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JESUS CHRIST--THE KEY TO HISTORY
AND HIGHER THAN ANGELS

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
NUMBER 2
HEBREWS 1:2-4

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This is a study that will show us that we are not to pin our hopes on man. This study will teach us that Jesus Christ is the key to history and the hope of mankind.

HEBREWS 1:2 "Hath 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;" This verse begins by saying, "In these last days he has communicated to us by means of a unique Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things." Millions of years ago Jesus Christ was decreed by God to be the answer to history. (It does us good to always remember that no man is the answer, no political party is the answer, and no human force in the earth is the answer.) Jesus Christ was elected to straighten out history. The accumulation of the old sin natures of all mankind is just too much for man to handle. Only Jesus Christ is able to do this. One person, namely, Jesus Christ, will return to earth and in one day he will straighten out history. JESUS CHRIST IS THE KEY TO HISTORY. History is the story of the old sin nature of man. The mess we are in today is an accumulation of the old sin natures of all the men that have lived throughout history. There is one authority, one solution, one celebrity and that one is Jesus Christ. "In these last days" refers to the days after the cross. THE KEY WAS MADE BEFORE THE LOCK. The lock was designed to fit the key. The key is the Lord Jesus Christ. Usually the lock comes first, but in this instance, the key came first. "Through whom" is dia plus the genitive "hos" and it means he made, he designed the ages. It is an aorist, active, indicative of "poieo" and it means he designed and arranged the dispensations around himself. Christ designed dispensations. This is the divine outline of history. The ages were not designed until we have the heir. We have an agenda here. The first one appointed was the Lord Jesus Christ and we are related to him. The person came before the dispensations. The key came before the lock. God designed the Church Age and just like it is not good for man to be alone, so it is not good for Christ to be alone, so the Church Age was designed for him. We are here because Jesus Christ is the key to history and he is the only key.

Illustration

There are those who think that they will be able to stop Communism and Socialism, but they are mistaken. The only one who can straighten out history is Jesus Christ, and he will do so when he returns and it will be a complete dictatorship. When God designs ages, they are perfectly designed.

Human history was designed to resolve the Angelic Conflict and Christ is the key to history. God designed the ages to fit Jesus Christ and the ages will prove Jesus Christ is the only solution to man's problems. Remember this--He, God the Father, designed dispensations.

The Only Solution

Now don't look for the solution to your problems anywhere else. The solution to your problems is not in the President or in Congress or in anything the government can do for you. The solution to your problems lies in the Edification Complex that is in your soul. The Lord didn't

design the ages around your genius or mine, but around the Lord Jesus Christ. The solution to problems is not people. The doctrine of Divine Decrees does not have one ounce of human thinking in it. It is all God's thinking, God's viewpoint. If you don't know this, you miss the whole point of history. Jesus Christ is history. God The Father can out-think all humans put together, and God's thinking is perfect. He started out with the key and you have the benefit of his thinking. Now how is history going to come out in the end? Once you have the key, then you can design the lock. Man is free to use his freedom but he isn't capable of handling it. The key was forged in eternity past and then came the dispensations--and all were designed to give man his freedom.

HEBREWS 1:3 "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;" This "Who" is the relative pronoun "hos" referring to Jesus Christ. "Being" is a present, active, indicative of "eimi" and it means this is an eternal truth. He always has been and always will be what the Scriptures claim him to be. The word "Brightness" is a compound noun from "apaugosma" and it means to see distinctly in the clearest light. Nothing can be better than to see Jesus Christ as he really is. The word really means "effulgence," a complete and thorough light. It means radiance, the shining forth. "Of the glory" means that God not only appointed him heir but gave to him all the glory. He had glory within because of his essence and then the resurrection, ascension and being seated at God's right hand added even more glory to him. Quite often "glory" is used to refer to his essence his character.

ROMANS 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" Notice it says "short of the glory" and this is referring to his perfect character. Now there is no glory in man for the old sin nature destroyed the glory. But Jesus Christ came with the virgin birth and he had no old sin nature so he had "the glory." The Devil threw every kind of glory at him and promised to make him the ruler of the world, but it was nothing to be compared with the glory Christ already had. Christ is the only one who has any glory, both in this world and in the angelic world. Angels have light, but the glory of the angels is nothing to be compared to his glory. Now the only story and message that exposes this glory is THE WORD OF GOD. So Jesus Christ is the manifestation of God and he shows God forth in his glory.

"The express image" comes from "charakter" and it really means an impression made with an engraving tool. He is the engraving tool that makes an impression on people. He takes unlovely and sin-ruined people and engraves the love of God on them. Even during the time when the Devil is the Prince of this world, Jesus Christ is engraving the impression of God on people.

The word "Image" comes from "hupostasis" which means "to stand under" and it means his deity stands under his humanity. This is why we say the hypostatic union, meaning the union of his deity and his humanity.

"Of his person" refers to his essence, his quality of character. The word "upholding" is a present, active, participle of "phero" which means to bear, or carry. It means to sustain something. Jesus is the one who holds you in your seat and when you get up to walk he is the one who holds you on this planet. He keeps this planet revolving and

causes the sun to come around again. He controls everything connected with nature. And Christ does this all the time. He sustains the universe and when he was in the cradle in Bethlehem, he was even then holding the universe together.

(He is the creator of all things--John 1:3, Col. 1:16 and Hebrews 1:10) "By the word of his power" brings to mind this question--what is more important, what he thinks or what he says? Doctrine is what he thinks and the way the universe is run is what he says. There is no error in his calculation and therefore no error in his thinking. Christ speaks and everything in nature obeys him. But we have what he thinks in the "rema." Now you might think you ought to have the word "logos" here for this is the word usually found in the text for "word." John used the word "logos" when he said, "In the beginning was the Word." Logos has to do with thinking and "rema" has to do with speaking--the verbal expression of his power. The word for power here is "dunamis" and it means his inherent power. He doesn't get this power from somewhere outside himself. The power is already there.

So Jesus Christ is pictured here as the one who keeps things moving. You can almost hear him thinking out loud as he says, "Keep turning, earth!" The Devil is temporarily in control of this earth, but the Lord is over all and sustains the universe and sustains you and me. Doctrine is the thing that gives you the capacity to love Jesus Christ and there is nothing greater than to be occupied with the Lord Jesus Christ. The Devil pretends to want peace and light and brotherhood, but the Devil is really behind all the confusion that we have in the universe today. Then we have the word "when" and this word "when" is a part of the aorist, middle, participle of "poieo" and it should be translated "having himself accomplished." This refers to the time he came into history and did something unique.

Many Crucified

History tells us that the Roman Empire crucified many thousands. They would line the road with crucified men and would leave them there to rot and let the smell of the decomposed bodies remind the criminals what might happen to them. Those rotting bodies on those crosses said very loudly, "It just doesn't pay to rebel against Rome." But when Jesus was crucified, the important thing was the uniqueness of the one on that cross. Every personal sin of every man of all time was poured out on Christ. It never happened before and will never happen again. He was crucified "Once for all." At the cross Christ did something unique and at the Second Advent, he will do something unique. Christ came into history and did something unique. There are those who will say--

Why didn't he clean up the world?

Why didn't he bring peace to the world?

Why didn't he set up his throne and rule from Jerusalem?

He had to do something and he did it in a point of time in history and he did it all by himself. The word is purged "katharismos." History is the story of man's old sin nature and this verse says Christ purged it. The biggest problem of mankind is the human good and sin produced by the old sin nature. And Jesus came and purged the sins of all mankind when he died on that cross.

The words are not "our sins" but "the sins" and it means all the sins, all the "harmatia" of the whole human race.

After Christ had done all that on the cross, the verse then says he "sat down." In order to "sit down" he had to first be resurrected and had to ascend. This he did, and once he arrived in the Third Heaven, we read "He sat down" and it is an aorist, active, indicative of "kathizo" and it means caused to sit down and then we have "dezios" and it means "on the right hand side."
 "The majesty on high" comes from "megalosune hupselos" and it means the side of the highest honor in the highest place.

Quotations From Septuagint

When the book of Hebrews quotes from the Old Testament, the quotations all come from the Septuagint. (The Septuagint is a translation of the Hebrew text of the Old Testament into greek. It was translated by 72 men in a period of 70 days for King Ptolemy II of Egypt. People spoke greek and the Jews wanted a translation of the Hebrew into greek so they could study the Old Testament.)

Now all the words in the world will not be sufficient to express the majesty of Jesus Christ. But the greek is the most expressive language in the world and that is why these quotations are from greek so we can get at the most accurate translation of all. The writer didn't want the readers to miss any of the glory of this message and that's why the translation is from greek.

So from his exalted position "on high" which is "hupselos" all the way down here to where we are (Jesus up there in the glory keeps saying to this little planet--"Keep turning, earth!"). Now that's why we are here. So a correct translation of verse 3 goes something like this--
 "Who always being the flashing forth of the glory and the exact engraved image of his character and essence, also sustaining the all-things by the verbal expression of his power, having himself accomplished purification of sins, was caused to sit down on the right hand side of the highest power."

Now, let me ask this question--what is important in history? And the answer is "Jesus Christ." The whole plan of your life is that your life might magnify the glory of God. He can speak and in a second destroy whole armies, or he can speak to a downcast sinner and lift him to the highest rank. Every sin of the whole human race has been purified. The sin problem brings us into this world spiritually dead. Then at the right moment in history, Jesus entered the holy of holies and paid for our sins and then sat down in heaven.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE ASCENSION AND SESSION

Christ in his humanity is superior to angels. He is unique in any way you want to take him. He is superior to all men and all angels and co-equal with God and the Holy Spirit. He is the God-man forever. He did something for the human race that none other could ever do. The human race would never have amounted to anything without Christ.

1. THE RESURRECTION BODY OF JESUS CHRIST WAS CAPABLE OF SPACE TRAVEL.
 In this way Jesus Christ in his resurrected body could be seated on the right hand side of God. He traveled through three heavens to get there. (In the Tabernacle the high priest went in twice a year into the holy of holies. Once for himself, and once for the people. Jesus Christ entered the holy of holies once for all and then ascended in a resurrection body. Christ was appointed High Priest on the cross, and by offering himself, he established himself as a high priest forever.

(What the high priest did by taking the blood into the holy of holies and scattering the blood on the mercy seat, Jesus did once for all this very thing by resurrection and ascension and by being seated at God's right hand. He sat down and was accepted by God the Father. John 20:17)

2. JESUS CHRIST BEING SEATED IS DOCUMENTED BY SCRIPTURE.
(Psalm 110:1, Ephesians 1:20, Romans 8:34, 1 Peter 3:22, Heb. 1:3, Hebrews 1:13, Hebrews 8:1, Hebrews 12:12)
His being seated means God's acceptance of his humanity and his being established forever as the eternal high priest. Every believer makes up his priesthood. We are a kingdom of priests and every born again believer is a priest. He is sitting there because he is highest and he is waiting for his kingdom. So in reality we are actually linked up with heaven right now. The angels know that we are going to have that same kind of resurrection body. (They look around and see us and say to each other, "Say, did you know all those believers are one day going to have a resurrection body just like the one that is on display in the show room in heaven?") Now we can't earn it or deserve it, but we are going to get it. We born again believers are the envy of all the angels.
3. THE ASCENSIONS AND SESSION OF CHRIST IS THE BASIS OF VICTORY IN THE ANGELIC CONFLICT.
This is what will be discussed in Hebrews 1:5-13.
4. THE ASCENSION AND SESSION OF CHRIST BEGINS A NEW ASPECT OF THE ANGELIC CONFLICT.
This is brought out in Ephesians 1:20-22 and Ephesians 4:7-10. The believer is involved in the intensification of the Angelic Conflict.
5. THE ASCENSION AND SESSION OF CHRIST BEGINS WHAT IS CALLED "OPERATION FOOTSTOOL."
(Psalm 110:1, Luke 20:40-42, Acts 2:33-34, Hebrews 1:13)
6. THE SECOND ADVENT OF CHRIST WILL CONCLUDE OPERATION FOOTSTOOL.
(Dan. 7:13-14, Zech. 13:2, Col. 2:15, Rev. 20:1-3.)
7. THE ASCENSION AND SESSION COMPLETES THE GLORIFICATION OF CHRIST IN THE HYPOSTATIC UNION.
Jesus is forever and this means glory and we will share that glory, Humiliation was the theme of the First Advent, and with the resurrection, that humiliation came to an end and from then on it's glory all the way. The resurrection threw the searchlight of glory on his humanity. The only glory we have now is his reflected glory. This glory is reflected in our souls in the Edification Complex.
8. THE ASCENSION AND SESSIONS EXPLAINS THE UNIQUENESS OF THE CHURCH AGE. John 7:37-39.
9. THE ASCENSION AND SESSION IS THE KEY TO VICTORY IN THE ANGELIC CONFLICT.
These things prove to the Devil and fallen angels that they have lost out in the great struggle.

HEBREWS 1:4 "Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they." "Being made" is an aorist, middle, participle of "ginomai" and this means to become something that you were not before. Jesus always was God, but when Jesus was made a human and then when he ascended and was seated at God's right hand, he in all this became something that he was not before. (Now you can't say that of God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. They remain just what they have been from eternity past. But Jesus became something that he was not before.) This means Christ himself and only himself is superior to angels. He had no old sin nature and did no human good and he never committed one act of sin. His resurrection body makes him superior to angels.

"Much better" is from "Tos auto kreitton" and means by so much, so great, more prominence, more superior. He had this inherent power by his very birth. He was David's great son, with no sin, no old sin nature and no human good.

It says greater "than angels." Literally it says, "By so much having become more prominent, more superior than angels." This is an ablative plural of angels and the writer groups all angels together and he is here saying that this one unique man is greater than all the angels lumped together at one time. Jesus Christ was more of a man than any man that ever lived and higher than millions of angels all put together.

To Be Like Him

The main objective of the Christian is to be like Jesus Christ. This is the direction of our priesthood. Now many people don't believe they are doing anything unless they are in the midst of a lot of activity and meetings and programs. If you are breathing and living and taking in doctrine, then you are doing something for him. Taking in Bible doctrine is more important than anything you will ever do. (It is like a priest saying, "I have become a priest so when do I start slaughtering animals?" Being a priest is a million times more things than slaughtering a few animals. And being a follower of Jesus is much more than doing some good deeds.) A real priest concentrates on the Word of God.

Then it says "as" and this is the instrumental of "hostos" and means "By so much as" and then we have the word "inheritance" and it is a perfect, active, indicative of "Kleronomeo" and it means "He has already inherited something and it is permanent and completed." He did it all on the cross and as a result, he has inherited a kingdom. But you and I have done nothing, and yet, we share his inheritance. It comes to us because of a relationship we have with him.

The thing he had inherited is "more excellent" and this is "dia phoros" and it is neuter gender. It is neuter gender because it refers to a more superior name "Onoma" and it really means reputation rather than name. Every time the angels come together they are confronted with Jesus Christ, who is higher than all those "high falutin high flyers." "Para autos" means "by the side of them." When he is placed by the side of them, he is higher than all of them put together. By the side of all angels one human being in resurrection body is higher than all of them put together.

So a correct translation is this, "Buy the ascension and session having become more prominent than angels, by so much that he inherited a more superior reputation by the side of them."
He is better than all angels put together in name and reputation.

SUMMARY

1. The ascension and session of Jesus Christ indicates the Father's approval of his priestly ministry (his death on the cross). He offered himself as a sacrifice.
2. As a result of the First Advent and the incarnation of Jesus Christ, by means of resurrection, ascension and session has become superior to angels at the right hand of the Father.
3. The resurrected humanity of Jesus Christ is superior to all angels including Satan.
4. The next paragraph (verses 5-13) demonstrates the superiority of Christ by Old Testament documentation. In these next verses, seven different Old Testament passages will be quoted on this point.
5. This Old Testament documentation became a shock to the Jews and a put-down to the angels.