



The Superiority of Jesus Christ Part 2

Part 2 in the series on the superiority of the Lord Jesus of Jesus Christ. The subject is huge, and it is really at the centre of the Christian faith, The second chapter, as we have seen, in the letter to the Philippians is where we are told, *“Wherefore God has highly exalted Him, given him a name above every name”* and so on, which declares Jesus’ total greatness and superiority. Also, in the book of Ephesians, chapter 1 Jesus is given, we are told, *“A name above every name which is named, both in this world and that which is to come and has put all things under his feet and given Him to be head over all things to the church, the fulness of Him which fills all in all”*. Names: they describe people, describe things, and therefore Jesus, the name of Jesus, is a name above every name. It's greater, and that is confirmed.

These words describe Paul's revelation about this person who is our Saviour and our Lord. As said, the reason that the Lord Jesus was able to be given the name above every name is that He lived on the earth, died, rose again, and is now Lord of all, and that is the reality of the greatness. The need is to investigate that life and understand and see why what it was in His life that enabled him to be given a name above every name that the name of Jesus every knee should bow. There is a sequence, a chronology in the in chapter two of the book of Philippians. It starts with ‘Let this mind be in you’. and having looked at ‘made Himself of no reputation’, which is really ‘emptied Himself’, we come to the next phrase. *“He took upon Him the form of a servant”*. The word ‘form’ means the shape. There are two words in the Greek language for form or for shape, One is the internal form, one is the external form. We find the ‘external form later on’; This is the internal form. Jesus was shaped in His inner man, in the spirit, in the ‘heart of Jesus Christ’. The form that He took was a servant. He was a servant. And that is the miracle of this one who was equal with the Father, who by all whom things were created, that in His willingness and the ability in His character, in His nature, He took upon Himself the form of a servant.

In John chapter 10 we read, *“I lay my life down that I may take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again”*. So even there, even in Jesus’ death, He had the ability to do Lay His life down. Jesus was the one that first was able to make Himself inwardly into the form of a servant. It should be noted that all of the writers in the New Testament call themselves a ‘servant of God,’ even Jude, and in the book of Revelation Chapter one, John calls himself the ‘servant of God’. They were servants, they had been born again, they had been called, they had a calling to the work of God, but above all they were servants. Yes,

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there was a calling on Jesus Christ's life, but He made Himself a servant. It involved His will; His choice and it is all because He loved His Father and wanted to do His Father's will. The same applies to us of course, all the children of God by new birth, if we love our Heavenly Father and want to do His will, we must be servants as the servant does what His Lord commands.

In Luke's gospel chapter 22, this is the lovely the scripture that comes in and around these. Jesus was washing His disciples' feet. He was breaking bread and so on among them when He took bread and so on. This is what Luke says. It's only in Luke, *"But you shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that does serve. For who is greater, he that sits eating his meal, or he that serves? is not he that sits at meat? but I am among you as He that serves"*.

You know there was competition amongst them. People are competitive. Jesus never was, He took upon him the form of a servant. Isaiah tells *"There is none so blind as the Lord's servant"* *"Who is blind, but my servant? or deaf, as my messenger that I sent? who is blind as he that is perfect, and blind as the Lord's servant?"* People are competitive. Of His disciples one wanted to sit on his right hand and another on the left. It is the same today even within the church, we have competition which causes damage division and polarises members around a person and not the Lord Jesus. "I am of Paul. I am of Apollos" etc. Every church member's life should be centred and focussed around the Lord Jesus and in one way blind and deaf to other things. Not however, of course to the needs of others. Once Jesus had chosen to be a servant, He was blind and deaf to all the other demands and pressures on His life which come from the love of the world. When His disciples asked "Who is the greatest" though they were following Him they, were still not inwardly win the form of a servant was Jesus Christ. His comment, *"Any man would follow after to me let Him deny Himself and take up his cross"*. Become a servant and then the will of God is all that matters, There is no competition and yet the sure reward of the crown of righteousness. There is no competitiveness in righteousness, only the pressing on the mark of the 'high calling of God in Christ Jesus'.

Wonderfully there is a chronological order to the steps Jesus took of which we read on Philippians Chapter 2. Firstly, Jesus is in heaven, He is not thinking it is robbery to be equal to God. Secondly, He empties himself. And then as we see He takes upon him the form of a servant, a different form, reshaped, different inside, a servant inside. Then He is made in the likeness of men that we will look at in part 3. It starts with the virgin birth, about the miracle of his birth, Why His birth is so different, so wonderful and why He was such a wonderful person? But in the order, in the chronology, Jesus took upon him the form of a servant and the truth is that Jesus took upon him the form of a servant before He ever came onto the earth and that is the secret of the success of Jesus Christ's life. Jesus had already taken upon him the form, in one way the role, of a servant. It was in his heart. He was a servant by nature, it was the love in His heart, God

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is love and that love for His Father and in one way for us He becomes a servant so that He can serve on the earth and then do so on His return to heaven. That is the miracle. As a servant, Jesus was safe for God to send upon the earth, His servanthood was already sealed in His heart, it was His form and that form would not change, it is eternal. And that is totally confirmed by *"Not my will but your will"*, when under immense pressure in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus describes it as the hour of darkness. In Luke 22 Jesus turns everything on its head. The one who is being served is meant to be the greater one, but Jesus, the greater one, is doing the serving. The Greek language, in Luke 22, tells us He was the 'serving one', It was in His nature. Matthew when writing of those who ask, seek and knock describes them as 'asking ones', 'knocking ones' and seeking ones. Jesus here is described as 'a serving one'. Indeed, 'the serving one'. Hallelujah. Always serving in every part of His ministry.

Isaiah 42. Is the statement of God, through the prophet Isaiah, about His servant. There are a number of mentions of the servant In Isaiah and part of chapter 42 has already been quoted. This was stated about 600 years before Jesus came to the earth but tells exactly what Jesus would do as a servant on the earth. As we have said already, Jesus role as a servant was already eternally fixed in heaven and He fulfilled on earth what He told His disciples to pray for, "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven". The prophet Isaiah is on sure ground when He tells us of the servant of God.

Isaiah chapter 42 verses, 1-4 "Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law".

We have a servant and God says, "Look at my servant, my elect, my soul delights in Him". At Jesus' water baptism and on the mountain of transfiguration, we hear the word of the Father, *"This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased"*. The very soul, the character, the emotions, the feelings, the thoughts the heart of Almighty God delights in the servant Son. *"I have put my spirit upon Him"*. That is wonderful. The Spirit of God coming upon the Lord Jesus, the beloved one, the one in whom there was delight, but above all a servant. Jesus had been prepared by God for this moment. Jesus was reliable, obedient, so the Holy Ghost comes; *"I have put my spirit upon Him. He was filled with the spirit for His ministry and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted 40 days and returned in the power of the Spirit, but in it all the Spirit of God was upon Him. He shall bring forth Judgement to the Gentiles or shout he shall not cry or lift up"*. You know, of course His voice was to be heard in the street, but this means is the Hebrew, He was not complaining. *"He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth"*. Here is the gentleness

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of Jesus Christ, the bruised reed He will not break, and the smoking flax, He will not quench. The servant helping other servants even the struggling ones. *“He shall bring forth judgment unto truth. He shall not fail. Nor be discouraged he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law”*. That's the work of Jesus, the work of the servant, bringing forth judgment in the and it is for the Gentiles and, yes, He works throughout the whole earth. Judgement for the whole world when He dies for the sins of the whole world, He takes the judgement of God for sin upon Himself, and whosoever will may come and be saved. That work is still going on in these times, in this generation, but from the throne where Jesus serves His Father in praying for us all. The gospel, the work, the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes. We wait until every part of the earth has heard the word of God and heard the gospel. Then the Lord Jesus will return

Thus says the Lord, *“He who created the heavens and the earth and stretched them out and spread them forth and so on. to the people. I have called you in righteousness, I will hold you your hand, I will keep you. I will give you for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles to open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and then the sitting dark is in the prison. As I am the Lord, that is my name and my glory, I will not give to another, another, my praise to graven images, Behold the former things that come to pass. And the new things I big declare before they spring forth”*.

Here is God, Father, calling Jesus as the servant in righteousness. He held His hand, but He gives Him for a covenant to the people, a light to the Gentiles. This is for Gentiles, for all nations. Later in Isaiah's prophecy, we will find Israel, but this work is for the nations, all peoples, every language, tribe, people and nation. This is the greatness of this servant. His superiority, He was to serve the whole world. He was to bring forth judgment in the law, and a gospel that would save the whole world so that God could bring forth out of all peoples a church for Himself. Father says, *“I will not give my glory unto another”*. We read of the Lord Jesus in John chapter 12 *“Father glorify yourself, that I may glorify you”*. The Father responds *“I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again”*. In Psalm 45 we read *“Your throne O God is forever”*. The Father has raised Jesus up and has glorified Him. Both Father and Son are glorified and that is the wonder of this blessed servant, He could and did glorify the Father, and it's all set out for us in Isaiah chapter 42. It is for the Gentiles, for the nations, because that was God's whole heart, His heart of love for the whole world. John 3.16 *“For God so loved the world”* and for that outworking the Lord Jesus takes upon him the form of a servant understanding His calling when He comes into the world, to be the Saviour of the world.

Yes, He was the apostle to Israel, and He served the need to fulfil that place for Israel. He served Israel. He was among them as one that served. To open the eyes of the blind, to cause the deaf to hear and even to raise the dead. But then it went on much further, ‘I

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have come to you and go to serve in heaven, but first to serve upon the cross.’ He was the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world, serving as a sacrifice. We read, He offered Himself serving both as priest and sacrifice, doing all as only He could do all, everything which was required for the salvation of the world. Then Jesus returned to heaven. In John chapter 17 in His prayer to His Father, *“And now I come to you”*. He continued in heaven, receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit, and pouring out the Spirit of God out and serving the church from the throne giving all we need for life and immortality. He now serves, of course, building His church. *“I will build my church”*. That is the greatness of this servant, His superiority serving in heaven far above all principality and power.

In Isaiah 42.7, we find the gentleness of this wonderful servant. No demands on those He ministers to. We read ‘a bruised reed He will not break and a smoking flax He will not put out’. Support and care for the hurt and broken and the struggling. Psalm 103 tells us God knows are frame that we are dust and the Lord Jesus both on the earth and now in heaven restores, reconciles, puts right, strengthens, encourages and so on. He will do whatever is required to restore every life and every soul. Remember the man with the son who was possessed by demons who the disciples could not help. When Jesus said, “If you believe”, and the man was aware of his unbelief, Jesus did not refuse to help but helped the ‘smoking flax’ and added His faith to bring deliverance to the boy. ‘Faith works by love’.

This servant He shall not fail. He will not be discouraged. Jesus’ courage remained all through to His death on the cross even when separated from His Father for those few hours when on the cross. This is His success to finish the work of His Father. It is required of a servant that he is faithful, so our Lord Jesus did all that was required of Him. He finished the work. He fulfilled all that was required in life and in death therefore His Father was able to raise him up by His glory. Wonderful. This is the superior one; This is the supreme one.

Isaiah chapter 42 verse 17, *“They shall be turned back. They should be greatly ashamed. They are trusting and graven images. They say to molten images, you are gods”*, That was the idolatry, looking to other gods. But Jesus is here in the scripture too, deaf, blind, to all other things. Hear, ye deaf; and look, ye blind, that ye may see. *“Who is blind, but my servant? or deaf, as my messenger that I sent? who is blind as he that is perfect, and blind as the Lord’s servant? seeing many things, but thou observe not; opening the ears, but he hears not. The Lord is well pleased for his righteousness’ sake so He will magnify the law and make it honourable.*

Jesus, blind, hallelujah, to everything else but the Father’s will. He will not be distracted, not seeing those things which are not good, not distracted but blind to them. He was blind He is perfect. The perfection doing the will of God's centred and focussed on the Father. We read in Hebrews chapter 5, *“Though he were a Son, yet learned he*

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obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him”.

If you want to be a servant, that is the secret, have a focus on one thing and one thing alone. That is the will of God.

Praise the Lord, this is His servant.

Exodus, chapter 21. This describes a Hebrew servant who would serve for a period of time. “He shall serve for six years and at the seventh year, he will go out for nothing”. He was never completely bound as servant. He was serving for a season. Maybe the difference between being a slave? But the children of Israel were never allowed to be slaves under Judaic law. If the servant comes into service by himself, he shall go out by himself. And if he was married, his wife and children shall go out with him. If his master has given him a wife, she shall, and if she has given birth to children, the wife and the children shall be the master’s. He shall go out by himself. that would have been a really tough decision to make. Verse 5, but if the servant shall say plainly, “I love my master, my wife and my children, I will not go out free” His master shall bring him to the judges, and he shall also bring him to the door, or to the door post, and his master shall bore his ears through, with a awl, and the servant shall serve him forever. That is the principle of the servant. One that does not want to go out, one that wants to stay, his ear is bored, a little hole, put through the lobe of the ear against the doorpost. Maybe it is the need to secure him and identify him with that place of service so that servant will then remain there forever, and his ear is then opened to hear his master’s commands and to do them.

That is the principle of our Lord Jesus. In Psalm 40, we find that same scripture again in the context of the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is quoted in Hebrew's chapter 10, but this one line is not in Hebrews. *“Sacrifice and offering, you did not desire, but my ear have you opened”*. There is an understanding of what God wants In Hebrew's 10, we read that God did not want animal sacrifices as the blood and bulls and goats, would never take away sin. And that is much of the teaching that you have in the book of Hebrews. That's why Jesus came to be the Lamb of God. That is why Jesus understood those things. Sacrificing and offering you did not desire. My ear you have opened, and the Hebrew means exactly. “My ear have you bored or pierced”. The prophecy of the psalm tells us of the servant Jesus Christ and as Jesus He loved his Father somewhere back there in eternity, because of that love Jesus had his ear ‘spiritually’ bored. He would stay a servant forever. The boring of the ear would leave a small mark but for Jesus the marks left by His obedience as a servant were those in His hands and His feet and of course His side. The father had responded and received the obedience. Not physically, but it did all happen. in heaven but this servanthood with the father was forever and it was the same is it was in Israel, to bore his ear, to open his ear so that He could hear and listen and obey for ever. Matthew 26, Jesus goes away and prays. This is

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in the garden of Gethsemane. This is before Judas comes, before Jesus was taken away. And He is praying in the garden remember. 'My ear have you opened your law you put it in my heart'. In verse 39 and "He went a little further and fell on his face and prayed saying, *"Oh my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me, nevertheless not as I will, but as your will be done.*" This is my ear have you opened, your law you have you written in my heart. He prayed three times, Three victories in the wilderness and three here. Then, *"Let's go". "Let's go"*. It was done. It was sealed. The law was written in His heart, He was in the form of a servant inwardly; *"I come to do your will, O God"*. Here is the will, Here is the calling, to be a servant to serve the Lord even to the sacrifice upon the cross, to be the means of redemption. And that is the servant, who became obedient unto death. The best servant ever.

That was His form, that was his shape already inside. That was the greatness. And as we said, He took upon him the form of a servant, praise God. Exodus. chapter 3. This is the story of Moses. This is the encounter that he had with God. by the burning bush. He saw the bush that burned, and he went to see and God to spoke to him. Verse 14, the word Jehovah means *'I am that I am'*. But here for Israel they were to know the I am that I am, the eternal God. This is the calling on Moses who was then called to be a servant as he is described in Hebrews, Chapter 3. Moses was faithful, *"He was faithful to him that appointed him as also Moses was faithful in all his house"*. Moses was appointed, and did the work and he was faithful in all that work

We have this wonderful scripture, in verse 13 of Exodus 3. *"I will be with you, And this shall be a token that. I have sent you, when you have brought forth the people out of Egypt, you will serve God upon this mountain"*. Hallelujah. There was a place to come where Moses was to serve God, it was on a mountain. And where he served God on the mountain, was when he went up on mount Sinai and he received there the covenant. Moses went on and behalf of Israel who could not go because of the judgment. He went up the mountain, and he served God there bringing forth the covenant, bringing down the stones on which the commandments., the basis of the covenant were written.

Moses actually went up twice, the second time to intercede for Israel when they committed sin, so he was the servant. He did that when he had brought the people out of Egypt. He brought them through to the Red Sea. He brought them out of the world, onto the way into the Promised Land that was the whole plan; bringing the people out, he was to serve upon the mountain and to bring forth the covenant. The Lord Jesus, having brought us all out of death into life through His death, through himself, into eternal life, into the Promised Land, serves God upon the mountain. Where is the mountain? It is in heaven; He appears in heaven for us. There is a new covenant that comes forth because of Jesus returning to heaven. He becomes the mediator of the new covenant. Hebrews 13.20, *"God who brought again from the dead, our Lord Jesus Christ that Great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make*

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you perfect in every good work to do his will working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight". Jesus the Great Shepherd of the Sheep. Jesus was raised up through the blood of the covenant. Hebrews chapter 9, *"For Christ he's entered not into holy places with hands but in the heavens, truth, but in heaven itself. He now appear in the presence of God for us"*. By His own blood He has made reconciliation for the sins of the people. That is the servant, having brought us all out of the kingdom of this world He then served and serves God in the heaven. *"For by one offering he has perfected for ever them that are sanctified"*. He still lives and works and ever lives to make intercession for us. He is still in heaven. He is still among us one who serves; a smoking flax He will not quench, and a bruised reed will he not break. Wonderful gentle Jesus but with all power and authority and serving His people.

We have a servant in heaven who will seek His Lord, who is totally superior, totally far above all. He who has that gentleness of spirit for, describe as a gentleness of Jesus' Christ, to minister and comfort all those who mourn, those of who find mercy and grace in time of need we read in Hebrews chapter four. We can look and see his role, his functioning. We have a great high priest passed into the heaven. Jesus the Son of God What do priests do? They serve. That's the secret. He' has become the 'high priest forever after the order of Melchisedec' Let us hold fast our profession for we have not a high priest, which cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities or our weaknesses. but was in all points, tempted as, we are, and yet, without sin. That is this servant doing the will of God, without sin. Let us come boldly to the throne of grace that we may find mercy, obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. There is still that wonderful glorious one, the servant upon the throne, ever living to intercede for is fulfilling the prophecy in Isaiah. He is not failing; He is not stopping. He has brought forth judgment in all the earth.

Behold, my servant", as we return to Isaiah. This is the declaration of the Father, "My elect in whom my soul delights, I've put my spirit upon him". Father needed somebody to serve somebody that was in the right place on whom the Spirit of God could be placed. This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased. This was for the apostleship and the ministry unto Israel. And then upon the cross, dying for us and rising again, returning to heaven to establish and serve God upon the 'mountain' in heaven and provide a new covenant for all who will receive Him. This covenant means laws of the Lord of God should be written in our hearts and in our minds and that God will remember our sin no more. All will know Him from the least of the greatest, true fellowship. That is the service. That is the miracle of the work of this servant and what He accomplished being on the form of a servant. He brought us His people into a place where each one is are able to know God for themselves and doing that, be able to follow in His footsteps. and serve God being called to be servants also. That is the call of God for all of God's people, for all of the Church of Jesus Christ, but this was the man who made himself a servant, made himself of no

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reputation. He became the servant in heaven and then fulfilled his servanthood on the earth being made perfect through the things He suffered and became the author of eternal salvation unto all who obey Him. Who will become His servants? Hallelujah



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