

The Superiority of Jesus Christ. Part 1

There is a huge amount of truth of all we can learn of the superiority of the Lord Jesus. It may be that it, in a sense, it should seem straightforward. The reality is the position that Jesus has now, of which we can read in Philippians chapter two. That is the Bible passage that one would naturally go to, if you were thinking about Jesus' superiority, and it is stated in Philippians chapter two, and everybody should have read it and more importantly know the truth of it in their hearts. It says, *"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father"*. And if you want to know the superiority of the Lord Jesus, in one sense, that is all you need to know, and it is all summed up in a couple of wonderful verses. That is the truth, we find at this time the Lord Jesus, on the throne of heaven. In the Psalms and particularly, to king David, operating as a prophet, he states *"Your throne O God is forever"*. That was declared at least a thousand years before Jesus actually came to the earth and the plan back in eternity was that Jesus would be made Lord and that His throne would be forever and forever. So, the will and purpose of Almighty God was always that Jesus Christ would be the Lord. In Psalm 118, we find *"The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner"* and discover this is 'marvellous in the eyes of the Lord'. We have therefore another prophecy declaring Jesus return to heaven and being Lord. In Psalm 24, we read of the gates being opened and the Lord of hosts ascending into the hill of the Lord, in other words, Jesus goes back to heaven. Jesus sits in the place reserved for Him and fulfils the purposes of His Father; the throne had all always has prepared for the Lord Jesus. The throne of the enemy having cast down, Jesus is on the throne of heaven, there is only one throne. So, Jesus is upon the throne and His throne is forever and ever therefore He reigns, and He will reign forever, and every tongue will confess that He is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

It was always the intention that Jesus will be 'superior', He would be the Lord, and reigning over all things and as said that is in one way is all you need to know. Believe it with all your heart. We read in the book of Revelation chapter 5, of the Holy Ghost who has been sent into all the earth. The Holy Ghost is represented by the seven spirits of God before the throne of God, who have been sent forth into all the earth. The purpose to glorify Jesus. The intention is to work out His glory in Christian lives and to make all God's people aware that Jesus is the Lord of all. The Spirit of God shows that truth to Christians by revelation. When the revelation is in the heart that Jesus is Lord life is straight forward because there is the knowledge in the spirit that the Holy Ghost has led into all truth. This is the knowledge that the Lord Jesus wished for all His people who can then pray according to their needs. Jesus would say, 'You can believe in me, and you can pray according in my Name'. That is straightforward and totally not complicated. People try to make it complicated and add all sorts of provisos. The simplicity is, ask it shall be given you, seek and you will find and knock, and it shall be opened unto you. All

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because Jesus has returned to heaven having died for us and been raised again from the dead and is now ascended into heaven.

Jesus said unto Mary Magdalene. *“I ascend to my Father and to your Father, to my God, and your God”*. The ascension has taken place. We know Jesus is back in heaven, Peter tells us that fact in his sermon on the day of Pentecost. God, *“Had made the one that they had crucified, Lord and Christ”*. The day of Pentecost was because Jesus had returned to heaven to receive the promise of the Father, and the blessed Holy Spirit had been poured out and will be into every life that will receive Him. The Holy Spirit then brings transformation by bringing the power of God into each life. The joy of heaven to earth has come down to fill every heart with joy and praise of God.

This is the superiority of Jesus Christ, and it must be known certainly in every heart and not just in theory but have the truth indelibly written in the depths of Christian hearts. They will not then be double-minded but know for certain the position that Jesus Christ holds and then come believing to Him for help. Those wonderful verses in the book of Philippians chapter two tell us the reason why God has highly exalted Him. The superiority, the supremacy, whatever word we wish to use is dependent on the life that Jesus lived and the sort of man that He was upon the earth. Without being the man (Human being), He was upon the earth; He would never have been able to take the position that He now has in heaven. There was always a vacancy, if you like, in heaven for someone sit upon the throne. There is in one way, that it was probably prepared for Adam in the beginning. Adam failed, he sinned and was locked out of the garden of Eden. The fellowship that he had with God was lost. And therefore, there was a vacancy, ‘the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent’s head’ and take that vacancy, The serpent’s head was bruised upon on earth first and then Jesus returned back to fellowship in heaven having fulfilled all the righteous requirements of God on the earth. Jesus overcame the sin which Adam and Eve brought into human beings and provided the way for forgiveness and redemption for all.

Satan wanted the place in heaven. He was thrown out: he was cast out. He thought he would have the vacancy. He was deluded and deceived. It could never happen. He was not God, and the place was always designed for the Lord Jesus Christ. He is God. And therefore, Jesus came. He had to come as a man to fulfill the role of the perfect man on earth that He might enter into heaven and take up His position of the throne.

Psalms 24 asks us, *“Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? He that has clean hands and a pure heart. He who has not lifted up his soul to vanity or was not sworn deceitfully”*. (Or in other words has not told any lies). Jesus had clean hands, a pure heart, He told no lies and had no pride. It was that quality of living of the King of Kings, of the Lord Jesus, upon the earth that enabled Him to ascend into heaven. He is the Lord of hosts, and so he has taken up that place To confirm, it was the sort of man that He was upon the earth that enabled Him to take the place that He now has in heaven, it is

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the superior place, indeed the supreme place. We sing, 'far above all, far above all, God has exalted Him far above all'.

Working through in some detail the chronology of Philippians chapter 2, the sort of mind, the way of thinking of the man, which was in our Lord Jesus is declared. Jesus' attitude, His approach to life and death, His goals and His ambition in love for His people. Philippians chapter 2 Verse five: *"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."* It is His thinking. The first statement, *"And being in the form of God He thought it not robbery to be equal with God."* Here are Jesus' eternal origins. 'He thought it not robbery to be equal with God'. That is part of His superiority. We know He made Himself of no reputation. We know he emptied Himself. But the first statement is wonderfully significant. To be equal with God, He must have been there in the beginning. Not 'at the beginning' but in the beginning' having always existed. John in his gospel, says exactly the same thing. *"In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God. He was in the beginning with God. Nothing was made that was not made by Him"*. For the Lord Jesus in His thinking and believing it was 'not robbery to be equal with God' He was not stealing anything, unlike satan who steals, kills, and destroys. Rather it was the right place to start in Jesus mind, that in heaven, knowing He was part of the eternal triune God. The place belonged to Jesus by right, being equal with the Father, it was His rightful place and that the reason that all creation was all made by Him.

God does everything by His Son, all things by Jesus Christ; The Father loves the Son. We have this. *"You are my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."*

Colossians chapter 1 verse 13, this is the Lord Jesus, *"He is the image of the invisible God, the first born of every creature"*. That makes Him superior, *"He is the first born of every creature"*. He is the first (and the last) which makes Him eternal. That is why He can give eternal life to His people. John says, *"In the beginning was the word."* In the beginning not at the beginning, in the beginning declaring the eternal nature of the Lord Jesus, No other human being was ever in the beginning, that makes Him superior. John's revelation is astonishing here in John one chapter: it is amazing. What the Holy Ghost was able to show him, John was only really a fisherman when Jesus called him with his brother James. The fact he was able to understand, by the Holy Ghost, eternal things, the eternal things of God is just wonderful. So, in the beginning, right there was the Word, Jesus was the Word, and the Word was God, and the Word was with God. the same was in the beginning with God. So there in the beginning in that place, we have the Lord Jesus being there in the beginning with God as God. He is before all things and therefore superior. He will of course be the ending and through all things. Superior again.

Back to Colossians chapter one. *"He was the image of the invisible God, the first born of every creature, of all creation"*. We read, *"For by him were all things created that are in heaven, that are in the earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions or principalities or powers, all things were created by him and for him. And He is before*

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all things and by him all things consist". That is the truth. All things consist by Him and even as a man upon the earth in faith before His Father. He was able to uphold all things. That is the wonder of this glorious Lord Jesus whom we love and serve.

Jesus said, and this is His life, it was His authority and His position with His Father *"I lay my life down that I might take it up again. nobody takes it from me. I lay it down of myself that I might take it up again. This commandment I have received from my Father"*. Such was the man Christ Jesus. *"What manner of man is this that even the winds and the waves obey Him"*

Jesus was able to sustain all things, and all things consist by him. We read in the book of Hebrews chapter one, *"He upholds all things by the Word of his power."*. This is the context of the word in Hebrews chapter one as the writer introduces the Lord Jesus, their saviour and Lord, *"God, who at various times and in different ways spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, has 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; 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"*.

We have a Son, our Lord Jesus through whom and by whom God speaks, but He upholds all things by the word of his power. He is the exact image, the express image, the true likeness of the person of God. It is the same astonishing truth again as is found in John's gospel chapter 1, this is very wonderful. It is good to be challenged by our Bibles and see the absolute truth there.

Here is the King of Kings, the superior one. It is clear when we discover His origins

John chapter 1, verse 18, tells us, *"No man has seen God at any time. The only begotten son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him"* (or fully shown God the Father) Jesus, in John chapter 14, tells Philip *"He who has seen me has seen the Father"*

This Lord Jesus was able to declare the Father, because no one had seen God. One of the aspects of eternal God and of the Father is that God is creative. All things were made by Him, created by Him, and this is done by the one who is in the bosom of the Father. Jesus declares the creative nature of Almighty eternal God and the creation declares the eternal power and the Godhead, that of the Father and the Son. *"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse"*

Continuing with Colossians chapter 1, the things which were created, we are told, whether they be thrones or dominions and so on. These are the revelations which Paul, who was a

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persecutor but totally changed had by Jesus Christ through the Spirit of God, but able to declare of Jesus Christ, who was His Saviour. Perhaps it was Paul's understanding of Proverbs chapter 8 that causes Him to declare such truth.

Solomon prophesies, Solomon takes up the words of the Lord Jesus, *"The testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy"*. We have here the testimony of the Lord Jesus

Proverbs 8. Verse 22, *"The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth, when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills were brought forth: while as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: when he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: when he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men"*

Jesus the daily delight of His Father and Jesus' delights were with human beings. We have Jesus declaring His position in the creation, He was there before it was all made. No wonder we can be told that Jesus thought it not robbery to be equal with God. Yes, He gave it up but that is His position, his superior position from the foundation of the world. He was there when God made those things. We read *"I was there with him, and I was daily his delight"*. It seems reading those words that the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost had huge fun together, making the heavens and the earth and making it as beautiful as it absolutely was. The world even though it is fallen, because of sin, shows the majesty of God and all its beauty. As already read in Romans chapter 1 *"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead"*. When God made the world, He saw it was good. There is a need to understand the Godhead. They created what they loved, we read of the Lord Jesus *"For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; The 'Father', is not there in the Greek, it just pleased the Godhead and so did the word, "Let us make man in our own image"*. The 'us' is the Godhead. When they made human beings, it was the outworking of their own nature, and it was a pleasure in the whole of the Godhead to do that. To declare themselves on the earth, Adam failed of course, but Jesus did not. We, therefore, have our Lord Jesus who thought it not robbery to be equal is God, He was right, He was true and that is where it all starts and as we shall see where it all ends, as He is given a name above every name. This is His superiority; This wonderful person is now King of King's and Lord of Lords.

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To return to Philippians chapter 2 again, and find the quality of the man, and therefore why He is highly exalted and given a name above every name, His people are to understand the name, the name expresses the person or who the person is. When the name is heard, it is exactly who it is and exactly what the person is, the person is identified by his or her name. when the Name of Jesus is mentioned, His people, should know Him and all about Him. The host of heaven knows when the name of Jesus mentioned. The Father knows, the Holy Ghost knows, and they wish all His people to know and understand more fully the Name and all it means.

His name is never to be taken in vain as the Lord will hold anyone guilty who does so. We must not use the name wrongly or abuse the name. It is the name of the King of Kings. Every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus is the Lord.

In the chronology the next step is that Jesus makes Himself of no reputation. Again, that is His quality, He emptied Himself, that is what the Greek language means, He emptied Himself of everything that was of Himself and His reputation that He might eventually become a man, a human being upon the earth. As long He had held on to that reputation of Himself, He would not have been able to be full of God, He had to empty Himself to be the fulness of the Godhead in a body. We read in Colossians Chapter 2 *“For in Him dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily”*. John chapter one again. John received such a revelation of Jesus’ fullness, *“And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace”* and states ‘the word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us’. *“We beheld his glory. The glory of the only begotten of the Father, **full** of grace and truth”*. If Jesus had not emptied himself, He would not have been able to declare the glory of His Father and would not have been able to become the only begotten Son of God upon the earth.

Hebrews chapter 1. And again, *“When he brings in the first begotten into the world, he says, And let all the angels of God worship him”*. The first of a new generation of human beings, Jesus was a life-giving spirit. That is His superiority. Adam, the first man was the merely a living soul. Jesus Christ was a life-giving spirit, so even in His life in the Spirit on the earth, there was a superiority. He was a life-giving spirit which gave Him the power to live in the Holy Ghost and be filled with the Holy Ghost and accomplish all the will of God upon the earth: all of the miracles that He did. God, the Father, says that all the angels of God worship him. He was still God, Jesus the Son of God. It is so glorious and the revelation in the scriptures is marvellous declaring the Father’s declaration of His Son. ‘In the last days God spoke by His Son’.

This is the reality of Jesus coming to the earth, emptying Himself that He might declare the fullness of the God of grace. It is an astonishing thing to do really. Satan came and tempted Jesus to exercise His own self ‘If you be the son of God, turn these stones into bread, jump off the roof of the temple’ and worship me and you can have all the kingdoms of the earth. He was trying to undo Jesus emptying himself. He was trying to

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get him to move out of his own sonship. From Himself. Jesus reply “You shall love the Lord and God and him only shall you serve”, In part 2 we will look at Jesus taking on Himself the form of a servant

We have that attempt from the enemy, it was a fundamental attack that to resist and oppose what Jesus had done in heaven by emptying Himself, making Himself of no reputation. What Jesus did is exactly the opposite to what the enemy did when he tried to be exalted, take the throne and be like God. It is the very opposite to the work of the prince of darkness, Jesus is the Prince of peace. They are completely different in action and response.

We have the mind that was in Jesus, Christ Jesus. That was His attitude and explains the immensity of what He did and of the man that He was. The very opposite to what the satan did. And that is part of His greatness and of his superiority. The fact that he was in a place where He was willing to empty himself is wonderful and shows His selflessness. And Psalm 118 it is interesting that back is eternity when they had realised the stone that the builders rejected would become the head of the corner. There is the statement *“Bind the sacrifice to the horns of the altar”* and so back in eternity we discover the willingness of our Lord Jesus to fulfil the plan of the Godhead. How great is the Almighty Eternal, God in His love and mercy and His wisdom. We have Jesus willing, as declared, to come and fulfil the love God that takes away the sins of the world. Jesus was the sacrifice.

The continuing thought that as sin came by a human being. Adam sinning in the beginning, so salvation had to come to through a man upon the earth, that's the right way, the only way. Jesus, therefore, is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Verse 27 of Matthew chapter 11, says, *“All things are delivered unto me of my Father”*. That is the first, the superior place which Jesus had. That is the authority He had. All things were delivered to Him, handed over, and He was safe. Father could give him everything that He had because he was such a person that would not take advantage and would not abuse those things that were given unto him. Jesus did exactly the will of his father and therefore He could receive all things.

When people are not right in their hearts and minds are, they are not in a place where God can trust them. That is why people wonder why they have not got this and got that or the other. The reason is that they are not trustworthy, and God will not and cannot trust them. *“How can you believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?”* John 5.44. The Lord Jesus made Himself of no reputation! God will not cast His pearls before swine, and he will not share His glory with another.

All things would be delivered unto Jesus by His Father. No man knows the Son, but the Father and no one knows Father but the Son and unto whom so ever the Son will reveal

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Him. Again, we have Jesus revealing the Father, pointing away from Himself and to His Father. That will be the desire and therefore the action of every Christian who really loves and honours His Lord.

Matthew chapter 11, verse 28, *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light”*. The quality of the Lord Jesus, totally superior in His living and understanding in the victory of His life. *“Learn of me”*, He says, How many do?

Isaiah 57.15 helps us too, *“For thus says the high and lofty One that inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones”* May be the Lord Jesus being taught of the Holy Spirit read it as a young man in the synagogue had this scripture made alive in His understanding and He knew upon the earth to be meek and lowly in heart and therefore have all the fulness of God in Him. Superior in understanding.

Philippians chapter two: *“He made Himself of no reputation and took upon him the form of a servant”*. Colossians chapter 1: verse 18 *“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence”* He is the head of the body the church That makes Him first, superior He was in the beginning, again He is the first. He is the ‘first born from the dead’. He is the first to be raised from the dead and He is the first. That makes him superior. Christ the first fruits, the first again, then and all of those at His coming. No wonder He has the preeminence and that it could please the father that in Him should all fulness dwell, in the one who is meek and lowly of heart.

A man revealing all of God on the earth. So totally superior.