

Last time we looked at the humanity of Jesus Christ as portrayed in the book of Hebrews. The message there was clear – Jesus Christ identified Himself with humanity – not angels – so that he could complete the line of redemptive history and redeem unto Himself countless men and women. That is a thrilling thought. We reviewed the delight the Lord has in the sons of men. We reviewed how the Master – Death was defeated.

This lesson will return into the Old Testament where we will see this Heart of Redemption predicted. First, we will look at portrayal and then we will look at the fulfillment of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Psalms 2:7 (KJV).

This is a most grand statement. This is the Son of God speaking – before the incarnation. Again just before the conception of Jesus Christ the grand statement appears:

And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. Luke 1:35 (KJV)

This answer from God's angel is in response to Mary's question "how can this be?" She had not had relations with a man and so it seemed impossible. But with God all things are possible and this was Gabriel's amazing response: Mary was to conceive – as a virgin – and the result of that conception would be the Son of God.

Another witness attested to Gabriel's statement – God the Father:

And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Matthew 3:17 (KJV).

And so the Psalms introduces the Christ – Jesus Christ. He is the axil, the linchpin, indeed the hub around which the whole plan of redemption rotates. Without the incarnate Jesus Christ there would be no redemption of man from the slave market of sin.

Jesus Christ is to be praised by children.

¹ Lord, our Lord, how magnificent is Your name throughout the earth! You have covered the heavens with Your majesty. ² Because of Your adversaries, You have established a stronghold from the mouths of children and nursing infants, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

Psalms 8:1-2 (HolmanChristianStandardBible – HCSB).

I like Holman best because it sets up the incongruity between the would be adversaries' testimony regarding Jesus Christ and Jehovah's answer – indeed, means for meeting His enemies' derision of Jesus Christ – nursing children. It is good to note that children

nursed very late as compared to today's standards. Consider also that we even use the term "wet behind the ears" as a condition of children where they lack much experience of life so as to not be seriously considered in important matters. Not as far as Jehovah is concerned. His answer is that His adversaries will be dumbfounded by the testimony of mere infants (*hb olal – a nursing*). This incongruity – the false testimony of Jehovah's enemies and that of mere infants is the ultimate winning argument against the Enemy (by extension, Lucifer himself). What a sense of humor the LORD has! Let's look at the fulfilment of this polarized dialogue between the Enemy and the Infants (I'm beginning to really HCSB):

¹⁵ When the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonders that He did and the children in the temple complex cheering, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant ¹⁶ and said to Him, "Do You hear what these [children] are saying?" "Yes," Jesus told them. "Have you never read: You have prepared praise from the mouths of children and nursing infants?" Matthew 21:15-16 (HCSB).

This event was certainly one of great polarization between the leaders of apostate Judaism and the Lord himself. Certainly a setting that best describes the ongoing adversity between the Enemy, the devil and the LORD. Note the wonderful use of the most unlikely – mere infants to declare the Majesty of JEHOVAH! What a wonderful fulfillment and declaration of JEHOVAH's glory in the Argument between the enemy and the LORD.

Jesus Christ is the ruler of all.

³ When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained; ⁴ What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him? ⁵ Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty! ⁶ You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, Psalms 8:3-6 (NASB95).

I had to include vs' 3 - 5 to bring us into the wonderful idea that man has been included in God's plan of redemption and that the Son of man has been ordained to rule over the universe. That is a wonderful dual thought: God delights in man and that He will send His Son into the world as a Man so that He can reclaim this sovereignty over God's creation. This is too wonderful to consider, especially when we look at the sinful condition of man. Take a look at the world today (or during biblical times, for that matter – man's sinful condition spans all of history). Where can we find one who is fit to rule over all of God's works? No man can be found. But wait! There is One and that One is Jesus Christ. Let's turn to a couple of passages in Hebrews.

¹⁰ And, "YOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH, AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS; ¹¹ THEY WILL PERISH, BUT YOU REMAIN; AND THEY ALL WILL BECOME OLD LIKE A

GARMENT, ¹² AND LIKE A MANTLE YOU WILL ROLL THEM UP; LIKE A GARMENT THEY WILL ALSO BE CHANGED. BUT YOU ARE THE SAME, AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END." ¹³ But to which of the angels has He ever said, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET"? Hebrews 1:10-13 (NASB95).

Here the Grand theme of the sovereignty of Jehovah is stated. Hebrews clearly says that Jesus Christ was the creator and sustainer of the universe.¹ The Eternality of JEHOVAH is clearly stated here and that the Universe, indeed, will become like an old garment – will be rolled up and discarded. But the LORD will be forever. And so the picture of a universe ripped and tattered along with the enemies who must also be included in this metaphor. Jesus Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father but some day he will stand and His enemies will be put under his feet in defeat.

But the point not to be missed here is that Jesus Christ will become incarnate – become a Man – not an angel to fulfil this victory. Here's another related passage:

YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET." For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him. Hebrews 2:8 (NASB95).

This victory will be complete. I find it interesting to watch science programs on TV where the expanding universe is headed for a cold, lifeless end. However, in God's word, even this seeming inevitable end is under the sovereignty of Lord:

¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! ¹³ But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. 2 Peter 3:12-13 (NASB95).

Where is the helpless feeling here? I do not know if science really points to the cold lifeless end – perhaps some scientist will discover some new law or perform some new experiment that will disprove this theory but one thing I know – Jesus Christ is Sovereign even over the dissolution of the universe (which will, indeed, happen though not as science declares). Out of the true Big Band – where the universes passes away will come the new heavens and earth wherein will dwell righteousness.

Amen.

Part two next time.

¹ See also ch 1:2, 3.