

DOCTRINE OF CHRIST – part 9

II. THE STATES OF CHRIST

- A. The State of Pre-Incarnation
- B. The State of Humiliation
- C. **The State of Exaltation**
 - 1. **The Resurrection of Christ**
 - 2. **The Ascension of Christ**

3. The Session at God’s Right Hand.

a. Jesus Predicted that He would Sit at the Right Hand of Power.

- Mt 26:64 “Jesus saith unto him, ... Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.
- Peter makes mention of this in his sermons and epistle: 1 Pet 3:22 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.”; cf. Acts 2:33-36. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Until I make thy foes thy footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

b. Jesus’ Session at the Right hand of God’s Heavenly Throne testifies of

- i. His kingly authority – Kings, judges, teachers and masters sat. Servants stood to hear and serve them. Sitting at the king’s right hand is a very important position of
 - Honour – the most honoured position is being at the right hand of the King.
 - Intimacy – the person seated at the right hand of a king is a close trusted friend.
 - Power – the position symbolized reigning with the king at His throne.
- ii. His resting from His completed mediatorial work – Sitting referred to a position of rest after completing one’s labours.

c. What is Christ doing at God’s Right Hand?

Office as	Serves
1. Prophet.	<p><u>By teaching His people God’s truth and enlightening their minds to understanding through the applying work of His Holy Spirit.</u></p> <p>When He parted with His disciples, Christ promised them the Holy Spirit to aid their memories, teach them new truths, and guide them in all the truth, which was fulfilled on Pentecost.</p> <p>Through the Spirit, Christ continues to actively teach us through preachers of the Word, and guidance of the church, in making the truth effective in the hearts and lives of believers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jn 14:26 But <u>the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost</u>, whom the Father will send in my name, he <u>shall teach you all things</u>, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. • Jn 16:13-14 Howbeit <u>when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth</u>: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, <i>that</i> shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. <u>He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.</u>

<p>2. Priest.</p>	<p>a. By presenting His own sacrifice to God for His church. b. By praying for His children at God’s right hand. c. By blessing His people with heavenly blessings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When Jesus cried out on the cross “It is finished”, He did not mean that His work as the Priest has ended. Rather, His earthly suffering has ended. <i>He now continues to intercede for the acceptance of His elect on the basis of His completed sacrifice, and for their safe-keeping in the world, and making their prayers and services acceptable to God.</i> Heb 7:24-25 But this <i>man</i>, because he continueth ever, hath an <u>unchangeable priesthood</u>. 25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he <u>ever liveth to make intercession for them</u>. ○ <i>We have an advocate in Christ.</i> 1 Jn 2:1-2 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, <u>we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous</u>: 2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for <i>the sins of the whole world</i>. ○ <i>We need Christ to pray for us because of our sins.</i> Jesus constantly prays for us that our faith fail not. Lk 22:32 But <u>I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not</u>. Our temporary fails will not condemn us, for Jesus our Great High Priest intercedes for us. • <i>There is still a need for daily repentance and forgiveness of sins, and the continual presenting of the shed blood of Jesus before the mercy seat.</i> A beautiful passage in Zechariah 3 tells us that even Joshua the high priest needs Jesus’ intercession against Satan’s accusations - removing his filthy garments, and clothing him with clean garments. Zech. 3:1-5 “And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. 2 And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: <i>is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?</i> 3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel. 4 And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment. 5 And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD stood by.”
<p>3. King.</p>	<p><i>Christ reigns over the church and the universe.</i> Ps 2:6-8 “Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou <i>art</i> my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give <i>thee</i> the heathen <i>for</i> thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth <i>for</i> thy possession.”</p> <p>This does not mean that Christ was not the King of Zion up to this time, but as John Calvin explains, “<i>He was installed in the government of heaven and earth, and formally admitted to possession of the administration committed to Him</i>” to govern the church and of the heaven and earth.</p> <p><i>Jesus reigns as King by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Gathering and delivering His Church from their enemies. b. Protecting and preserving His children in their state of grace. c. Ruling and governing His people according to His Word.

Christ's Increasing Steps of Exaltation

Steps	Degree of Exaltation (Christ's Human Nature)
1. His Resurrection	Exalted from a mortal to an immortal state
2. His Ascension into Heaven	His immortal state exalted from an earthly to a heavenly abode
3. His Session at the Right Hand of God	His entrance into heaven exalted to the highest position of sitting at the right hand of God
4. His Second Coming	His heavenly position exalted as Judge

4. The Second Coming / Return of Christ

a. *The Angel Promised Jesus will return bodily and visibly as His Ascension*

Acts 1:11 "... **this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner** as ye have seen him go into heaven."

b. *Every Eye Shall See Him*

i. *All Shall See Him Come in the Clouds with Great Glory.* Matt. 24:30-31 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and **they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.** And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. Rev 1:7 **Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him,** and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. Mt 26:64 Jesus saith ...Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and **coming in the clouds of heaven.**

ii. *Attended by Angels & Saints.* Mark 8:38 "when he cometh ... **with the holy angels**"; 2 Thes 1:7,8 "the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven **with his mighty angels,** in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God; 1 Thes 3:13 "at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints."

c. *He Shall Descend on the Mount of Olives*

Zech 14:4 And **his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives,** which *is* before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, *and there shall be* a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

d. *We Shall Be Changed.*

i. *Dead Saints Resurrected; Living Saints Raptured.* 1Th. 4:16-17 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the **dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up** together with them in the clouds, **to meet the Lord in the air:...**

ii. *Saints Receive Glorified Bodies.* The dead shall be raised incorruptible; the living shall be instantly glorified. 1 Cor 15:51-52 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but **we shall all be changed,** In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and **the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed;** 1 Thes 4:13-18; Phil 3:21 "Who **shall change our vile body,** that it may be fashioned like **unto his glorious body.**"

e. *Purpose of His Coming*

i. *Reward Believers.* The *Bema* or *Judgment Seat of Christ* is a time when Christ shall reward His saints for what they have done for Him on earth. 2 Cor 5:10 For **we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ;** that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done. (context of vv.1-10, "we" refers to believers).

ii. *Judge Non-believers. At the Great White Throne.* Rev 20:11-15 And I saw **a great white throne,** and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

iii. *Usher in the Millennium.* Millennium means 1,000 years in Latin (*mille, annus*). Christ will rule the earth 1,000 years after His return (Rev 20:4,6). Glorified saints will rule with Christ. 1 Cor 6:2 "Do ye not know that the **saints shall judge the world?**"; Rev 5:10

“And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and **we shall reign on the earth**”; Rev 20:4
“and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, ... and they lived and **reigned with Christ** a thousand years.”

f. ***When Will It Happen?***

- i. The exact time of the Lord's coming is unknown. Mt 24:36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.
- ii. However, we can know the nearness of it. Lk 21:31 So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand; 1 Thes 5:2-6.

g. ***Signs of the Second Coming of Christ*** (Mt 24:5-33; Mk 13:6-11; Lk 21:8-24)

False Christs, wars and rumours of wars, natural calamities, persecution, evangelisation of the world, apostasy, regathering of Israel (Isa 11:11; Zech 10:9-12).

h. ***Are you looking forward to the Coming of Christ?*** All the previous steps of Christ's humiliation and exaltation have taken place. Christ will return to judge the living and the dead.

- i. Are you nonchalant like the rest of the world eating, drinking, marrying? Mt 24:37-39 “**But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.** For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”
 - ii. Seek the Lord today. The Prophet Isaiah reminds us “Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near.” (Isa 55:6). Sinners can still enter the door of the Ark, Jesus Christ. Once the door is shut, it will be forever too late.
- i. ***How then should we live?***
Titus 2:12-14 ... denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Application: Let us look forward to the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ by our holy living as good testimonies for Christ, zealous in good works.

Q: Explain the discrepancy between Jesus's burial in the tomb of the rich in Mt 27:57-60 with Isaiah's prophecy in Isa 53:9 (made His grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death).

Prophesied: “And He made His grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death” (Isa. 53:9).

Fulfilled: “When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple. He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. [Note: *Jesus would otherwise have been buried among the criminals.*] Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed” (Matt. 27:57-60).

“*And he made his grave with the wicked*” — Although Jesus did not die for his own sins, yet he was willing to die like a sinner, as all other men are, and to be put into a grave as the criminals. “*he made his grave,*” because this was Christ's own act, and he willingly yielded up himself to death and burial. “*with the wicked*” does not denote the sameness of place, as if he should be buried in the same grave with other criminals, but the sameness of condition. i.e. *A grave was appointed for him with the wicked; but he was with the rich at his death.*

They intended (by crucifying Him with two thieves, Mt 27:38) that He should have His grave “with the wicked.” But a rich men, Joseph of Arimathæa, honored Him at His death, (Mt 27:57-60; Mk 15:43-46; John 19:39, 40) and placed the body of Jesus in Joseph's new tomb (of the rich) which he had hewn in the rock (Mt 27:60).