

The Savior – The Person of Jesus Christ

The Humility and Exaltation of Christ

The Humility of Christ – Condescension

In order to grasp the idea of Christ's humility, it is important to understand the exalted position of Glory that He possessed prior to His Humiliation. This is expressed in the term “**Condescension.**” Christ “*condescended*” from Heavenly Glory to the realm of earth in order to become a man and redeem mankind from His sins. This is an extremely profound idea, one that indeed creates a sense of awe and wonder. As we have stated, the incarnation of Christ, is a divine mystery that we can only comprehend in part. Before His incarnation, Jesus existed eternally as God the Son in Heavenly Glory.

John 17:5 - 5 "And now, glorify Thou Me together with Thyself, Father, **with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.** NASB

In this state of glory Jesus existed as God in all His heavenly majesty. He is the agent of the Godhead in Creation and Providence, being the One “*by whom all things were created*” and also the One who now “*holds all things together.*”

Colossians 1:16 - 16 For **by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible,** whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — **all things have been created by Him and for Him.** 17 And He is before all things, and **in Him all things hold together.** NASB

In the eternal state of Deity, Jesus possessed the Sovereignty as God over everything. Myriads of angels attended Him, myriads of angels sang to the glory of His name. He always was exalted as head over all.

John 3:31 - 31 "**He who comes from above** is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. **He who comes from heaven** is above all NASB

So the idea then that Jesus would “stoop” down to earth and become a man is profound indeed. But this is exactly in what His Humility and Condescension consists. He left His highly exalted state to take of the flesh of man. Thomas Watson the beloved Puritan comments on this....

“What king would be willing to wear sackcloth over his cloth of gold? but Christ did not disdain to take our flesh. Oh the love of Christ!..... He stripped Himself of the robes of His glory and clothed Himself in the rags of our humanity!.... He came not in the majesty of a king, attended with his life-guard, but he came poor; not like the heir of heaven, but like one of an inferior descent. The place he was born in was poor; not the royal city Jerusalem, but Bethlehem, a poor obscure place. He was born in an inn, and a manger was his cradle, the cobwebs his curtains, the beasts his companions; he descended of poor parents....'God manifest in the flesh.' That man should be made in God's image was a wonder, but that God should be made in man's image is a greater wonder. That the Ancient of Days should be born, that he who thunders in the heavens should cry in the cradle; that he who rules the stars should suck the breast; that a virgin should conceive; that Christ should be made of a woman, and of that woman which himself made;Christ taking flesh is a mystery we shall never fully understand till we come to heaven...”

Jesus left the glory of Heaven to redeem those who had shamed His image, spurned His Holy Law, and rejected His fellowship....now in all of this we learn the virtues of Humility and Love! Jesus left the riches of heaven so that we could become rich with heavenly riches!

2 Corinthians 8:9-10 - 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, **that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor,** that you through His poverty might become rich. NASB

Here Humility shines upon us like a sunbeam! Watson goes on to comment on the reason why He came... “*That he might take our flesh, and redeem us; that he might instate us into a kingdom. He was poor, that he might make us rich. 2 Cor 8: 9. He was born of a virgin, that we might be born of God. He took our flesh, that he might give us his Spirit. He lay in the manger*

that we might lie in paradise. He came down from heaven, that he might bring us to heaven. And what was all this but love? If our hearts be not rocks, this love of Christ should affect us. Behold love that passeth knowledge! It was love in God the Father to send Christ, and love in Christ that he came to be incarnate. Love was the intrinsic motive. Christ is God-man, because he is a lover of man. Christ's taking flesh was a plot of free grace, and a pure design of love. God himself, though Almighty, was overcome with love. Christ incarnate is nothing but love covered with flesh. As Christ's assuming our human nature was a master-piece of wisdom, so it was a monument of free grace.... Christ took our flesh that he might make the human nature appear lovely to God, and the divine nature appear lovely to man." Consider how the Scripture describes this Condescension of Christ.....

Philippians 2:6-11 - 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 **but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.** NASB

Jesus was **"in the form of God"** and took the form of a man. He exchanged a body of perfection, for a frail body of pain and suffering. The Scripture describes this in verse 7 as **"emptying Himself."** He **"emptied Himself"** to come for us. And further, He **"took the form of a bond servant."** King Jesus left His Sovereign throne in Heaven to become a servant of rebel men! What wondrous love is O my soul! And what is more than this, read and fear, **"He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."** Now here is the lowest degree of Christ's humility....the Prince of Life was slain in death! Barnes comments on this.... *"when he became a man, he "emptied himself," or laid aside the symbols of his glory; now, when a man, he humbled himself. That is, though he was God appearing in the form of man--a Divine Person on earth--yet he did not assume and assert the dignity and prerogatives appropriate to a Divine Being, but put himself in a condition of obedience. For such a Being to obey law implied voluntary humiliation; and the greatness of his humiliation was shown by his becoming entirely obedient, even till he died on the cross."* Jesus' humility and obedience was of such steadfast character that He endured the scornful and degrading ordeal of crucifixion, all the way to the point of death. But obedience to death is not the end of the depth of Christ's Condescension. Yet even deeper shall we search, this **"death"** He died, having **"become sin"** for us! Jesus bore the wrath of God in our place, taking sin upon Himself.

2 Corinthians 5:21 - 21 He made **Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.** NASB

Consider that the pure and righteous Holy God of Heaven, the infinitely clean and undefiled spotless Son of God **"became sin on our behalf!"** This is a wonder of amazement! And this He did dying at the hands of godless men.... imagine this, a bleeding God.....O wonder!....Almighty God, the Creator of Life, slain by those He gifted with life, and this by willing submission.....

Luke 23:34 - 34 But Jesus was saying, **"Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."** And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves. NASB

Dear reader, hold your hand over your mouth.....and here learn the nature of true love and divine Humility! So here we see the great depth which Jesus plunged to redeem us from our sins. Let us not forget the great price which He paid for our benefit! Let us adore Him so much that we become like Him! Do you see Christ humbling Himself and will you be proud? Let us have this mind in us that was also in Him!

Philippians 2:3-5 - 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but **with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself;** 4 do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, NASB

Let us aspire to this heavenly virtue and learn to consider others as better than ourselves! Let us make a sacrifice of our time, money and convenience to serve others and be like Jesus!

The Savior – The Person of Jesus Christ

The Humility and Exaltation of Christ

The Exaltation of Christ – Jesus, the Highest Name

Jesus left the Glory of Heaven to humble Himself and become obedient to death on a cross. The Humility of Christ is an example of God's character like no other. But consider that the lowly state to which Christ humbled Himself is not fit for a king. Should Jesus remain in that low estate to which He condescended forever, even though the Scripture should promise that *“humility comes before honor?”* (Prov 15:33) **Jesus will of course be a man forever**, having taken the nature of man, but He shall not be a humbled man, but One who is greatly exalted.

Philippians 2:9-11 9 Therefore also **God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,** 10 that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. NASB

See here that God has exalted Christ **in His humanity and given Him a name among men** and angels which is *“above every name.”* Because Jesus became obedient to death to serve God's purpose in redemption as a man (Phil 2:6-11), God has *“therefore also highly exalted Him!”* Consider the *nature* of this exaltation, *“that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the father”* See here that now Jesus the man will be exalted by all His creatures, and they shall be made to publicly confess His Lordship and pay homage to His great name, and this to *“the glory of God the Father!”* Consider what a *contrast* this is with His humiliation at Calvary. Jesus, who was scorned, shamed and beaten to death by men, shall now be their exalted King and Sovereign Judge! Thomas Watson comments.. *“Christ shall judge his judges, he shall judge Pilate that condemned him; kings must leave their thrones and come to his bar. And this is the highest court of judicature, from whence is no appeal....See the different state of Christ on earth and in heaven. Oh how is the scene altered! When he was on earth, he lay in a manger; now he sits on a throne. Then he was hated and scorned of men; now he is adored by angels. Then his name was reproached; now, `God has given him a name above every name.’ Then he came in the form of a servant, and as a servant, stood with his basin and towel, and washed his disciples' feet; John 13:3, now he is clad in his princes' robes, and the kings of the earth cast their crowns before him. On earth he was a man of sorrows; now he is anointed with the oil of gladness. On earth was his crucifixion; now his coronation. Then his Father frowned upon him in desertion; now he has set him at his right hand. Before, he seemed to have no form or beauty in him; Isa 53:3; now he is in the brightness of his Father's glory. Heb 1:1. Oh what a change is here! `Him has God highly exalted.”*

Seated at God's Right Hand

The Scripture speaks in many places of His exaltation now at the *“right hand of God.”* The term *“right hand”* means that God has given Him the greatest honor, dignity, and power, as princes set the next in honor and authority to themselves at their right hands: It was esteemed the place of the highest honor to be seated at the right hand of a prince. So, to be seated at the right hand of God, means only that Jesus is exalted to the highest honor of the universe. So we are told in Scripture that when Jesus ascended into Heaven, He sat down at God's right hand!

Mark 16:19 - 19 So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, **He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.** NASB

Hebrews 12:2 - 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and **has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.** NASB

Further, He has now been seated at Gods' right hand and is awaiting the complete subjection of His enemies "***under His feet.***"

Psalm 110:1 - 110 The LORD says to my Lord: "**Sit at My right hand, Until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet.**" NASB

This place of honor is in fulfillment of Jesus prophecy to the Jews and the High Priest at His trial. There the Lord told them the truth, namely that they would see Him "sitting at the right hand" of God!

Matthew 26:62-65 - 63 But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest said to Him, "I adjure You by the living God, that You tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God." 64 Jesus said to him, "You have said it yourself; nevertheless I tell you, **hereafter you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power,** and coming on the clouds of heaven." NASB

The Scripture describes the full extent of this honor which the Father has bestowed upon Him. His Exaltation is of such nature that it is "***far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named.***" This is to say that the extent of His authority is infinite, being equaled to God Himself.

Ephesians 1:19-23 - 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might 20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and **seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. 22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,** 23 which is His body, the fulness of Him who fills all in all. NASB

So not only did He possess this Sovereignty from all eternity as God the Son, but now the **man** Christ Jesus sits at the throne of God with a name among His creatures that is exalted above every name! And they shall give Him the glory due His name, and not a single creature shall fail to glorify Him and confess His Sovereign Glory and pay homage to Him as King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

Revelation 5:9-14 - 9 And they sang a new song, saying, "**Worthy art Thou to take the book, and to break its seals; for Thou wast slain, and didst purchase for God with Thy blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. 10 "And Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."** 11 And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, "**Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."** 13 And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "**To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."** 14 And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped. NASB

Ruler of the Nations

What is more is that this man Christ Jesus will reign as King over all the earth from His throne in Jerusalem. Jesus will be the ruler of the nations of the earth, and ALL the nations will come and worship the Lord and acknowledge His Lordship. This will happen during the Millennium.

Psalm 86:9-10 - 9 **All nations whom Thou hast made shall come and worship before Thee, O Lord; And they shall glorify Thy name.** 10 For Thou art great and doest wondrous deeds; Thou alone art God. NASB

Psalm 22:27-28 - 27 All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, **And all the families of the nations will worship before Thee. 28 For the kingdom is the LORD'S, And He rules over the nations.** NASB

There will come a day yet future when God will establish Christ's throne and kingdom and He will rule all other nations. His kingdom will never end or be destroyed.

Daniel 7:27 - 27 "Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of *all* the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; **His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.**" NASB

Daniel 2:44 - 44 "And in the days of those kings **the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed**, and *that* kingdom will not be left for another people; **it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.** NASB

In this Kingship, all the nations of the earth will come and pay homage to Jesus the King. This is God's warning to all the king's of the earth.

Psalms 2:8-12 - 8 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Thine inheritance, And the *very* ends of the earth as Thy possession. 9 **"Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron, Thou shalt shatter them like earthenware."** 10 Now therefore, **O kings, show discernment; Take warning, O judges of the earth.** 11 Worship the LORD with reverence, And rejoice with trembling. 12 **Do homage to the Son, lest He become angry, and you perish in the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled.** How blessed are all who take refuge in Him! NASB

Christ will yield exceeding great power over them and they shall live under His rule or be destroyed. He will Judge the nations with justice and they will obey Him.

Psalms 110:5-6 - 5 The Lord is at Thy right hand; **He will shatter kings in the day of His wrath. 6 He will judge among the nations.** He will fill *them* with corpses, He will shatter the chief men over a broad country. NASB

The kings of the earth will be in subjection to Him and will serve Him. The extent of this rule will be worldwide including men from every tribe and language.

Psalms 72:10-11 - 10 Let the kings of Tarshish and of the islands bring presents; The kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts. 11 And **let all kings bow down before him, All nations serve him.** NASB

Daniel 7:13-14 - 13 "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. 14 **"And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations, and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.** NASB

Zechariah 14:16-20 - 16 Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths. 17 And it will be that **whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them.** 18 And if the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no *rain will fall* on them; it will be the plague with which the LORD smites the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths. 19 **This will be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.** NASB

His throne will be *located* in Jerusalem and from Mount Zion Jesus the King will reign over all the earth! At this time God will restore His people Israel to Himself, and they will dwell in the land of Israel which He promised to them.

Ezekiel 20:40-41 - 40 "For **on My holy mountain, on the high mountain of Israel,**" declares the Lord GOD, **"there the whole house of Israel, all of them, will serve Me in the land; there I shall accept them,** and there I shall seek your contributions and the choicest of your gifts, with all your holy things. NASB

Micah 4:7 - 7 "I will make the lame a remnant, And the outcasts a strong nation, And **the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion From now on and forever.** NASB

Ezekiel 37:21-22 - 21 "And say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD," Behold, I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; 22 and **I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them;** and they will no longer be two nations, and they will no longer be divided into two kingdoms. NASB

There God's people Israel will have Peace as the Prince of Peace their Messiah has brought them great security.

Zechariah 14:8-11 - 8 And it will come about in that day **that living waters will flow out of Jerusalem,** half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter. 9 And **the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one.** 10 All the land will be changed into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem; but **Jerusalem will rise and remain on its site** from Benjamin's Gate as far as the place of the First Gate to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's wine presses. 11 And **people will live in it, and there will be no more curse, for Jerusalem will dwell in security.** NASB

So it will be in the latter days, Jesus the King will be highly exalted in the sight of all nations and kingdoms, and they will give Him glory and serve Him. This will happen during the Millennium, the 1000 year period of Christ physical Rule upon the earth with His Saints. During this time Satan will be bound and have no influence upon mankind.

Revelation 20:1-3 - And I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. 2 And **he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years**, 3 and threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, so that he should not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time. NASB

Toward the end of the Millennium, there will be a final rebellion against Christ by the nations, at which time He will destroy them forever, along with Satan. This will be the final doom of Satan and all the wicked, and the Eternal State will be ushered in.

Revelation 20:7-10 - 7 And when the thousand years are completed, **Satan will be released from his prison, 8 and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war**; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. 9 And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and **fire came down from heaven and devoured them**. 10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. NASB

In this Eternal State there will no longer be any sin in God's Kingdom and the inhabitants of the earth will rest in peace forever.

Revelation 21:24-27 - 24 And the nations shall walk by its light, and **the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it**. 25 And in the daytime (for there shall be no night there) its gates shall never be closed; 26 and **they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it**; 27 and nothing unclean and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. NASB

To clarify questions of timing and distinctions between the Millennium and the Eternal State, please see the chart below.

