

## Christ Is Sitting Next to the Father - 1 Peter 3-4 - March 7, 2021

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We've been talking about Christ's death and resurrection and His victory over sin, death, and the enemies of God. Last time we talked about how Jesus, shortly after He died, went to this prison where evil spirits were being held and proclaimed His victory over them. He wanted them to know that He had defeated them, and had soundly, overwhelmingly, completely, and eternally defeated them, and all sin, and all death. Jesus left no doubt that He was the Victor, the King, the Conqueror, the Lord of all.

1 Peter. 3:22. After Jesus' proclamation of victory over the evil spirits, He went back to heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And this truth that Christ is now At the right hand of God is a powerful truth, one that needs to be further explained. And there are a number of important points you need to know, and that will prove to be of great encouragement to you.

Heb. 1:3-4. Christ sat down at the right hand of God after He had made purification of sins. He couldn't have sat down until this work of dying for our sins was done. This word purification also means cleansing, for Christ by His death and resurrection, completely cleansed all those who believe that He died and paid for their sins.

- Heb. 10:12. The OT talks about all these priests who were standing every day, and who were continually offering all these sacrifices, and their work was never done. But Jesus was and is the great high priest, and He offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sins, and it was a one-time sacrifice, and His sacrifice, His death was sufficient to pay for all our sins. And since Christ completely and forever finished the work, then He, unlike all the other priests who had come before Him could sit down.

Mark 16:19, Col. 3:1. In many places, we read that Jesus sat down, not at the left hand, but the right hand of God. And this was important for many reasons:

- It was a place of honor. The most honorable place any person could ever be would be at the right hand of God, but this is reserved for Jesus Christ, for He is the most important person, the most honorable person, the most exalted person in the world.
- It was a place of authority, of power, for God gave Christ authority over all beings, over all people, angels, demons, and over the devil, and over the church too.

Phil. 2:9-11. The fact that Christ was exalted to the right hand of God is to result in every being, every person, every spirit, every power bowing down to Him, and confessing Him as Lord, and worshiping Him. Now this hasn't all happened yet, but that is the goal, and this is what will happen in this age and in the age to come.

Eph. 3:21. What we just read in Phil. 2:11, and what we see here is another goal, another result of Christ sitting at the right hand of the Father, and that is that God the Father is glorified, is honored, by Christ, and by the church. It also gives God great pleasure and joy to see His Son sitting right beside Him. God the Father and Jesus His Son are a perfect team, and are united, but what each One desires for the other One is to receive glory. John 17:1-5

Eph. 1:20. Christ sat down, but here we read that the Father seated Him. This means it was ultimately what the Father did, for the Father wanted Christ to be exalted and honored in this way, for this is what God had planned out way back in eternity past. And all this relates to the great love that the Father had for His Son.

- Col. 3:1, 1:13-21. And so, Jesus Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. But who is Jesus? Well, He's the creator of the world, and the sustainer of the world, for He keeps all things going, which means He keeps you and me physically and spiritually going.

Jesus is also the image of the invincible God, He is God in the flesh, He is the exact representation of God's nature. That is, you look at Jesus, and you see God. Jesus is the firstborn among the dead, the first person to physically die, be raised again, and then be given an immortal and glorified body. Jesus is the head of the body, the overseer and leader of the church. Jesus is the One who reconciles all things to Himself, the One who will bring peace to you and me and to the entire world.

And there's more, for Jesus is the great High Priest, He is the King of kings, the Lord of lords, the Lamb of God, the Good Shepherd, and so much more. All this makes you realize that indeed Jesus is the One who should be sitting at the right hand of the Father, and the only One who will ever sit there, for He is the Son of God.

And the Father and the Son are seated right next to each other. And the relationship they have with one another is perfect, wonderful, magnificent, eternally important.

-And they love each other like no two other beings love each other.

-They are always committed to one another.

-They are always communicating with one another.

-They always know what the other is thinking and doing. John 5:19-20

-They are perfectly united. And they are united on their purposes, on their plans for this universe, for this world, and their plans for you. John 14:9-14

-One of their prime desires is for each other to receive great amounts of glory.

What Jesus did in taking a seat at the right hand of the Father is a key point in history. There was the OT age, the age of Abraham, Moses, and Israel being raised up, the kings, the prophets, and then the coming of Christ, and the fulfillment of so many prophecies, and specifically, that Jesus would die for our sins and be raised from the dead.

And so Christ came to earth, and did the work He was supposed to – He suffered and died, rose from the dead, and then ascended into heaven where He sat right next to His Father, and where He still sits today. And the Father and Jesus were looking ahead—there was the church age, and the millennial kingdom age. And I see their overall purpose as three-fold, to build the kingdom of God, to defeat their enemies, and to bring glory to themselves.

Matt.16:18. Jesus Christ is now at the right hand of God, but what is He doing? Jesus is now building the church - He is building the kingdom of God and in doing so is bringing glory to His Father. Jesus is the head of the church, and with the help of the Spirit, is overseeing every single detail in the church, making sure the church is built just the way the Father wants it built. Eph. 1:22, 2:19-22, 3:21

Rom. 8:34 - *"Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us."* Jn. 17:20-21. This is wonderful, that Jesus is praying for each one of us, and for every Christian in the world. John 14:1-3 - Jesus is preparing our heavenly home, getting it ready for when we arrive.

Now that this church age is about over, the Father and the Son, and of course, with the Holy Spirit, are carrying out their end-time's plans, and are working through events and people all over the world so that all their purposes are all fulfilled. Many things are prophesied in Matt. 24, 1 Thess. 4-5, and the book of Revelation, along with many OT prophecies, and Christ will make sure every single one of them, to the very last detail will come to pass.

Acts 3:19-21. This tells us that heaven received Jesus, and as we have said, He is sitting at the right hand of God during this church age, and during this time sinners are repenting and returning, are being saved. And in the near future, Jesus will get up from His seat, for God the Father will send Jesus back to this earth, and begin this whole process of restoring this earth. And this is what will happen, and what is described in the book of Revelation. Christ will come down to earth and rapture the church and bring her back to heaven. God's wrath will then be poured out upon this evil and sinful earth. After the trumpet judgments, the first part of God's wrath, the kingdom of this world will become the kingdom of our Lord and of Christ, which is when His reign over this earth officially begins, and will then continue forever.

Then the last part of God's wrath, the Bowl Judgments, take place. As it says in Rev.19, Christ will come down to earth to defeat the Antichrist and the false prophet. Then the millennial kingdom will begin. And Christ will come to Jerusalem and with glorified believers, both Jews and Gentiles.

Now we have been talking about how, at this time, during this church age, Jesus Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father. But when the kingdom age begins, He will be reigning from Jerusalem on this earth, which doesn't mean He won't be going back to heaven and sitting at the right hand of the Father at different times. We don't know all the details. I am just trying to give you the big picture from what the Bible tells us.

Now I want this truth, this picture of Jesus now sitting at the right hand of the Father to be firmly in your mind. And at this time, Jesus Christ is building this church, and He is looking forward to that time when He will come back and rapture the church and then bring them back to heaven to be with His Father. And after that, as I have said, many more things will take place, leading to the next age, the millennial kingdom age. And I want you to see that God the Father and Jesus have this close relationship, and they want us to have this close relationship with them. John 15:7-11

We also need to remember that God and Jesus Christ are righteously ruling over our lives, over the church, and over the whole world.

- Psalm 9:7 - *"The Lord abides forever; He has established His throne for judgment. "*
- Psalm 10:16 - *"The Lord is king forever and ever."*
- Psalm 29:10 - *"The Lord sat as King at the flood; yes, the Lord sits as King forever."*
- Psalm 47:2 - *"The Lord Most High is to be feared, a great King over all the earth."*
- Psalm 145:13- *"Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations. "*

Knowing that you have a close relationship with God, and knowing that He is sovereign and working all things in this world, and in your life for good, should bring great comfort and peace and encouragement to your soul.