

## **Session 2 The Supremacy of Jesus (Hebrews 1:1-3)**

*Please refer to the teaching notes for this message.*

Turn to Hebrews 1. Father, we thank You in the name of Jesus for the glory of Your Son, that You gave Him to us. We thank You for the ministry of the Holy Spirit. We ask You, Holy Spirit, to magnify Jesus in the human heart even now. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **SEVEN FACETS OF HIS MAGNIFICENCE**

Well, today I want to talk from Hebrews 1 on the supremacy of Jesus. I just want to give one paragraph here in the notes of review from last week, for those who are with us for the first time. I am teaching a series on the magnificent obsession of Christ Jesus. Our goal is to be obsessed with His magnificence. Because He is worthy of it, number one, and number two, because that is what makes our spirit vibrant. It makes our spirit strong so we can walk out the destiny that God has called us to.

Paragraph A, just by way of review, there is no aspect in the grace of God that more powerfully transforms the emotions or satisfies the heart than when God the Holy Spirit reveals God to our spirits. When God reveals God to us, when the Holy Spirit reveals Jesus to our spirit, it satisfies us. It transforms us. There is a deep connection between what we see and how we feel. A lot of people try to change the way they feel without changing the way they see or the way they think about God. In Philippians 3:8, which is the theme verse for this series, Paul says, "I count everything loss because of the excellence, because of the magnificence of the Man Christ Jesus, that I encounter Him," I see Him and I want to see more. I want to feel more. I want to be close to this Man. He exhilarates my spirit. So Paul gladly gave up everything because of who the Man Christ Jesus was to him and what he saw about him, and he wanted to feel the power of it and see more of it.

The prayer I have prayed over the years, that I recommend—I told the Lord, "If I could see what Paul saw, I could live in the dedication Paul lived in. If I could see what he saw about Jesus, then I could live dedicated. I could live the way Paul lived." Again, there is a deep connection between what we see and how we feel, and how we live. The Holy Spirit has been given to us and He is the escort. He will take us by the hand, so to speak, and lead us into the deep things of God's heart, but He will only do it based on our hunger for it. If we aren't hungry for it, He won't show us more. There is no force-feeding, but rather He will give us the power to see if we want to see more, and that seeing is what enables us to be obsessed with His magnificence.

Paragraph B. We are going to look at Hebrews 1, just three verses this morning. Now Hebrews 1 is one of the great passages in the Bible about the supremacy and magnificence of Jesus, so just note that if this is a new chapter in terms of your focus and study. Hebrews was written, Hebrews 1 was written to equip the early church, the Hebrew believers. That is why it is called "Hebrews." It was written specifically to Jewish believers, and what was happening in that day in the early church is that the primary heresy that was spreading was that Jesus was an anointed prophet but He was not God; though He is worthy of great acclaim and attention and honor, He was not God. He was just the greatest man. That same heresy is spreading even in the church today.

The second reason that Hebrews 1 and the entire book was written was to empower these early first-century Jewish believers to resist compromise because they were being greatly persecuted by the Roman authorities, as well as the Jewish authorities. Rome was persecuting them, the Jewish leaders were persecuting them, and they were being tempted to leave Jesus and go back to just the Old Testament sacrifices, and just be a good citizen and go to the temple services at the synagogue and stop this "Jesus stuff." So this book was written and this

chapter in particular as a motivation to endure hardship, to press in and not to draw back; now because today most of us know very little if any persecution, the reality of Jesus will motivate us to press through spiritual boredom or to press through temptation, and in the days to come, persecution is surely coming.

Regardless of whether it is boredom, temptation, or persecution, it is the same remedy. The magnificence of Jesus is what empowers the human spirit to stand strong and to be loyal. Hebrews 1 sets forth His supremacy, His pre-eminence, and His worthiness, and it brings together in this one chapter, if you read it carefully, it brings together three of the great messianic psalms in the Old Testament. The three Psalms; the royal Son of Psalm 2, the royal Priest of Psalm 110, and the royal Bridegroom of Psalm 45. All three of these Messianic psalms are quoted in Hebrews 1, and for the eager students, I want to encourage you to search that out. It is magnificent.

Well, the highlight of this chapter, in just a quick broad stroke, is the preeminence of Jesus; the preexistence of Jesus as God. Did you know that Jesus is uncreated like the Father? He preexisted before the worlds were made. There was never a time He did not exist. He is uncreated like the Father. He is as much God as the Father and the Spirit are. The second main theme is the incarnation as man. He became man. He embraced the human limitations that we experience. I mean, here we have the uncreated God, dwelling in a human body, hungry and tired, and even tempted as we are. This is remarkable.

Then the third broad theme that we find not only in Hebrews 1, but throughout the entire book, is His eternal exaltation. That, as the God-man, there is none like Him. He alone is the God-man. The Father is not human. He is not the God-man. No great man is God. Only Jesus is the God-man. He is totally unique as King of kings, and He will rule the earth forever and forever, as the King over all. So those are the three broad strokes in Hebrews 1, as well as the entire book.

Paragraph C. Now, the specific themes, or I will call them “the excellencies of Christ” using the phrase of Paul, “I have seen the excellencies of Christ Jesus.” There are seven specific themes, and each one of these excellencies is like divine light shining on a different facet of Jesus’ magnificence. I mean, the magnificence of Jesus, the excellence of Jesus, is like a diamond with many facets to it. Hebrews 1:1-3 highlights seven specific truths or excellencies about Him. Let’s read them, just real quickly here.

Hebrews 1:1, “For God has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed the heir of all things.” That is number 1. “Through whom the Father made the worlds...” That is the second thing. Third, Jesus is the brightness of the Father’s glory. Fourth, Jesus is the expressed image of the Father’s person. Five, Jesus upholds or sustains the entire created order. Number 6, Jesus purged or cleansed not only the people who want to come to God, He cleansed the created order by the offering up of Himself to pay for the penalty of sin. Number seven: He is exalted to the premier position in the universe forever as a man, as King of kings, next to the Father, the Majesty on high, the coronation of this man in the Father’s presence, and He will be received and coroneted as such before the nations at the time of the second coming. He is at the right hand of the Father, the eternal exaltation.

### **JESUS IS HEIR OF ALL**

This morning we can only give the briefest statements about each one of them. I will spend most of the time on one, Jesus as the heir of all things, because that is the first one stated, the other six actually qualify or they point to the quality and the glory and the reality of who this heir really is, but first let’s start with paragraph D, the

phrase that “God spoke to us by His Son.” Jesus is the final message. He is the full message to humanity about God. God doesn’t have another message coming. This is it. Whatever we find out that is true about God or we discover about God, we see through the lens of Jesus and our relationship to Him and being under His leadership.

To know what God is saying, we have to look to Jesus, and we need to be bold about that because to refuse what God is saying through Jesus is to refuse God. This lie that is spreading rapidly around the world that is being trumpeted: that all religions lead to God. It is a lie. They don’t lead to God. There is only one faith that leads to God, and that is faith in Jesus, and that isn’t a religion. It is a relationship. The reason that it’s the only way that leads to God is because it’s the only one that provided an answer for the crisis of sin. One man that took the penalty and removed the problem of sin so we could come to God. There is no other religion in the earth that does that, that even claims to do that.

So Christianity alone is the only faith that leads to God and we don’t need to apologize about that, but we can honor the people in other religions, and we give them dignity, and value, and we love them, and we relate to them, but we do not want to lie to them that they have the truth. That is not toleration. In my opinion, that is a crime against them, to hold the truth from them in the name of love. Rather, in the name of love, we give them the truth, but we honor them and value them each step of the way, whether they receive the truth or not, by virtue of the fact that they are human.

### **JESUS IS THE CREATOR WORLDS**

Well let’s look at Roman numeral II. The first of the seven excellencies highlighted in these three verses. Here is the main point, of which the other six—they qualify it and they magnify it, because this is the point that the Hebrew Christians were struggling with. Who is the heir? Well, they knew Jesus was the heir but they were being greatly persecuted for taking that stand, but this is the main point, I believe, of which the other six magnify in a glorious way. Hebrews 1:2, that He the Father has appointed one man as the heir of all. That is the meaning of this passage. He has appointed Jesus as the heir of all. Now when did this appointment take place? Well it occurred in the eternal councils, long ago, between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Father ordained His Son, eternally God, would become a man, go down to the earth, and solve the problem that sin has brought to the human race, and then as a man, He would become the rightful heir of everything that is created. Now the reason this is such an important point is because, paragraph B; the Roman and the Jewish authorities, were persecuting the Jewish, the Hebrew believers, for looking and believing and proclaiming Jesus as heir or Jesus as King. You could even put the word *king* there, instead of the word *heir*. It has the same practical meaning, in terms of application. Well, the Romans said Caesar was the heir of the nations, he was the rightful owner; and the Jewish authorities, the Sanhedrin, would tell the Jewish believers, “No, Caesar is not. That is idolatry. We are the rightful heirs as of the promises God gave David. As sons of David, we are the heirs.”

The writer of Hebrews came along and said, “No, no, that is not exactly right.” They participate in the inheritance, but only if they are in right relationship to one man because everything is His. As the Son of Man, as the Son of David, as a man, He is heir. Now, the focus here is Jesus being an heir as a man. Jesus as God has the right over all of created order, but the point of focus is man inherited all things. He inherited all of the Old Testament promises. He inherited all of the land. He inherited all of the property. He inherited everything from the Father as a man. Now again, these Jewish believers were being persecuted and Hebrews 1 was written to

show how worthy Jesus is. It is worth it to endure hardship. It is worth it to bear the difficulty of following Him with all of your heart, and again, because there is not as much persecution now.

Again, it is coming worldwide to all the nations. We can bear through the difficulty of temptation. We can bear through the difficulty, and this is not real difficulty, of just spiritual boredom and spiritual dullness, because the Man is worth it; He is worthy. Now the writer of Hebrews—nobody knows who that writer really is, my guess is it was Paul the apostle. There is a lot of evidence that points that way, but the evidence is not conclusive. You can't say for sure. But here is what the writer of Hebrews says, the most radical idea—that this Jewish man who was a criminal did not accomplish anything that people could observe with their natural eyes, as men count accomplishments.

He didn't have a school. He didn't hold a position in the state. He didn't do any of the things that men do when men have great accomplishments, but He is the heir of the world. This was an outrageous statement to the unbelieving mind. That Jewish criminal, that vagabond that wandered around the nation with no place to lay His head, He is heir of Israel? More than that, the heir of all the earth—well, they wanted to know where things were going, the Jewish believers, where are things going? I mean is Rome going to triumph? Are the Jewish leaders, the Sanhedrin going to triumph? And the answer is this, “No.” The one that you believe in, the one that you are pressing into, in a short amount of time, all will see He is the rightful heir. Stay true to Him. He is worth it. Press into Him with all your heart. That is the message.

### **JESUS WILL RECEIVE THE NATIONS AS HIS INHERITANCE**

Top of page 2. Paragraph C. The Father has ordained that Jesus will take over everything. I mean, this is a massive statement—the Father has ordained this. He appointed it in the eternal councils in times past. He said, “Son, by virtue of becoming a man and offering Yourself up in obedience even unto death—the reward of Your sufferings is; everything is Yours.” And of course we know, Jesus is going to use this inheritance, the thing He inherited as a man, and He is going to bring it all back to the Father and offer it back to Him. That is another message for another time.

Paragraph D. Jesus will take over all the property of the earth. Could you imagine? He is going to own New York City, Paris, every city of the earth, Tokyo, Singapore, Hong Kong, every city of the earth—one man will own all the property. I mean this is an amazing statement if you think about it, and it is going to happen; in the millennial kingdom it will all be His, and He will bring others into the stewardship of it, but under His authority. He will only take over everything on the basis of truth and humility and righteousness and love, and then He will dispense all that He inherits. He will dispense it. He will delegate it and He will entrust it to others. He will do it with great wisdom, with great justice and great generosity.

Look at what it says in Psalm 45:4, talking about Jesus at the second coming. That is what Psalm 45 is in context to. Jesus will ride forth. Meaning at the time of the second coming, and all the events that surround it as He takes over the nations—He will be victorious over all resisting powers—but look, I want to emphasize this, He will do it on behalf of truth, on behalf of humility and righteousness. In one word: love, He will do it for the sake of love, and He will dispense these great assets based on love and generosity. There has never been a man like this. He wants the power. He takes the power.

It is based on truth. There will be no lies. There will be no spin in His administration at all. None. None whatsoever. All because He wants truth to spread across the earth, He will do it in humility. There will be no pride. There will be no revenge, no dark agenda rooted in some proud kind of mindset. It will be based on

humility, His own humility, and then in righteousness. He will treat everybody with perfect righteousness. No injustice in His administration. Even the least person on the earth, they will get a better deal than they deserve.

Everyone will get more than they deserve. I mean what a remarkable description of a man's leadership on the earth. Jesus alone is the assurance that love will never diminish on the earth. If it was given to another, love would diminish eventually, but because everything is in His hands, love will increase and increase forever. There will never, ever be a bad story that unfolds as this thing comes to its fullness. Oh, we love this Man. Beloved, this is the Man we worshiped a moment ago. This is the Man that we give ourselves to.

### **JESUS RECEIVES THE SCROLL**

Paragraph E. John had a vision of the Father giving the title deed of the earth to Jesus. The scroll was the title deed and the Father gave it to the Son, and in receiving this title deed, there are seven areas of society or life on the earth that Jesus takes the full leadership on a global level, seven areas, and the angels proclaim it around the throne, even now. But what the angels proclaim about Jesus' leadership over the earth, these prophetic declarations, the people of the earth forever and forever will echo and they will restate this declaration about Him.

Let's read Revelation 5:7, and then verses 11-12. "That He," Jesus, "took the scroll," or the title deed, "out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne" (The Father). Verse 11, the angels began to prophesy. They began to declare the meaning of this Man having the title deed, and said, "Worthy is the Lamb. Worthy is this Man, fully God, fully man," but it is the "as a man" that is in focus right here. "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive." Then the angels delineate seven specific areas of life on the earth—power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and blessing.

Now this prophetic declaration that is now going on in heaven, again, it will echo and it will be proclaimed throughout the ages by both angels and the redeemed forever and forever. This Man is worthy. He is deserving, number one. He is worthy. He deserves this kind of pre-eminence, but not only does He deserve it, He is worthy in the sense; He is capable. He is the only body; the only person gifted enough to have this kind of leadership and to cause love to increase on the earth, instead of making a mess out of the earth. He is capable. He is worthy, and in a third sense, He isn't just deserving and capable. He is worth it, meaning He is worth us obeying Him as we take the area under our stewardship, whatever God has given to us in this age and the age to come. We bring it willingly under His leadership. We say, "You are worth it. Obeying You is worth it." Beloved, nothing will be wasted that is given to Jesus. He will do well. He will excel in everything given to Him by the Father or even by the people who give it willingly to Him, out of that which has been entrusted to them.

Paragraph F. During the millennium, the thousand-year reign on the earth that is coming soon, it says Jesus will receive these seven—well, they are declarations, but they speak of seven spheres of responsibility and authority. Well, He is going to receive it from the Father by sovereign decree, but He is also—very important—going to receive these seven things from people by their voluntary choice, as they bring that which is entrusted to them willingly under His leadership.

### **JESUS IS HEIR OF ALL**

Number 1. All the power, the governmental authority, every strata of society will belong to Him in the millennial kingdom. It will belong to Him to be openly seen by all, by every eye, by every single witness in



heaven and in hell and on the earth will see this thing fully manifest. All the riches, all the money, all the natural resources, the banking systems will be under Him, all the wisdom. He will not only have all the wisdom to set everything in order to fix every problem, but all the intellectual property of all the earth will be His. And He will dispense it according to His generosity and His justice and His understanding, all the strength.

I believe this refers to the physical strength and labor force. All the human resource of the earth will be under His leadership—all the glory, the adulation, the praise, the credit, and the love. This is the man that the nations will be talking about with adoration and love in their hearts. Ephesians talks about, or the scripture in several places, talks about “Honor your father and your mother,” speaking of respectful obedience. There will be an honor, in the sense of every individual, as an individual, they will honor Him. They will offer their individual obedience to Him.

Blessings—I believe this is corporate, not individual, although individuals will bless Him, all the nations of every level, they will agree with His policies. There will be a united cooperation with His leadership. I mean, today we look at the nations, all the nations of the earth.

There is political resistance to whoever is in power, they have adversaries resisting them and all kinds of delays and blocking of their agendas and filibusters and vetoes and politicians resisting the central power all over the earth, political resistance. But then there is civil unrest, riots, and revolutions, but beloved, there is a leader that is going to be in place on the earth. Everyone at every level will bless His policies; they will bless His agenda, they will cooperate with it at every level of society. Jesus will be the most powerful, the most wealthy, the wisest, the most supported, the most loved, the most obeyed, most respected, most talked about, most listened to man on the earth. Isn't this awesome?

Beloved, we want to begin. We want to live in that spirit now to the degree that we can in the grace of God, not wait until then, but this is already, the inheritance has been given to Him already by the Father, but it is going to be fully manifest in the earth. Now we have tokens of this kind of people. Small tokens, negative in history when a dictator that has deceived a nation raising up, like an Adolf Hitler. A small number, a small part of the nation—still millions, still in part they give him control over the banking, control over the workforce, control over the government.

They adore him. They had his picture everywhere. They worshiped him. Well, it was only in part, and it was very temporary, and it destroyed the nation, but there is coming a Man—it will not be in part, it will be every individual and every institution in the earth and it will be forever and it will bring blessing and righteousness and truth, everywhere across the earth. This is the Man that we worship. He is the heir of everything. Well, that is the one that I wanted to spend most of the time on. These other six that follow, each would be not only a book, but a library of information.

Each one of these other six—I'm just going to mention them briefly—we point to who this Man is. Number 2, Hebrews 1:2. He, whom, that is Jesus, “whom the Father appointed heir of all things.” Now here is the phrase, “through whom the Father made the worlds,” so Jesus is not just the heir, He is also the Creator. Now notice the word “worlds” is in plural, because it means more than the physical world. It means the spiritual world and it means more than just the physical world with the angels and demons and all the hierarchy in both realms.

It also means the time frames and the storyline related to what was created in both realms. Meaning this: Jesus not only created everything, He determines what is going to happen with that which He created. The storyline is His together with the Father and the Spirit. Now why did the writer of Hebrews make this point about the heir also being the Creator? Because in the early church, the primary heresy was that Jesus was an anointed prophet, the greatest man ever, but He was not God. The writer of Hebrews says, “No. He is the Creator,” and if you are the Creator, you have to be God. Only God can create. That is the idea. Though, in a moment, in verse 8, He is going to say it very straightforward—we’re not going to look at it today, He is God—and several other places throughout the book of Hebrews, as well.

Paragraph C. He created everything in the invisible and the visible realm. All angelic and demonic in the supernatural, invisible heavenly realms, all of the authority structures of angels and demons and then all of the authority structures in the natural from the authority structures of humans, straight through the animal kingdom. All authority structures are under His authority. This is amazing. And He—He doesn’t just have, He didn’t just create these two realms. He creates the ages—this is what the word *worlds* means. It means “the ages,” the time frames, meaning, the storyline that unfolds in light of these dimensions being created.

He is over the storyline. Not just up until now, but forever and forever. A million years from now, more will unfold that will fascinate and excite us that comes out of this Man’s heart, again, in full relationship with the Father, under the Father’s authority, and through the Spirit, He will carry this stewardship. Amazing. One of the grand parts of this storyline that we know from Eph. 1:10, is that He is going to join the spiritual realm of the heavens and the physical realm of the earth, He is going to join them together on this earth forever. I mean what a storyline, what a storyline.

I was witnessing to a Jewish woman just last week and she said, “You know, this Jesus thing? I’m not a Christian, I am Jewish.” I said, “Well, so am I, sort of. Probably, I am more Jewish than you are. You know, sorry to say that. Because I am of the tree of Abraham, I am in the down-line of Abraham. I got grafted into your faith.”

She said, “OK, whatever.” I said, “This Man, this Jewish Man, is going to bring together the heavenly realm and the earthly realm together on the earth. We are going to have physical, resurrected bodies on the earth in His presence. We are going to eat food, we are going to know each other, we are going to play, we are going to learn in the glory of God.” She said, “Wow. I have never heard of that.” She said, “That would be so amazing.” I said, “Your guys came up with this storyline. Not the Gentiles; the Jewish guys came up with this.” She said, “Really?” Anyway, we had a long conversation.

Top of page 3. Anyway, I love the fact that this Man is the Creator of the world, the ages, the storyline, the invisible, the visible realms, everything, and all the hierarchy of everything is under His leadership. That is what is going to guarantee blessing on the earth. Oh, we love this Man. He is so worth obeying. He is so worth pressing through the resistance of our temptation and compromise, and our negative emotions, and our lethargy, and our depression. He is worth it. Beloved, He is worth the pressing through, even if it doesn’t feel good to press through until we break through.

### **JESUS IS THE RADIANCE OF GOD**

Number 3. Now we get into Jesus, another dimension of His deity, not just as the Creator, but His humanity and deity, but the fact that He is the radiance or the brightness of the Father, when it says, “The radiance of God,”

we are talking about that of the Father. Hebrews 1:3, Jesus, being the brightness of the Father's glory and then, He is the express image of the Father's personhood. Wow. What does this mean? Well, I will say from the beginning, this is way bigger than my little brain; I look at this and I bow before it, and I have a couple little sentences, and I ask the Lord, "Is this right?"

I didn't get an answer, but I would imagine something like, "Well, it is the beginning of the beginning. It is a good start." So my descriptions are greatly inadequate of what these glorious statements mean. I just want to say that on the front end.

Jesus' relationship to the Father is being compared to the relationship of rays of light to the sun that the rays of light come from. That is the analogy, very practical analogy that describes how the Father and the Son relate to the earth. Paul said, "The brightness of the Father's glory." Now, the word *brightness* means "the pouring forth" or "the streaming forth." Jesus is the streaming forth, the pouring forth of the brightness of the Father's glory. He is that as a man. I mean, can you imagine a man who is the epitome, the fullness of the streaming forth of the light rays that come from God?

Paragraph B. Now to understand this lofty and grand truth that is bigger than our minds, but we can eat at this table a little bit and satisfy ourselves because our appetite and our capacity is so little, a little will make us go, "Wow," but the Lord would say, "Oh, there is so much more to feast on in this truth, but your appetite and your capacity will grow over time and you will see how much more I have to give you, even according to these truths of the magnificence of Jesus."

Well, to understand Jesus as the brightness of glory and the express image of the Father's person, we have to understand that Jesus is of the same nature, the same substance and the same essence as God. He is of the essence of God, which means His essential being is God, is divine. The essential being of the Father is divine; the essential being of the Son is divine. They have the same essence. That is what it means, but though They have the same substance and essence—and those are inaccurate words by the way, those words don't depict the fullness of the mystery, but those are just the words used by the early church fathers right through church history.

We find them in many of the creeds of history—that They are of the same substance, the same essence, but we acknowledge how inadequate those terms really are. Though Jesus is of the same essence as the Father—His essential being, His deity, is what that means—Jesus is still a distinct person from the Father. He is distinct. That is a glorious truth. It is a mysterious truth, of the same essence but distinct as a person—one God in three persons, which is the stumbling block of the world religions, because it takes Holy Spirit inspiration to even touch the beginning of that glorious and grand mystery. One man said it in history. I think it was Augustine who said, "If you try to define the Trinity, you will lose your mind, but if you deny the Trinity you will lose your soul."

We will be spending a session on the Trinity, on the glory of the fellowship of the three persons of the Godhead and how they relate to one another. Again, I will say well ahead: it will be wholly inadequate, but it will be a feeble beginning. but it will be a beginning, that presentation. I am nervous about it, not because of you, but because the angels are watching me saying, "Are you kidding? That's what you think? Gee whiz, this guy needs to grow up." But anyway, I'll worry about that later.



Paragraph C. The unspoken analogy behind this truth is a relationship of a sun to its rays of light that stream forth from the sun. Here it is. As the radiance of a ray of light beams from the sun to bring light and life to the earth, so also the radiance of Jesus beams from the Father to bring light and life to the earth. So there is an analogy. Go onto the next sentence. We are reading paragraph C because I want you to get this. The brightness of the sun's rays express the same nature as the sun. I mean when a ray of light touches the earth, we enjoy it. It is the same nature as the sun from which this light proceeded and streams forth from.

However, though the ray is of the same substance, it is not actually the sun itself. It is distinct from the sun, though the exact essence of the sun. There was no time in the sun's existence where rays did not exist. If the sun stops existing, the rays stop existing and vice versa. The idea is that they are perfectly one. Now just one more statement about Jesus in this—He is both the light, as God, and the bearer or the communicator of God's light. So He is the outshining of the Father's light while, Himself, being the light.

Paragraph D. Now this is a really remarkable passage in 2 Corinthians 4:6. Paul outlines this truth of Jesus being the beaming, the streaming forth of the Father's rays into our personal life. And Paul points out a great miracle of how this affects our life in a very personal way. Let's read this in 2 Corinthians 4:6. He said, "It is the Father, God, who commanded light to shine out of darkness." The Father commanded this back in Genesis 1 at the beginning of the creation. Now here is the miracle, light doesn't just shine into darkness, light shines out of darkness.

I don't fully understand all the implications of that, except that is a great miracle, that it is a miracle in the natural, but also a miracle in the spiritual, our spiritual relationship. Meaning, that out of the darkness back in Genesis 1 in the physical sense light shines out of darkness—a great miracle. But in the spiritual sense, even as born-again believers with dark areas in our life, in our thinking, and in our understanding, light still radiates from us. We are still anointed to be those who release the glory of God to others. But how could people as weak and broken as us receive the light and then even be used as vessels to release it to others?

That is the miracle. Light shines out of the darkness, both in the spiritual and in the physical sense. Let's read the whole verse again. "It is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness,"—this great miracle. This is the One who has shone in our heart. It is the Father shining in our heart. It is the Father's beaming glory shining in our heart and shining through us when we touch others, but this shining of God the Father is done in the face of Jesus, or, you could say, in the person of Jesus. So the beaming of the Father that touches us, that makes us understand God, experience God, it helps us communicate the grace of God to others. That beaming of the Father is actually through the face of the person of Jesus, but it touches our heart. There is an impartation. It touches us on the inside and even in brokenness that light shines out of us to other people. What a miracle of miracles!

### **JESUS IS THE EXACT REPRESENTATION OF THE FATHER**

Number 4. Jesus is the exact, the perfect representation of the Father. Hebrews 1:3—we will read the verse again. Focus on the second part of it. Jesus, "being the brightness of the Father's glory and Jesus is also the express image of the Father's person" (Heb. 1:3). Now the phrase *express image* (and you have it in the notes there) means "the exact representation." Jesus is the exact representation of the Father's person. Well, the word *person* also means "the Father's essence" or the "Father's substance"; it is the Father's essential being, His deity.

Jesus is the exact representation of the Father's deity. Wow! What a statement. We are talking about a man in a human body, God shining through this Man, through the face of Jesus, touching the darkness in this world and then flowing out of us to others. That is all because of what Jesus did for us and with us in redemption. I mean what He did for us in redemption and what He did with us in our relationship to Him.

Paragraph B. The Father's glory is made visible to the natural world; it is made visible to humans through Jesus. Colossians 1:15, He is the image. He is the visible expression. That is what "the image" means, the visible expression of the invisible God. It says in 1 Timothy 6:16—I don't have it on the notes—God the Father "dwells in unapproachable light" and nobody can see Him. God the Father dwells in unapproachable light and nobody can see Him, but Jesus in His humanity is the image, is the physical expression, the physical picture of the God who dwells in unapproachable light that no man has ever seen.

Now the point of this phrase, one of the points—and each of these phrases have truths far beyond my ability to understand and my ability to communicate it in any full sense. In other words, these are big truths. I'm only touching the beginning of the beginning. So somebody might say, "OK, Jesus is the brightness of the glory of God. He touches us and that bright glory touched me."

And then Paul or the writer of Hebrews would come along and say, "And I want you to know the way He touched you in His brightness, it is a perfectly accurate representation of the Father. There is no deviation from the glory of the Father when the glory of Jesus touches you." Now some people have a wrong idea. They think of God in the Old Testament as the God of wrath and the God of the New Testament as the God of love. I have heard that over the years and so have many of you. This is the New Testament—the God of love; the Old Testament—the God of wrath; extremely simplistic perspective of the Bible but a totally erroneous one, completely false.

The God of the Old and the God of the New is exactly the same God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, there is no difference, there is no shifting of shadow, no variance at all. In both Testaments He is fully the God of love, the God of mercy, the God of justice, the God of anger, the God of wrath. He never changes His personality, ever. So don't think, "Well, Jesus is the nice One. The Father is a little bit mean, but it's OK, as long as you talk to the Father through Jesus things will work out." No, completely false. They are in total unity. When the glory of God touches us, the brightness of God touches us; when it touches us through Jesus I can assure you it is the exact representation of the Father's character and of the Father's brightness.

Paragraph C. Colossians 2:9: "In Jesus all the fullness of God..." All the fullness of God is in a human body being expressed. Oh, this hurts my brain, it is so big. I feel like I have been on a long fast and I sit down to eat a sixteen-ounce steak and about three bites into it I'm hurting. I'm trying to eat this and I am hurting, and the Lord's answer would be, "You will expand. Just stick with it. You will get more familiar with it."

### **JESUS IS THE SUSTAINER OF THE UNIVERSE**

Let's look at the top of page 4, just very briefly, the fifth facet of the magnificence or excellence of Jesus. He is the Sustainer of the universe, and that includes the Sustainer of the Body of Christ and the Sustainer of our life and our heart, too. Let's look at Hebrews 1:3: "Jesus upholds all things by the word of His power" (paraphrased). In other words, "by the word of His power" means He speaks His word to release His power, or that He energizes and renews everything He creates by speaking over it. Jesus renews. Jesus energizes

everything He creates by speaking His word over it. So it wasn't enough to create; He has to sustain. There has to be continual input of energy and life into what He created or creation would wear out.

So He creates it, and after He creates it, it begins the journey of wearing out, except that He speaks into it, and He speaks into the laws of nature, and the very word that He speaks energizes, and releases life, and sustains everything. The word *upholding* means “to support, to maintain, to sustain.”

Paragraph B. Neither creation nor the Body of Christ can sustain itself without Jesus speaking over it. If He stopped speaking, the earth would wear out.

### **JESUS IS THE REDEEMER OF THE UNIVERSE**

Let's go to number 6. Jesus is the Redeemer or the Cleanser. He is the One that cleanses the universe. That is what I mean by redeemed. He purged it, meaning He cleansed all the defilement. He removed it. He purged it and removed it completely out of the way. He paid the price for it. Now, Hebrews 1:3, He by Himself, by Himself—no one else was capable of helping Him. It had to be a man by the way. Only a man could cleanse the earth that God gave to be under the leadership of men and women. Back in Genesis 1, He said, “Adam, Eve, it is yours. It is under your leadership,” and God will never take the earth back from the appointment and the stewardship He gave humans.

When humans had defiled the earth with sin, only a human could cleanse the earth, so He did it Himself, because there was no other. God cannot cleanse the earth. A man had to pay this price of sin for men. A man had to come to earth to cleanse the earth that is under the leadership of man, so by Himself, He cleansed it; He purged it. Beloved, this is the most difficult of all. Jesus only had to speak to create. He didn't have to stand, sitting at the right hand of the Father. “Worlds, let there be light.” Boom. There is light.

Jesus only has to speak to sustain. And I don't know how it all works, but He speaks, He energizes, He renews everything, but in order to cleanse, to purge, to forgive, whichever word you want to use, He couldn't speak only. That is not sufficient. He had to stand. He had to take on the form of a man. He had to descend to the earth, be born of a virgin. He had to act, not just speak. Not only that, He had to live perfect as a man so He could qualify as the offering for sin. Then He was crushed by the wrath of God in place of the sin. This is far more difficult than creating or sustaining.

I could just imagine. This is my own version. The Father looks at the Son in eternity past, after sin has been introduced, or even before the foundations of the world, and I could just imagine because the gospel of John says many times, “The Father sent the Son.” He was sent by the Father, but I imagine they are in such unity, the Father looked Him in the eye, maybe did not even say a word—this is my version of it. I don't even know if it's true, but He looked at Him—I am sure it happened differently than this—and Jesus nodded His head and said, “I understand Father. I will go. I understand.” Because here is the dilemma: once Jesus became a man, He had to be human forever.

The Father could have said something like, “Son, if you take this on, you do realize, a million years from now you will still be human. Do you understand, you won't have one nature like I do as God; you will be the only one in existence with two natures, fully God, fully man. You will always be human, but the only way to deliver humans is through a human. Will You go?” And Jesus answered, “Yes,” and solved the crisis that sin created. I tell you, He couldn't solve this crisis by speaking—the way He created, the way He sustains, the way He rules.

He had to act in the most sacrificial way, embracing humility we can't even comprehend. Oh Love divine, who can understand the depths of what He went through? Anyway, He redeemed, He cleansed.

### **JESUS IS THE RULER OF THE UNIVERSE**

Number 7, bringing this to conclusion. Hebrews 1:3: "When He purged our sins, when He cleansed, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on High" (paraphrased). The Majesty on high is a description of the Father. He sat at the Father's right hand, right next to the Father, but He sat next to the Father, not just as God. I mean, He's always God. Jesus is eternally God in the past and in the present and it isn't strange that God the Son would sit next to God the Father. That is very predictable. That makes total sense.

What is strange, what is unusual, is that a man, a human, is sitting next to the Father; a human is. I mean, He is fully man; He is as human as you and I are. I mean the ultimate exaltation; He is enthroned, the great coronation in heaven as He is crowned and received as He returned, the great celebration and coronation in heaven, but there is going to be a great coronation service on the earth for all the nations to see, as well. They will see Him crowned King and made King in the nations before the eyes of all. Every demon in hell, every unbeliever in hell, every believer, everybody will see Him established as Lord over all, as a man on the earth with everything submitted to Him.

Beloved, this is the Man that we obey, this is the Man that we press through to seek. This is the Man that is the reason for what we are doing in our life spiritually by giving ourselves to Him with such effort and such extravagance. Well, He sat down at the right hand of the Father. When He sat down, that meant the Father received Him. It's the proof that His sacrifice was accepted, but it is more than that. When Jesus sat down, you and I were guaranteed, I mean our salvation was. It happened, but it means more than that. The Father received Jesus as a man, as His partner at His right hand forever. Jesus, the Son of David sat down, not just Jesus the Redeemer. It is a permanent position. What a remarkable reality.

### **EZEKIEL AND DANIEL BOTH SAW A MAN ON THE THRONE**

Paragraph B. Two prophets in the same generation, Daniel and Ezekiel, both saw, 500 years before Christ, a man on a throne next to God. Now today, 2,000 years after Jesus' death and resurrection, we are used to the idea. We don't really get it, but we think, "Sure. That is good Bible doctrine." But 500 years before Jesus and the apostles made it known. I mean, here is Daniel, the Jewish prophet, He sees.

First we will start with Ezekiel. Ezekiel 1. He looks up. He is a young Jewish prophet at the time when he sees this vision. He looks up and must have thought something like: "There is a man. He looks human. He can't be because He is next to God. He is on a throne. Humans don't make it on thrones in heaven. I don't know what I am looking at. He looks human. He is a man. He is on a throne." Ezekiel must have said, "What meaneth Thou this? What is this about? A man!"

Well, his contemporary, Daniel, had the same kind of insight. Look there in Daniel 7:13-14, "The Ancient of Days" is the name for the Father. There is a man being brought to the Father. Daniel sees what looks like a man; it is a man next to God. That is impossible! How can a man get there? How can a man approach God? The angels get close and they bow down and the seraphim close their eyes. How can he just walk right up there? This can't be true. Well, it was the grace of God.

They lived in the same generation, you know. I'm sure when they heard the testimony and the report of the other guy, they said, "Well, praise God. There is another person seeing this." This is unthinkable. Well, Jesus is worthy as a man of this, this preeminent, highest exaltation forever, for all the nations will say, "Power and riches, glory, wisdom and strength, blessing, honor. Everything is Yours. All the nations will give it." I mean, that is what it is pointing to, but Beloved, there is another point. There is another point that I want to leave you with. It is that when Ezekiel saw a man up there, it's not just that Jesus is worthy of it—that is the premier point—but there is a secondary point that we can't overlook. It was this: a breakthrough, the greatest breakthrough ever of the human race. A man got to the highest pinnacle of power in created order, a man did, and He beckons fellow humans to join in His train. "Come follow after Me in the wake of all that I accomplished. Join Me and reign with Me," is what He calls us to do.

Think of the political situation. If the Democrat wins, He brings all of His Democrat friends and puts them in the cabinet, all the high positions of office. If the Republican wins, he puts all of them in the cabinet positions and all of the high offices. Beloved, a man attained this and is lobbying for the human race. "Come, come to Me." John 17:24, He prayed it; He said, "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me." He breaks through to the highest pinnacles of power and dignity and honor, but He cries out, "Father, I am doing it that she (the Bride) would be with Me, She would be with Me, next to Me in ruling and reigning" (Jn. 17:24).

Beloved, the greatest breakthrough of all human experience is right here: a Man broke through all the way and He beckons us to come with Him forever and forever. This is what this Man did for us. Amen.