

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

Heb. 1:1-3 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, by whom also he made the worlds; <sup>3</sup> 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.**

*Prepared* for in the Old Testament, *Promised* in the Gospels, the writer to the Hebrews presents the Lord Jesus as *Pre-eminent*, describing Him as Heb. 1:2 appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; <sup>3</sup> 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.** ... From the *cross* to the *crown*, from the *tree* to the *throne* ... from *suffering* to *supremacy*, the Lord Jesus ascended into Heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Majesty on high, God the Father.

It is the scene Paul also draws for in the opening chapter of his letter to the Ephesians, Eph. 1:19 the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, <sup>20</sup> Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and *set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places*, <sup>21</sup> Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come. ... From the Mount of Olives He ascended into Heaven where He is glorified. ... He is the Messiah spoken of in the Old Testament, Ps. 110:1 The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool, and Ps. 118:16 The right hand of the LORD is exalted. In a vision of Daniel, Dan. 7:13 behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. <sup>14</sup> And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

Enthroned is Jesus now, Upon His Heavenly seat;  
The Kingly crown is on His brow, The saints are at His feet.

He is in Glory where Phil. 2:9 God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: <sup>10</sup> That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow. ... And the day is approaching when He will return to this earth to reestablish the throne of David in Jerusalem, as God promised, II Sa. 7:10 Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime, <sup>11</sup> And as since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house. <sup>12</sup> And when thy [*David's*] days be fulfilled, and thou

shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He [*Solomon*] shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. That is when <sup>Micah 4:1</sup> the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. <sup>2</sup> And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord ... and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> And he shall judge [*reign, rule*] among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Presently, Jesus is reigning in Heaven, seated at the right hand of the Majesty on high. He told His disciples where He was shortly going, **Jn. 16:10** I go to my Father, and ye see me no more ... and His Father is in Heaven, **Mt. 6:9** Our Father which art in heaven. ... And when Jesus ascended from the Mount of Olives, through the clouds and into Heaven the scene was set ... as described by John, in the Book of Revelation, when he saw a great gathering waiting for an imminent coronation. At the beginning of the proceedings a book with seven seals was required to be opened, and he heard a voice ask, **Rev. 5:2** Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And John couldn't see anyone coming forward ... and in his vision he wept.

Then his attention was averted as one of the elders came to him and said, <sup>5</sup> 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. And, at that moment, coming out of the midst of that glorious throne described in chapter four, he saw standing, <sup>Rev. 5:6</sup> a Lamb ... <sup>7</sup> And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne [cf. <sup>3</sup> And he that sat (upon the throne) was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald]. <sup>8</sup> And when he [*the Lamb*] had taken the book [from out of the right hand of the One Who sat upon the throne], the four beasts [*ζῴων, living beings/creatures*] and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb ... <sup>9</sup> And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book ... for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; <sup>10</sup> And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. ... The coronation of Jesus, crowned the King of Heaven, the Lamb upon His throne.

He is yet to be crowned King of all the earth ... John saw that later, **Rev. 20:4** And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them ... and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. Luke records how the angel announced to Mary, **Lk. 1:31** And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring

forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. <sup>32</sup> He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: *and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David* ... That's coming at a time in the future ... but for now, - until then, - He is seated on the throne in Heaven, **Rev. 5:11** And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; <sup>12</sup> Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. <sup>13</sup> And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. ... He is seated at the right-hand of His Father, - exalted above all and reigning in Heaven. ... The Lamb on the altar is now the Lamb on the throne. At Calvary He wore a crown of thorns, but in Glory He is wearing the many crowns of triumph (Rev. 19:12). His coronation has taken place, and He is seated at the right hand of His Father.

Now remember we are in the letter to the Hebrews which is *steeped* in Old Testament imagery. The beautiful picture of Christ *sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high* is to be contrasted with the sanctuary in the Old Testament. There were no seats in the sanctuary for that is where the holiness of God dwelt on earth ... and there was nowhere for the priest to sit down for he had to stand in God's presence! His work was ongoing, and he wasn't to rest. He had to keep on his feet and work out every aspect of the ceremony for his duty was never done. Sacrifice after sacrifice, after sacrifice, after sacrifice, over and over again ... every day, every month ... the service of the priest would continue.

*But* Jesus, when He went into the 'sanctuary' ... when He alone went into the place of atonement on Calvary, He offered only *one* sacrifice for *His* sacrifice was sufficient. It was perfect for it did what all the other sacrifices could never do. He did not use the blood of bulls and goats for, explained the writer to the Hebrews, **Heb. 10:4** *it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.* ... Instead, - in the place of those old animal sacrifices, - He shed His own blood, freely poured out on Calvary, and He paid all the debt of sin transferred from the Redeemed to the Redeemer for, as Paul wrote to the Romans, **Rom. 5:8** *God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.* ... **8:34** *It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.* ...

His work of redemption is finished. Salvation has been accomplished. As He said to His Father in the evening of the Last Supper, **Jn. 17:4** *I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.* <sup>5</sup> And now, O Father,

glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. ... His prayer is now answered as He is seated upon Heaven's throne.

His earthly work completed, He is seated at the right hand of God interceding, - praying, - for us, **1 Jn. 2:1** we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is praying for us in the will of His Father for that is how He taught His disciples to pray, **Mt. 6:10** Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. ... Be assured that nothing outside of God's will comes upon the believer, even when the times become difficult and almost too heavy to bear.

Jesus Christ, - at this very moment, - is interceding on your behalf before His Father ... seated at His right hand! ... Not only are you praying, but *He* is also praying for you and with you! What Jesus accomplishes now could never have been accomplished through the sacrifices in the Old Testament. The prayers of Moses and Samuel and Elijah and the great giants of faith in the Old Testament were simply a shadow of the prayers of the Lamb upon the throne.

When He sat down He was exalted. What a sound of praise echoed through Heaven! ... He sat down as a sign of honour, **Is. 45:21** there is no God else beside me ... **22** Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. **23** I have sworn by myself ... That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear. ... He is exalted in Heaven in the place of *honour* and He is exalted in Heaven in the place of *authority* for at **1 Peter 3:22** the right hand of God ... angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him." ...

The head that once was crowned with thorns  
Is crowned with glory now.

He is on His throne, **Heb. 10:12** after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God ... That is where He is today ... **Heb. 1:4** when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; **4** Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. ... So, what does all this mean for you and me? ... God's Word affirms Christ is pre-eminent in all things. He has made peace with God for us through the shedding of His blood. All the fulness of God dwells in Him, and we are blessed and privileged to belong to Him. He has cleansed us from our sin, having redeemed us by the shedding of His blood. He is untouchable, undefeatable, unequalled, unrivalled, unmatchable ... He is seated on Heaven's throne, ... before all, and by Whom all things consist ... and there is coming the day when He will proudly present His Church before His Father as His beloved Bride ... holy, unblameable and unproveable in His sight (Col. 1:12-22).

He is greater than the angels. He is greater than the prophets. He is greater than the priests and all the old sacrifices because for us, - His people, and for His Father's glory, <sup>Heb. 1:4</sup> he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name ... **The Pre-eminence of Christ.**