

### #3: JESUS AS KING Supplemental Notes

#### XIV. JESUS' PRESENT "SESSION"

*"The present lordship of Christ in heaven must be distinguished from His future lordship over the earth.... The present work of Christ begins with the ascension and closes with His coming for His church."*<sup>1</sup>

##### A. Jesus ascended

1. Predicted (& named) by Jesus (Jn 20:17)  
[To Mary Magdalene]: *"Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet **ascended** to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am **ascending** to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."*
2. Mentioned multiple times in other ways (e.g. Jn 16:5, 10: "I am going to him", "I am going to the Father"<sup>2</sup>)
3. Recorded in 3 places:
  - **Mk 16:19**: "After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God." [Note: Earliest & best manuscripts don't have]
  - **Lk 24:50-52**: "When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him [the ascended Lord] and returned to Jerusalem with great joy."
  - **Acts 1:9,11**: "After he said this [you will be my witnesses to ends of earth – which came after their inquiry: "Are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"], he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky... two men dressed in white: 'This same Jesus who has been taken from you into heaven will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven'"

**B. Jesus entered heaven** (as the glorified God-Man/Messiah [cf. Phil 3:20-21] returning to the glory He previously had; Jn 17:5)

##### C. Jesus now sits on the heavenly throne

1. **Location**: This throne is *in heaven*, not on earth—a heavenly throne ("*seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms*" - Eph 1:20).
2. **Position**:
  - Jesus is at the **Father's right hand** (the place of pre-eminence and power— "*right hand...far above all rule and authority, power and dominion...*" – Eph 1:20-22; Ps 110:1; Mt 22:44.<sup>3</sup>
  - Jesus is **seated**, having completed his sacrificial work ("*But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God*" - Heb 10:12)

<sup>1</sup> Walvoord, *Jesus Christ Our Lord* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1969), 219.

<sup>2</sup> Lk 9:51: 'As the time approached for him to be **taken up to heaven**, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.'

- Jn 6:62: "What if you see the Son of Man **ascend** to where he was before!"
- Jn 7:33: "I am with you for only a short time, and then I am **going to the one** who sent me."
- Jn 14:12: "I am **going to the Father.**"
- Jn 14:28: "You heard me say, '**I am going away** and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am **going to the Father.**'"
- Jn 16:5: 'but now I am **going to him** who sent me'
- Jn 16:10: 'I am **going to the Father** where you can see me no longer'
- Jn 17:5: 'And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.'
- Jn 17:11: 'I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am **coming** to you.'
- Jn 17:13: '**I am coming to you now**'

<sup>3</sup> [Ps 110:1; Mt 22:44; Mk 12:36; Lk 20:42-43]; Mk 16:19; Lk 22:69; Ro 8:34; Eph 1:20; Col 3:1; Heb 1:3-13; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2; 1 Pt 3:22.

3. **Description:** This throne is *the Father's heavenly throne* not Jesus' earthly Davidic throne ("*to the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne*" - Rev 3:21)
4. **Significance:** This is the divine celestial throne of absolute power, glory and majesty (Rev 5:11-14) from which the Triune God sovereignly rules over the entire universe and its creatures.
  - (Note that it is never referred to as the Davidic throne, which is terrestrial/earthly/geo-political/within history/connected to Israel)
  - We have access to this heavenly throne of God from which the Triune God rules the universe ("*seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus*" – Eph 2:6'; "*confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus*" –Heb 10:19; "*approach God's throne with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need*" – Heb 4:16).
5. **Activity (primarily high-priestly, not royal/kingly):**
  - **Functioning as head** over everything for the church (Eph 1:20-22)
  - **Shepherding:** "*For the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd*" (Rev 7:17). The Chief Shepherd of the Sheep (Heb 13:20; 1 Pt 5:4) Nurtures, protects, provides. (Note: the Lamb is depicted as standing in Rev 5:6,8.)
  - **Interceding for us:** "*Christ Jesus... is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us*" Ro 8:34)
  - **Waiting to return & rule:** "*he sat down at the right hand of God, and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool*" (Heb 10:12; cf. Ps 110:1-2)
  - (We live with the tension that God is ultimately sovereign over the whole universe while simultaneously permitting rebellion on earth against his sovereignty.)

God's sovereignly rules the universe	Christ sovereignly rules the universe	Satan rules the earth (temporarily by God's sovereign permission)	Christ's absolute rule is still future
<p>Ps 22:28: "for dominion belongs to the LORD and he <b>rules over the nations</b>"</p> <p>1 Chron 29:11-12: "Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all... <b>you are the ruler of all things</b>"</p> <p>Job 42:2: "I know that you can do all things and <b>no purpose of yours can be thwarted</b>"</p> <p>Eph 1:11: "who works out <b>everything in conformity to the purpose of his will</b>"</p>	<p>Eph 1:20-21: God "<b>seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms far above all rule and authority</b>, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And <b>God placed all things under his feet</b> and appointed him to be head over everything for the church..."</p> <p>1 Pt 3:22: Jesus "has gone into heaven and is <b>at God's right hand with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him</b>"</p>	<p>He is "<b>the prince of this world</b>" (Jn 12:31; 14:30);</p> <p>He is "<b>the god of this world</b>" (2 Cor 4:4)</p> <p>He is "<b>the ruler of the kingdom of the air</b>" (Eph 2:2)</p> <p>"...the devil's schemes...our struggle is...against the rulers, against the authorities, against the <b>powers of this dark world</b> and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" (Eph 6:11-12)</p>	<p>Ps 110: "Sit at my right hand <b>until I make</b> all your enemies a footstool for your feet."</p> <p>Heb 10:12-14: "But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, and <b>since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool.</b>"</p> <p>Ps 2:1,2,9: "Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the LORD and his anointed... <b>I will make the nations your inheritance... You will break them with a rod of iron.</b>"</p>

***God's sovereign rule of earth will be reclaimed when Messiah Jesus returns to unseat Satan and subdue the nations as the promised Davidic King***

#### D. Jesus WILL return to claim & rule from the Davidic throne

- *“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him... He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.... Then the king will say... Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.”* – Mt 25:31-32.
- *“Truly, I tell you, at the renewal of all things, **when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne**, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel”* – Mt 19:28
- *“that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. **Heaven must receive him until** the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago”* – Acts 3:19-21.
- *“I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. **With justice he judges and wages war**. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are **many crowns**. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. **Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. ‘He will rule them with an iron sceptre’** [Ps 2:9]. He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS**”* - Rev 19:11-16.
- *“The kingdom of the world has become the **kingdom** of our Lord and of his **Messiah**, and he **will reign forever and ever**”* - Rev 11:15.

#### XV. ‘KINGDOM NOW’ VERSES

(using a spiritualized hermeneutic to argue for a present spiritual kingdom: theonomy, replacement theology, prosperity gospel, etc.)

#### A. “theirs is the kingdom” (Mt 5:3, 10)

- Futuristic present. Cf. 1 Jn 2:17: “the world and its desires pass [lit. ‘are passing’] away.”
- Can’t mean it’s here now as later refs clearly say it is not (Mt 6:10; 10:7).

#### B. “yours is the kingdom” (Mt 6:9-13)

- The 3 requests in “disciples’ prayer for the kingdom to come means it is not here now.
- Not in the earliest & best manuscripts so relegated to a footnote.

#### C. “seek first his kingdom” (Mt 6:33)

Must be read contextually in light of the disciples’ prayer & the whole Sermon on the Mount: pursue things of the [coming] kingdom.

#### D. “people [lit. ‘sons’] of the kingdom” (Mt 13:38)

- A ‘son’ is an heir (Gal 4:7) entitled to an inheritance which is future (cf. Ja 2:5)
- The kingdom in the Parable of the Weeds is the kingdom “at the end of the age” (13:40).

#### E. “the kingdom of God is in your midst<sup>a</sup> or *is within you*” (Lk 17:21)

- How could the Kingdom of God be *within* [KJV] satanically-empowered Pharisees? (Jn 8:44)
- The kingdom was in their midst/near to the extent that the King was in their midst and *within their grasp* if they would accept the King.