

What Jesus May Have Looked Like

'David was ruddy with a beautiful face and handsome to look on' (1 Samuel 16:12). 'David was but a youth and ruddy with a fair face' (1 Samuel 17:42).

All of mankind was created in the likeness and image of our Creator God (Genesis 1:26 & 27) and Jesus was the exact image of God (Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3). 'The Lord God made the world and all things in it. He is Lord of heaven and earth ... He Himself gives to all, life and breath ... He made from one blood every nation of mankind to dwell on the surface of the earth ... we are His offspring' (Acts 17:24 to 26 & 28). 'The sons of Noah who went forth from the ship (Ark) were Shem, Ham and Japheth ... These three were the sons of Noah and from these (and their wives) the whole earth was populated' (Genesis 9:18 & 19). When the Bible says very clearly, all humanity is of 'one blood' that means there is only one species of mankind. There are several species of reptiles, birds, mammals, fish and other creatures but only one species of human was ever created and we are all created in the image and likeness of God. No other species on earth was made in His likeness. Humans are unique.

The Bible tells us many of the initial population on earth were 'fair and beautiful' (Genesis 6:2). The Book of Enoch and Noah was once part of the Bible but was removed by early church leaders because they believed it was too 'spiritual'. However, the Book of Enoch, which was the very first Scriptural book written, reveals most ancient peoples were initially white skinned. 'Noah was very white skinned with white hair, red cheeks and beautiful blue eyes. His body was white as snow, his cheeks as red as the blooming of a rose. The hair of his head and his long locks were white as wool and his eyes were beautiful' (Book of Enoch and Noah chapter 106, verse 1). Shem, Japheth, Ham and their wives repopulated the entire earth. Shem was white like his father and since Shem was the forefather of all Hebrew and Jewish people, they were once mostly fair skinned. The history and genealogy of the Jewish people can be studied in the Bible. Japheth and his wife founded the Asian peoples and their descendents travelled eastward. Ham and his wife founded the dark skinned people and their descendents travelled south into Africa. Entire cities and vast areas were named after Noah's three sons and several grandsons.

The Bible says Jesus was a direct descendant of King David who was described as being pale or fair skinned with ruddy red cheeks, red hair and people with that colouring usually have blue eyes. Jesus came from the bloodline of Semites, literally the descendants of Noah's son Shem (Luke 3:31 to 36) now called Caucasians and we know Caucasians have white skin and often have blond or light coloured hair, sometimes red hair and a ruddy complexion. They often have blue, green or hazel coloured eyes. The Bible confirms the Jews' white ethnicity by revealing Esau and David had red hair so they would have had fair skin and possibly blue eyes. As a direct descendent of David and Solomon, Jesus may not have been dark skinned as many people assume. Considering what the Bible says, Jesus could have been fair skinned because in those days, Jews only married other Jews to maintain the purity of the Jewish people. Inter-racial marriage was forbidden so their ethnicity would have remained fair skinned. The Scriptures give us many clear verses and even more hints regarding Jesus' appearance. Until we get to heaven and see Jesus face-to-face we cannot possibly know what His exact features were but we can consider what the Bible tells us about the ancient Jewish people. The Scriptures reveal in several places, Jewish people were white or fair skinned and very beautiful, good looking, attractive and appealing. Some of the Jewish women were so beautiful the neighbouring males were jealous.

See what the Bible tells us about the ancient Jewish people. 'Abraham said to Sarai his wife, "See now, I know you are a beautiful woman to look at" ... The Egyptians saw Sarai was very beautiful' (Genesis 12:11 & 14). Rebekah was very beautiful to look at (Genesis 24:16; 26:7). 'The first boy was born red all over like a hairy garment. They named him Esau (meaning red)' (Genesis 25:25). Rachel was beautiful in form and attractive (Genesis 29:17). Moses was a 'fair and beautiful' child (Exodus 2:2; Hebrews 11:23). Abigail had a beautiful face (1 Samuel 25:3). Bathsheba was very beautiful to look at (2 Samuel 11:2). David's daughter Tamar was fair and very beautiful (2 Samuel 13:1). 'In all Israel there was none to be praised as much as Absalom for his beauty. From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him ... To Absalom there were born three sons and one daughter whose name was Tamar (named after Absalom's sister). She was a woman of a beautiful face' (2 Samuel 14:25 to 27). 'They sought for a beautiful young lady throughout all the borders of Israel and found Abishag the Shunammite and brought her to the king. The young lady was very beautiful and she cherished the king' (1 Kings 1:3 & 4).

'My beloved (Solomon) is white and ruddy ... His head is like purest gold ... His eyes are like doves ... washed with milk, mounted like jewels (specked, hazel) ... His body is like ivory work ... His hair is like a flock of goats' (Song of Solomon 5:10 to 14; 6:5). Solomon's favourite wife had a lovely face, red lips, was the fairest among women, a body the colour of wheat and lilies, a neck the colour of ivory and she had blue eyes like pools of water (Song of Solomon 2:14; 4:3; 5:9; 6:1; 7:2 & 4). 'Mordecai brought Hadassah, that is

Esther, his uncle's daughter ... The maiden was fair and beautiful and when her father and mother died, Mordecai raised her as his own daughter' (Esther 2:7). 'In all the land (of Israel) were no women found so beautiful as the daughters of Job' (Job 42:15). 'Israel's nobles were purer than snow, they were whiter than milk, they were more ruddy in body than rubies' (Lamentations 4:7). 'Among the menorahs was One like a Son of Man, clothed with a robe reaching down to His feet and with a golden sash around His chest. His head and His hair were white as white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire' (Revelation 1:13 & 14). In Israel and around the world today we can see many gorgeous looking, blonde or red haired, fair skinned Jewish people with blue, green or hazel eyes.

Jesus died about forty years before the Temple was destroyed in 70 AD, after which the International Diaspora began. Until then inter-racial marriage was forbidden so the purity of the Jewish blood, tribe by tribe was maintained and as the Bible reveals, many were fair skinned. It was not until the Diaspora when the Jewish population was scattered around the world then many Jews intermarried with other ethnic groups and have changed accordingly but Jesus came before the Diaspora. The drawings of Jesus with long flowing hair are incorrect because Jewish men had short hair. Long hair on men was considered to be dishonourable. Two verses written hundred years apart reveal Jewish men had short hair before, during and after the days of Jesus. 'They will not ... allow their locks to grow long. They will cut off the hair of their heads' (Ezekiel 44:20). 'Nature itself teaches you, if a man has long hair it is a dishonour to him' (1 Corinthians 11:14).

Jesus did have a beard that was ripped off His face during His torture just before He was crucified. "I gave My cheeks to those who plucked off the hair" (Isaiah 50:6). God Himself told us, Jesus was not what people considered to be handsome. "He has no form nor comeliness. When we see Him there is no beauty that we should desire Him" (Isaiah 53:2). There are two verses in the New Testament that both hint (but do not say outright) that Jesus may have been tall. Jesus increased in 'wisdom and stature' (Luke 2:52) and, 'We should all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God to a full grown man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Jesus' (Ephesians 4:13). Whether or not Jesus was tall, He was certainly solidly built, strong, had a lot of stamina and He had a larger than normal lung capacity. Any man who could preach to thousands of people at once, for hours at a time, up on a mountain and out in the open air without any amplification and without losing his voice would certainly have been a very strongly built man (Matthew 5:1 & 2). He walked all over Israel teaching and preaching, healing and delivering those who were oppressed, and there were no vehicles or public transport. Before starting His ministry, Jesus worked as a carpenter/builder with His (step)father Joseph and there were no power tools or hoists. Building and bricklaying were done solely with manpower. Both Jesus and Joseph would have been strong men. Gathering together all of the above information, according to what the Bible tells us, we can now picture Jesus our Messiah as an average looking, solidly built, possibly tall Man with fair skin, short fair hair, blue, green or hazel eyes, a neatly trimmed beard and a big booming voice. He was well groomed and wore expensive clothing. If anyone says Jesus was dark skinned with long flowing hair, they have obviously not studied this topic in the Bible.

However, skin colour is only skin deep and it makes no difference to the Lord how anyone looks and should make no difference to us. God looks at the heart of a person, not their outward appearance (1 Samuel 16:7). Jesus, the apostles and prophets were never racist and we should never be racist. God created and loves all humanity and offers salvation to all mankind no matter what age they are, where they live, what language they speak, what skin tone they have, how tall or short they may be, how thin or large they are, what eye colour they have, whether they are able-bodied or disabled, what tribe or clan they come from, what country they were born or moved to or what ethnic group they are from, we all belong to God. Anyone, anywhere on earth who accepts Jesus as their Saviour and walks with Him faithfully will have their names written in the Lamb's Book of Life (Philippians 4:3; Revelation 3:5). "You (Jesus) are worthy to take the Book (of Life) and to open its seals, for You were sacrificed and bought us for God with Your blood, out of every tribe, language, people and nation" (Revelation 5:9). 'Behold a great multitude which no man could number out of every nation and of all tribes, peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb (Jesus), dressed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. They cried out with a loud voice saying, "Our salvation is due to our God Who sits on the throne and to the Lamb"' (Revelation 7:9 & 10).

Amen and God bless you.

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