, that is to say, that he was made flesh that he might be made sin. That he should be made sin is one of the deepest mysteries, and one of the highest mercies, that God has revealed in Holy Scripture. “He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin.” And the greatest and grandest and the most mysterious and most wonderful sight that the Spirit of God ever gives to an elect sinner is what we have in our hymn book: