

## THE PRE-EMINENCE OF CHRIST (Heb. 1:1-3)

In all the religions of the world, there is none comparable to the Lord Jesus Christ. No religion has any figure even approaching His equal. There has never been another like Jesus! ... Let's consider a passage of Scripture which presents this **pre-eminence of Christ**.

The writer to the Hebrews wrote about the *preparation* for Jesus in the Old Testament, **Heb. 1:1** God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets ... The writer then moves from the *preparation* for Christ in the Old Testament to the *presentation* of Christ in the New Testament, **2** Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son ... Jesus Christ coming into the world was the fulfilment of the Old Testament promises ('progressive revelation'), as He Himself said, **Mt. 5:17** Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, *but to fulfil*.

... The *preparation* for Christ, the *presentation* of Christ, and then the writer to the Hebrews presents the *pre-eminence* of Christ, **2** ... whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; **3** Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power ... Here, the Holy Spirit exalts the Lord Jesus as the full and final expression of God, - His exaltation, His superiority and His absolute supremacy. He is the beginning of all things and the end of all things.

And yet, he was born into an inconspicuous family with no influence or status. He never practiced medicine, and yet He healed multitudes. He never went to a university, and yet He impressed the most learned doctors. He never wrote a book, and yet countless books have been written about Him. He never composed a hymn or a song. He never founded a college or a university. ... Herod could not kill Him. Satan could not seduce Him. Death could not destroy Him. The grave could not hold Him ... The *pre-eminence* of Christ!

In the Old Testament, the prophets were trusting in promises they had not yet understood because those promises related to the future ... but because the promises came from God, they believed them without question. The promises foretold the Messiah, Christ.

It is a gift of the Holy Spirit for you as a Christian to believe God's Word. The unbeliever dismisses what the Scriptures say because they cannot grasp its truth ... but when you are saved, - when the Holy Spirit abides within you, - you receive without question the truth God imparts to you from His infallible Word.

And that is what was happening to the prophets, - they believed, even though they could not understand the fulfilment which would eventually come to pass.

Bertrand Russell was a renowned philosopher and a Nobel prize winner in Literature. In his book *Why I am not a Christian*, he wrote, “Historically it is quite doubtful whether Christ ever existed at all, and if he did we know nothing about him”. As to Christ’s character, he said, “I cannot myself feel that either in the matter of wisdom or in the matter of virtue Christ stands quite as high as some other people known to history. I think I should put Buddha and Socrates above him in those respects” ... Contrast such a statement with these words in the Epistle to the Hebrews which speaks about [the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person \(Heb. 1:3\)](#). ... If you don’t recognise Him, it’s because you have never met Him and you don’t know Him. ... It doesn’t matter what accolades the world endows you with, when you know Jesus as your Saviour, you recognise His pre-eminence.

... I believe God made the heavens and the earth because He says it in His Word ... I believe God sent His Son to die for me at Calvary because He says it in His Word... I believe I am going to be with Him forever because He says it in His Word ... and I believe Christ is preeminent in all things because God says it in His Word. I don’t always understand all the minutiae, but since He declares it in His Word, that is enough! ... And it is not *blind* acceptance, but it is acceptance *by faith*, trusting in the Word of God!

For those people who might be more gracious than Bertrand Russell and acknowledge Jesus was a real person, a good example and a good teacher ... Yes, He was, but He was more than that for He is God! He is not a demi-God, or on a par with Mohammed or Buddha. He wasn’t a religious fanatic, or a deluded fool. Neither was He the highest form of human life, to which we must all try to attain. ... He is none of that for He is the eternal God Who has always been and will forever be. He is perfect. He is peerless, He is beyond compare, He is the ultimate for He is the *pre-eminent* ...

Look again at verse two, He is the [Heb. 1:2 heir of all things](#) ... and we are given a list of what that means, the [heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high](#) ... Paul wrote something similar, [Col. 1:16](#) For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers:

all things were created by him, *and for him* ... He is the meaning of all that God possesses and of all God is ... Heaven and its glory is all about Christ. He is its fulfilment in every way we could ever understand! ... It means everything that exists, exists for Jesus Christ to become His. He is the heir of all things, which expresses His equality with God.

No wonder the atheists and the agnostics don't believe in Him or find Him impossible to understand. It's foolishness to them, and Paul's words make no sense, **Rom. 11:36** For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. ... Jesus began on earth as a baby laid in a manger in a lowly dwelling in Bethlehem. He grew up in Nazareth, in the hills of Galilee, and became a carpenter. He was crucified almost naked, and bleeding like a common criminal on a cross outside Jerusalem, and was carried and laid in a tomb in a garden ... No wonder the Bertrand Russells and the Richard Dawkins don't believe it for it is incredible! To imagine that same Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords is beyond the capability of the natural understanding.

... Even John struggled when, in his vision, he was lifted into Heaven and he saw a book sealed with seven seals (**Rev. 5:1**). He heard an angel bellow, <sup>2</sup> Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? <sup>3</sup> And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And John confessed, - a seasoned fisherman-turned-disciple-turned-apostle, <sup>4</sup> And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. <sup>5</sup> And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. ... The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David ... *that's Jesus Christ*, the Lamb of God and He is the only One Who has the right to open the seven-sealed book for He is the heir of all things recorded in it ... And He begins, **Rev. 6:1** And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals ... <sup>3</sup> And when he had opened the second seal ... <sup>5</sup> And when he had opened the third seal ... <sup>7</sup> And when he had opened the fourth seal ... <sup>9</sup> And when he had opened the fifth seal ... <sup>12</sup> And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal ... Each time He opened the seals judgment was unleashed upon the earth. How could *He* open the seals and no one else? *He* could open the seals only because *He* is the heir of all things.

At this moment He is seated on the throne of Heaven, but He is heir to the earth and, one day, He will come and claim it as His Kingdom for it is His inheritance! ... When the seventh and final seal is opened, **Rev. 8:1** there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour ... All eyes are fixed on the Lamb as He prepares to open the final seal ... They know something never before witnessed is about

to happen, - they don't know what, but they know it will be the most unimaginable judgment ... It introduces the seven angels with their seven trumpets which brought the catastrophes mentioned from verse seven onwards. And it concludes in chapter eleven, **Rev. 11:15** *And the seventh angel sounded [after the half-hour, Rev. 8:1]; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. ... The climax when the multitudes in Heaven watch Him unroll that seventh seal, and the seven trumpets have been blown, ... and the earth is now His ... the Heir of all things has received His Kingdom. That is the fulfilment of prophecy, **Ps. 24:1** The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. ... <sup>3</sup> Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? <sup>4</sup> He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. <sup>5</sup> He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. ... <sup>7</sup> Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. <sup>8</sup> Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.*

He left Heaven to come into this sin-cursed world to take the place of the sinner on Calvary, to die and be buried in a tomb, to be raised from the dead, to be exalted to Glory, to sit at the right-hand of His Father in Heaven ... and someday He will return to inherit this earth! ... When He comes, He will bind the devil for one thousand years (Rev. 20). He will cast him into the bottomless pit, *and He will seal it up!* And for those one thousand years, Christ will reign and the Satan will be incarcerated, - that is what John saw, **Rev. 20:4** *and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. ... That is the fulfilment of the promise, **Rev. 5:10** and we shall reign on the earth. ... You wouldn't believe, only God's Word says it!*

But, that is what He intended from the very beginning. He made man in His own image to enjoy His creation, **Gen. 1:26** *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. <sup>28</sup> And God blessed them ... He will restore His creation.*

Many believe the times in which we live are uncertain ... there is nothing uncertain about them, nothing whatsoever! And here is why ... **Heb. 1:1** *God, who*

at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things ... God's Word, God's Son ... God created the world for His glory ... His Son is its Heir, and He will succeed in what He set out to achieve, **Hab. 2:14** For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Look past the chaos in our Parliaments. Look beyond the disarray among the nations ... Look above and see King Jesus, the heir of all things, and in these precarious days, be assured of this ...

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
Doth his successive journeys run;  
His Kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

**Heb. 1:1** God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, *whom he hath appointed heir of all things.*