

Who was Jesus Christ? – The Ascended and Exalted One (Part 2)

Introduction:

1. The title of our lesson is “Who was Jesus Christ?” If you asked this question to 100 people on the street, you would probably be shocked at the answers.
2. What does the Bible teach about Jesus Christ? Who was Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ was God in the flesh.

Jesus Christ was born of a virgin.

Jesus Christ was sinless.

Jesus Christ was the ultimate sin bearer for all of mankind.

Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and is the ever-living One.

Jesus Christ ascended back to heaven and has been exalted at the right hand of the Father.

Because He is exalted, we can receive the forgiveness of sins.

Because He is exalted, we can now be made one with Jesus Christ.

Because He is exalted, we now have an intercessor to God the Father.

1. There are some other ramifications of His exaltation that do not directly affect us, but nevertheless are very true. Just as His exaltation insures blessings to believers in this dispensation, His exaltation also insures judgment and wrath to unbelievers in the future.
2. If Christ was **not** exalted far above all principality and power, then this would mean that He is **not** Lord. Unbelievers could continue to scoff and mock the name of Christ with no fear whatsoever of retribution.
3. But the Bible teaches that He is, in fact, exalted at the right hand of the Father. He is exalted far above all. He has “*a name which is above every name,*” and that name is “Lord.” He is Lord of all! Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3-4; 1 Peter 3:22

Because He is exalted, divine wrath will be poured out upon the enemies of Christ in the future. Acts 2:34-35; Hebrews 10:12-13; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

- In Acts 2:32-35, Peter is preaching to Israel and urging them to repent of crucifying their Messiah, Jesus Christ. Peter was well acquainted with the prophetic order and quotes Psalm 110, a prophetic psalm.
- After Christ's resurrection and exaltation at the right hand of the Father, the Holy Spirit would be given to the believing flock of Israel. Then would come the day of His wrath (Psalm 110:5), judgment on the ungodly (Psalm 110:6), Christ's enemies would be made His footstool (Psalm 110:1), and Christ would rule and reign. Psalm 110:2
- Based on the fact of Christ's exaltation, Peter tells Israel to know assuredly, "...that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ." Acts 2:36
- What Peter did not know about was the mystery. This was later revealed through Paul. It is called the dispensation of the grace of God. God would give to the world a grace period before pouring out His wrath and making Christ's enemies His footstool.
- Instead of dispensing wrath and judgment, God would extend His grace and offer peace and reconciliation to all of His enemies in the world, based on Christ's atoning sacrifice on the cross. Colossians 1:20-22, 25-27
- When the world was ripe for judgment and wrath (Acts 7:56 – Christ is standing. The wrath is about to fall!), instead the Father had Christ sit back down and, in Acts 9, He saved his chief enemy (Saul of Tarsus), and revealed to him the dispensation of grace that God would give to the world!
- Today, we live in a grace period in which God is holding back His wrath and offering peace and grace to all of His enemies in the world. But, one day the wrath will come to this earth. Christ's exaltation guarantees this. Hebrews 10:12-13; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

Because He is exalted, every person who has rejected Him will one day fall on his or her knees in submission to Him. Philippians 2:9-10

- Notice that all knees will bow to Jesus in heaven, in earth, and under the earth (a reference to hell). So every person who has ever lived (no matter the dispensation) will one day bow before Christ in submission.
- Those who were self-willed and hated Christ will be forced to bow before Him in reverence. Christ is offering reconciliation to all of His enemies now. He cries out "*Come unto me... and I will give you rest.*"
- But, those who will not come - those who are not interested in His offer of reconciliation - will one day come and bow before Him. You can bow now or you can bow later, but every knee will bow. His exaltation guarantees this.

Because He is exalted, all people who have rejected Him will one day confess with their tongues that He is Lord. Philippians 2:11

- Those who have cursed the name of Jesus Christ, those who have ridiculed Him, those who have denied Him – they will bow, and with their tongues they will confess that He is Lord, He is supreme, He is preeminent, He is the way, the truth, and the life!
- There will be no arguments, no discussion, no debates – just a simple confession – “Jesus was right and I was wrong.” He is Lord of all!
- Christ is exalted and, because of this, there is an appointed Day of Judgment (Acts 17:31; Romans 2:5). In Revelation 20:11-15, it is called the Great White Throne Judgment.
- All people who have ever lived will have to stand before Christ, give account for their lives, bow before Him, and confess that He is Lord.
- Unfortunately, this confession will not gain for them eternal life. They made their choice while living on earth to either accept or reject what God’s Word clearly said. A person’s eternal fate is settled by his decision on earth.
- The small and great will stand before Christ and then bow in reverence. Every movie star that cursed His lovely name on a movie screen, every sports star, every powerful politician, every wealthy businessman – no person will escape this judgment. Christ’s exaltation guarantees this.

In Conclusion:

1. Who was Jesus Christ? My prayer is that this series of lessons has enlightened your eyes and equipped you to answer this vital question, not only for yourself but to others who may ask you.
2. Jesus was God in the flesh; the virgin born, sinless One; the ultimate sin-bearer for all of mankind; the ever-living One who ascended to heaven and is exalted forevermore!

WHO WAS JESUS CHRIST?

