

Christ's Post-Judgment Status

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In the prologue of his gospel account, John informed us that the Word which “always was,” “always was with God,” and “always was God,” “was made flesh, and dwelt among us” (Jn. 1:1; 14). The Hebrews writer, in chapter 2:9-14, explained why it was that God had to become flesh. In this context he presented two major reasons why Christ coming in the flesh was essential. First he wrote, “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man” (Heb. 2:9). Second, he concluded the context with this point. “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil” (Heb. 2:14). To accomplish both of these goals, it was essential for God, Who is Spirit, to become man, who is flesh. While in the flesh Jesus Christ, the Son of God fulfilled the purpose of the Father perfectly. Jesus said, “And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; **for I do always those things that please him**” (Jn. 8:29, Emp. DWW). Because Jesus

Made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him ... (Phil. 2:7-9)

Jesus was “proven to be the Son of God by the power of His resurrection” (Rom. 1:4), and was raised to reign at the right hand of God (Acts 2:30ff). At this moment, we are under the authority of our King Jesus as He reigns as “Lord of lords and King of kings” (Rev. 17:14, 19:16).

As we continue to study our Bibles we learn that the last great prophetic event to unfold will be the Judgment, when men stand before their Creator, both good men and evil, and give account of the lives they have lived on this earth (Jn. 5:28, 29). That brings us to the question of this article. What will be the status of Jesus Christ, the Son of God after the Judgment? With our remaining space, we will address this question from a Biblical perspective.

First let us consider how His choice to “become man” will influence His standing after judgment. In 1 Timothy 2:5 Paul wrote, “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” Paul wrote these words after Christ died on the cross, after He was raised and ascended to sit on the right hand of the Father and yet; Christ was still “the man Christ Jesus.” It would be a mistake to assume that after His work here on earth that He ascended to the exact same position He held before He became flesh. In other words, we cannot assume that He laid aside all tie and association with man at that point. For Paul clearly reveals that He is still “the man, Christ Jesus.” We would do well to consider another passage from the pen of Paul. In Philippians 3:20-21 we read,

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it

may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

What is interesting to note here is that when Jesus returns He possesses a body. When we study 1 Corinthians 15 we learn that it is a “spiritual body,” but it is a body nonetheless. In fact, it is a body like unto the body that we will possess in eternity. The conclusion to be drawn is that this is a result of God, Jesus Christ, Who is Spirit, choosing to humble Himself and become man (Phil. 2:7, 8). This cannot be said of God the Father or God the Holy Spirit. It was a result of the Logos’ choice to take on Him the form of man. We need to keep this in mind as we continue consideration of other passages.

Next we would turn our attention to Hebrews 2:11-13. There the writer says,

For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.

This should immediately call to mind Psalm 22, which depicts our Saviour’s death on the cross. In that passage the Hebrew writer found two passages, which convey the relationship that Jesus has with those who properly respond to His suffering and death. Psalm 22:22 reads, “I will declare thy name unto my brethren: In the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.” Again we read in verse 25, “My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear him.” Without going into great detail concerning this passage we would highlight the fact that Jesus is very closely associated with those to whom He has a physical link. That link, in this context, is two-fold. First, He shares their physical nature and secondly, they share His love for the Father. These are those that are in the Kingdom, which shall be delivered up to God the Father in the end (1 Cor. 15:24). Paul expresses some very interesting truth in 1 Corinthians 15. In verse 25, we read, “For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.” “Till” is an adverb of time, which indicates that the reign of Christ shall cease at some point. Paul continues, “And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all” (1 Cor. 15:28). To say that this passage is profound and amazing is an understatement to say the least. When we add Romans 8:16-17 it really emphasizes the cost of Jesus’ choice to “become flesh.” It says, “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.” This was only made possible by Jesus’ choice to associate with those in the flesh.

Because man sinned and separated himself from God, Jesus chose to provide the price for the wages of sin (Rom. 6:23). That choice necessitated His becoming flesh because Spirit does not bleed or die. So Christ “humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Phil. 2:7-8).

After Jesus defeated Satan and took possession of “the keys of hell and of death” (Rev. 1:18), He was raised to sit at the right hand of God and to reign (Acts 2:30-31).

That is exactly what He is doing at this moment. However, because of His choice to become man for man's spiritual benefit, He continues to have that tie to man and will even when He steps down from that reign (1 Cor. 15:25) to stand among His brethren. His benevolent choice was one that had significant ramifications. As those who have benefited from our Lord's grace, we Christians should continually bow down on our knees and thank our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May His Name be exalted and extolled by those He is not ashamed to call brethren.