



Issue 68 – April 26, 2017

The Naz Prayer Ministry



The Reveal

The look on her face will always be indelibly burned into my memory.

One of our missionary moms looked up to see her toddler coming toward her, the little girl's face simply angelic, except for the large, fresh grub hanging from her lips – or more precisely, half a grub. The other half... well, need I say more.

By the way, mom's eyes at that moment were not wide with amusement.

Grubs are something like caterpillars except without the fur coat. Both go through a hibernation process and eventually emerge in different forms. Grubs develop into beetles; caterpillars, into butterflies.

Which was my kind of back door way to focus on butterflies, the real reason for this story. Strangely enough, in the case of the caterpillar, its life span as a butterfly lasts only a couple weeks or so.

All that time as ordinary for such a brief display of beauty.

Odd as it may seem, I am reminded of Isaiah 53:2 and the image of the promised Messiah: "There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him" (NLT). Despised and rejected?

Scripture reveals that God interacted with human kind throughout Old Testament days, but when He entered into the confines of time and space to live among us, He made His debut through the messy mystery of human birth. He took the form of a human infant who had to be fed and changed, had scraped knees and filled his terrible twos with words like *no* and *mine* in the normal child's battle of selfishness and self-will.

At the age of thirty, Jesus emerged from His obscurity, and we have only the narratives of a brief three years that ended abruptly as a cross on Golgotha cast its ominous shadow across the landscape of history.

Yet this is the One noted in Hebrews 1:1-3 who radiantly revealed the very essence of God to the world. His message of the Kingdom of God was filled with the affirming hand of God the Father in the form of signs, wonders and miracles (Acts 2:22), the beauty of grace and power on display to validate truth for a world to see.

This was the emerging Messiah, whose beauty remained obscured in part – until the resurrection and the days that followed. Then the disciples' eyes were opened, and they saw Him as they had never seen Him before.

From the chrysalis of death and the tomb, the Messiah emerged, His glory no longer obscured. And the lives of His disciples were transforming. Indeed the world was changing.

And He continues to reveal Himself today.

The God who chose from the beginning to make Himself known promises to reveal Himself more and more to those who love Him (John 14:21).

When the storms come and faith wanes, when emotional signals are blurred, and we seem wrapped in empty silence, when we are overwhelmed, let us gaze on the One who longs to reveal to us the beauty of grace.

And ultimately, when we see Him fully and forever, we will even be like Him (1 John 3:2).

Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is.

Taking Our Next Step Together

Fill us with revelations that more fully unveil the mystery both of who You truly are and who we are in You. And let us grow ever more able to see clearly, even until that day when we stand with You and can finally and fully understand.