

# CHRISTOLOGY: EXALTED KING

## WEEK 5

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# OUTLINE

## THE RESURRECTION

The Nature of the Resurrection of Jesus  
Consequences of the Resurrection

## EXALTATION

At the Right Hand of God  
Judgment and Final Reign

## CONCLUSION

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## BODILY

As discussed a few weeks ago, Jesus was not just born a man but was also resurrected *as a man*:

- ▶ John 20:27—Then He said to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.”
- ▶ Luke 24:39-43—“See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. While they still could not believe it because of their joy and amazement, He said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; and He took it and ate it before them.

Jesus did not just become a spirit or “go back to being God.” He is a man!

## CONTINUOUS BUT NOT IDENTICAL

Jesus' body is continuous with but not identical to his first body.

1. See previous slide on him displaying his wounds. There is some continuity with his old body.
2. Although we don't know how far this goes, Jesus' body seems to have taken on new powers:
  - ▶ John 20:19—On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"
  - ▶ Acts 9:3,4— As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"
3. Paul compares the seed and wheat to the resurrection (generally):  
I Corinthians 15:36-38—You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies; and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else. But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own.

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## THE GENERAL RESURRECTION

The New Testament draws a straight line between Jesus' resurrection and the resurrection of his followers:

- ▶ Phil 3:20b-21—the Lord Jesus Christ . . . will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.
- ▶ I Cor 15:20-22; 49—But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. . . Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.
- ▶ 1 John 3:2—Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

We may infer from these passages that in eternity we will have bodies (not ghostly) that are, like Christ's, “raised imperishable... in glory... in power... a spiritual body” (1 Cor 15:42-44).

## NO RESURRECTION?

What do you think Paul means when he says the following?

*1 Corinthians 15:17-18— and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.*



## NO RESURRECTION?

What do you think Paul means by 1 Corinthians 15:17-18?

1. There is no *basis* for us to receive eternal life apart from a break with our federal head Adam, the Father of Death. If Jesus died just like him, then death still reigns.
2. Jesus' resurrection is a certification from God that sins were remitted, his sacrifice was acceptable to God. (Romans 4:25)
3. Jesus' resurrection is also sign to us that Jesus' words are true for several reasons:
  - ▶ Jesus predicted many times that he would rise (e.g. Matt 16:21, 17:9, 17:23, 20:19)
  - ▶ Jesus made some extremely bold claims that should result in death if he's lying (cf. Deut 13:1-5). If Jesus stayed dead, then God would be agreeing with the Pharisees that Christ was a false prophet. The resurrection is God's certification of Jesus as his prophet.

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## WHAT IS JESUS DOING NOW?

The unanimous teaching of the New Testament is that Jesus is seated next to the Father, in line with the prediction of Psalm 110:1.

- ▶ Eph 1:20—when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms
- ▶ Col 3:1b—where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
- ▶ Heb 1:3—After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. [See Heb 1:13, 8:1, 10:12, 12:2]
- ▶ I Peter 3:21b—. . . Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.
- ▶ Matt 26:64—“But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” [Refers to Daniel 7:13.]
- ▶ Acts 7:34—“Look,” [Stephen] said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” [Note that he's standing here!]

## INTERCESSION

Scripture also teaches that Jesus is at work interceding for us:

- ▶ I John 2:1-2—My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.
- ▶ Heb 7:25—Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

We must be careful to avoid assuming that his work of intercession is a constant sacrificing. Only two verses later (Heb 7:27), it's clear that Christ paid for sin once for all. The same point is elaborated in greater detail in Heb 9:23ff.

*How would you resolve this tension between the once-for-all language and the on-going activity of intercession?*

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# ESCHATOLOGY

Before saying anything else, I think the Bible's teaching on certain aspects of End can be very murky. We will focus on things that are undeniable. Furthermore, few if any Christological concerns hinge on the more subtle and difficult questions.

Two things are absolutely clear:

- ▶ Jesus will judge all of mankind.
- ▶ Jesus will reign for eternity.

## JESUS AS JUDGE

Some of the most frightening teaching in the New Testament involves Jesus describing his plans to judge:

- ▶ Matt 10:15—Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city.
- ▶ Luke 11:32—The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.
- ▶ John 5:22— For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son,
- ▶ Parable of Sheep and Goats
- ▶ Parable of Wheat and Tares

Jesus says, “For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.” God doesn’t want to judge but he will not allow sin to continue forever.

## JESUS AS ETERNAL KING

Jesus' role as King is better known, so we will only examine a few passages:

1. Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."
2. Phil 2:9-11—For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
3. Can you think of some other passages?
  - ▶ Matthew's Genealogy is designed to indicate Christ's kingship.
  - ▶ Parable of the Minas
  - ▶ Luke 1:32b—"Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;"



## CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

It is tempting to view Jesus as a downgraded deity, barely more interesting than an innocent lamb: bred for sacrifice and nothing more. Here is a summary of some of what we learned:

1. Jesus' primary identity is not simply as a sacrifice (though that's a wonderful thing he did!) but as the Eternal *Logos*: the concrete manifestation of the hidden God.
2. Before his incarnation, the Word was active on earth both in its very creation and in Israel's history as the Angel of the LORD.
3. The very same entity who fashioned the stars, the wild waves and foundation of matter was born into human history as a man.
4. As God and man, he was a perfect *substitution* for our sins, a propitiation for God's wrath. As God he was righteous, perfect and capable in His infinite person to receive the full penalty for all of sin; as man, he was an appropriate substitute unlike a spirit or an animal.
5. The same man who told the parable of the Prodigal Son and wept at Lazarus' tomb will judge the earth and establish his permanent reign.

## CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

What should we do in light of these things?

- ▶ *Praise God!* The complexity and depth of Jesus' personality and activity are themselves to be marveled, even if we never participated in them.
- ▶ *Thank God!* Since we personally participate in the grace of God through the incarnation, death and resurrection of the Eternal *Logos* we should humbly express gratitude!
- ▶ *Read Word!* Nothing we discussed is hidden. As you saw, all of the doctrines are very lucid and extensively taught through scripture. God will reveal some of these things to you if you develop deep, regular reading of Scripture.
- ▶ *Live lives worthy of the calling you've received.* (Eph 4:1) Placing God's grace into such a big picture perspective makes living a life of sin seem stupid. Obviously this is a matter of the Spirit working as we submit to His transformation, but there should be desire to live out the desires of our heavenly Father.

## REFERENCES

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