

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Christology— Study of Christ— Part 3
Offices (Prophet, Priest, & King); States
of Christ's Work; Resurrection

Introduction

- Now we will talk about the work of Christ.
 - The first two lessons focused on the person of Christ.
- The person of Christ is the fitting preamble to what He does.
 - He is the second person of the Trinity.
 - He is the *logos* *λογος* (Word).
 - He is the revealer of the Father (He is a prophet).
 - As the son of Mary, He is the Lamb. John the Baptist proclaimed this of Him.
 - As the son of Abraham, He is the promised seed.
 - As the son of David, He is the King.
 - As God in the flesh (hypostatic union and Kenosis), He is able to fulfill the three offices of prophet, priest, and king.
- The word "offices" points to the special functions that Jesus came to do.
 - As prophet, He reveals God to us.
 - As priest, He reconciles us to God.
 - As king, He will rule over creation.
 - Instead of prophet, priest, and king, we can say revealer, reconciler, and ruler.

Prophet

- First we will look at Christ as prophet (revealer).
- He considered Himself a prophet.
 - Matt 13:57 And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household."
- The crowds considered Him a prophet.
 - John 6:14 When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"
- His disciples considered Him a prophet.
 - Luke 24:19 And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,
- His enemies sought to refute the idea.
 - John 7:52 They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee."



Prophesied Prophet

- He is the prophet that was promised by Moses to come.
 - Deut 18:15 "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—"
 - Acts 3:22 Moses said, "The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you."
- In fact, Peter links the Prophet that Moses spoke of with the seed promised to Abraham.
 - Acts 3:22-26 Moses said, "The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. 23) And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people." 24) And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. 25) You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' 26) God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."



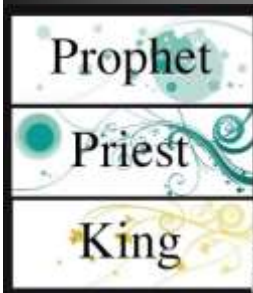
Unique Among the Prophets

- Because Jesus is the Son of God, and God Himself, He is unique as a prophet.
 - John 1:18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.
 - John 3:13 No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.
 - John 8:58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."
 - John 14:9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"
- What regular prophet could ever say these things?



Similar to the Prophets

- He preached judgment (Matthew 11:20-24 – compare to Amos 1-3).
- He preached comfort.
 - John 14:1-3 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2) In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."
- He preached the gospel that was prophesied about (Matt 13 – kingdom parables).
- His style used parables and rich imagery.
 - Vineyard of Isaiah 5:1-7 compared with the parable of the vineyard in Matt 21:33-41.



Prophet At Various Stages

- Prior to the incarnation, He gave prophecy to the prophets.
 - 1Peter 1:10-11 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11) inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.
- As the incarnate Word (God in the flesh), He is the exhibition of God's truth.
 - Heb 1:1-3 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2) but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3) He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.
- As the risen Lord, He is present in the Church as He leads it through His Word.
 - Matt 28:20 And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
- As the coming King, He will be the final apocalypse (revelation).
 - 1John 3:2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Christ as King

- Jesus Christ is the king and ruler.
- He is the promised Son of David who would rule.
 - Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 - Matt 19:28 Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
 - Roman 1:3-4 concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4) and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,
- In Matt 3:17, when God says "This is My beloved Son," beloved Son in Aramaic would be "David."



Christ as King

- Some erroneously deny a future reign on earth. Jesus completely had that in mind in Matthew 19:28 (more on this in eschatology lessons).
- However, it is also incorrect to claim that Jesus does not presently reign as king.
 - Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
- He reigns over the church.
 - Col 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.
- He has already been exalted with a name above every name and has authority over all.
 - Philippians 2:9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,
 - Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.



Christ as Priest

- Christ is the priest who removes our sin. He is the lamb of God.
 - John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"
- As our priest, He is the propitiation – turns away God's wrath.
 - Heb 2:17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.
- He is the High Priest (prayer of John 17).
 - Heb 7:25-27 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. 26) For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. 27) He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.



Christ as Priest

- Christ as the priest also intercedes for us.
 - Heb 7:25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.
- He appears in the presence of God on our behalf.
 - Heb 9:24 For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.
 - He pleads our case based on His righteousness. He advocates for us (1 John 2:1).
- Truly, Christ reconciles us to God.



States of the Work of Christ

- His preexistent glorious state.
- Christ was God from the very beginning. As the Son, He was with God.
 - John 1:1, 2 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2) He was in the beginning with God.
- He was an active agent in the creation of the universe.
 - John 1:3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.
- Even prior to the incarnation He sustained the universe He created.
 - Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
- He patterned the Old Testament sacrificial system after His planned work of redemption.
 - Hebrews 8:3-5 For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. 4) Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. 5) They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, "See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain."

Incarnate Kenotic State

- Jesus in this state revealed the Father.
 - John 14:9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"
- He preached the good news of the kingdom.
 - Matt 9:35 And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.
- He earned perfect righteousness for us.
 - Matt 3:15 But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented.
- He sacrificed Himself for the sins of the world.
 - John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!



Incarnate Kenotic State

- He was resurrected to claim victory over death.
 - 1Corinthians 15:54-57 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55) "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" 56) The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57) But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- When Christians think of Jesus, they tend to only think of His Incarnate Kenotic State. This is why it is good to break down His work during the different states so that Christians do not under-emphasize His work and divinity.



The Ascended Resurrected State

- First, Jesus predicted it.
 - Matt 26:64 Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."
- Second, it is recorded as a historical fact.
 - Mark 16:19 So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.
- Third, it is cited as a historic fact.
 - 1Tim 3:16 Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.
- Fourth it is corroborated by non-Christian early witness.
 - Tacitus, Suetonius, and Josephus.



Importance of the Ascension

- It marked the end of His earthly ministry.
 - John 17:4-5 I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. 5) And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.
- It marked the end of His state of humiliation.
 - Rev 1:10-18 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet 11) saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea." 12) Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, 13) and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. 14) The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, 15) his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. 16) In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. 17) When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, 18) and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

Importance of the Ascension

- It marked the entrance of man into heaven. Christ was the first man to go to heaven. Prior to this, the saints were in Abraham's bosom (Luke 16:22). Now we go directly to heaven.
 - 2Cor 5:6-8 So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, 7) for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8) Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.
- It permitted the present ministry of the Holy Spirit to begin.
 - John 16:7-14 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. 8) And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9) concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10) concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; 11) concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. 12) "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13) When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14) He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Importance of the Ascension

- The ascension led to a new level of honor and authority for Jesus.
 - 1Pet 3:22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.
 - Philippians 2:9-11 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10) so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11) and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- It is a new level of authority and honor since His divine authority is now applied to Him as the God-Man.



Importance of the Resurrection

- Our faith and salvation depend upon it.
 - 1Co 15:13-18 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14) And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 15) We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. 16) For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. 17) And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18) Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.
- The inerrancy of Scripture depends upon it. The validity of fulfilled prophecy depends on it.
- It is the beginning of the reversal of the curse.



False Theories About the Resurrection

- The swoon theory says the cool tomb revived him, and an earthquake moved the stone.
- A book called the "Passover Plot" shows a second view. They think Jesus read the OT and put a plot together.
 - Jesus allegedly instigated Pilate and the Jews. They say he thought he could survive the cross since some people were reported to go 9 days on the cross, and said he was thirsty so the disciples could give him something to knock him out.
 - The Roman soldiers killed him anyway, causing the plot to fail, but they accidentally put him in the wrong tomb. As a result, people remember him saying he was going to rise from the dead, and they believed it and it was all an accident.
- A third view is there are many tombs in the area and they simply went to the wrong one.
- The fourth view is the dual level of interpretation. In natural level, Jesus died. In a supernatural level, there was a spiritual resurrection.
- A fifth view is subjective vision.
 - His fanatic followers got carried away and thought they had visions of their master after the death.
- The next theory is the telegram theory.
 - The idea is the body is not risen, but the glorified spirit of Christ appeared and spread the message to others.
- All such theories deny Christ physically rising from the grave.

Evidence For the Resurrection

- The tomb was empty (Matt 28:6).
- The disciples were transformed (compare them before and after the resurrection).
- There was a rapid emergence of the church (Acts 1-12).
- There is testimony of various individuals and groups who saw Him and ate with Him after. (Acts 1:1-11; 1 Corinthians 15:1-10).
- There is also the transformation of Paul (Acts 9:1-30; Philippians 3:3-14).
- The Resurrection of Christ is Scriptural.
 - Also, there is a hermeneutical conviction by the early church that the resurrection was taught in Scripture.
 - It was taught in the OT and the NT (Psalm 16:10-11; Isaiah 53:11-12; Hosea 6:2).
 - There is a body of literature, the NT, that shows it.
 - If there were no resurrection, there would be no NT.
- Another point is the failure of Jews to produce Jesus' body.
- Also, the use of Sunday by early Jewish Christians who would have been wed to the Sabbath as a day of worship is quite instructive.
- Then there is the conversion of Jesus' brother James.
- Finally, there is the testimony of millions who say Christ dwells in them.

Characteristics of the Resurrection Body

- It was a reunion of His spirit and body.
 - Physical death equals a separation of spirit and body, but their reunion led to His resurrection.
 - Thus, His death was physical, but so too was His resurrection.
- His body was transformed. This makes it a new imperishable body, yet it still was made of the old body since His wounds were on it.
 - Yet, it was new enough to where at times His disciples could not recognize Him (Luke 24:13-32).
- He could eat and drink (John 21:12-15).
- He could appear and disappear, thus implying dimensional capabilities beyond our three dimensions (Luke 24:30-31).
 - He passed through barred doors (John 20:19).
- His body was glorious and something used to encourage believers to look forward to when their own resurrection happens (1 Cor 15:35-49; Philippians 3:21; 1 John 3:2).

Conclusion

- The work of Christ is as important to our salvation as the person of Christ.
- He serves as our prophet, priest, and king.
- He has been at work prior to the incarnation, during the kenotic phase of the incarnation, and is still at work during His glorified ascended phase.
- This was a general introduction to work of Christ.
- Next lesson is an important and detailed look at one crucial aspect of His work, the atonement.