JESUS, THE SON OF GOD

**DATE: 6/26/2013 Wed.**

**TEXT: Hebrews 1:2b-3**

**INTRODUCTION**

The one most distinct characteristic of the Lord Jesus is that …

He is, The Son of God!

**v. 2** begins with the declaration that ***“God”*** …

***… “Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His******Son”***

In our last study we considered this part of the verse and thought about How God Speaks

Let’s look at it again and pay special attention to the phrase ***“His Son”***

You will notice that the personal pronoun ***“His”*** is in *italics*

Indicating that it was added by the translators

(Italicize Words, not found in the manuscripts, but added to make the passage make sense in the English)

It literally reads that God has Spoken ***“unto us by… Son”***

God has many sons

I’m a son of God; you’re a son of God

Everyone who is genuinely saved, is a son of God

The Bible says in **John 1:12 –**

***“But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name:”***

**I John 3:1** says - ***“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:”***

When we got saved, we became sons of God

However, the writer of Hebrews is not talking about saved people in general

God has spoken ***“by His Son”***

He is talking about Jesus, the Divine Son

The words ***“by His Son”*** denote equality

The Bible says in **John 1:1 –**

***“In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, and the Word was God”***

What Great Truth we can glean from **John 1:1 -**

***“In the beginning was the Word”***

- This is the Eternal Jesus

***“And the Word was with God”***

- This is the Personality of Jesus

***“And the Word was God”***

- This is the Deity of Jesus

- Jesus was in the beginning *with* God indicating that He is co-eternal with God

- Jesus was *with* God indicating that He is co-existent with God

- Jesus was God indicating that He co-equal with God

Jesus, *as* The Son of God, is a Declaration of His Deity

When I use the word *deity* I am referring to the Nature and Essence (Most important feature) of the Lord Jesus

He is not *A* son of God

He is *THE* Son of God (The Definite Article, The One and Only)

Once the writer of Hebrews declares that Jesus is The Son of God,

He then shows us the Uniqueness of Jesus and how He is without Equal

Let’s pray and then think on this thought -

***“Jesus The Son of God”***

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, he speaks of Jesus as -

**I. THE “REGAL” SON OF GOD**

I use the word **“Regal”** to stress the Uniqueness of Jesus as The Son of God

When we are talking about something **“Regal”**

We are talking about …

The Characteristic of someone suitable for a king,

(Especially in grandeur or magnificence)

As the Eternal and Divine Son of God …

Jesus is without Peer

His Royal Character is seen in -

**A. His ‘Preeminence’**

His Preeminence is declared in the statement …

**v.2b - *“whom He hath appointed heir of all things”***

The Bible speaks of how, you and I, as sons of God, are spiritual heirs

**Hebrews 1:14** says that we are ***“heirs of salvation”***

**Romans 8:17** says **–** ***“And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ”***

As sons of God, we are heirs of the many wonderful things *in* or *with* (or because of) Christ Jesus

Yet, Jesus is Preeminent, in that, He is the heir of ***“all things”***

By virtue of His Sonship, God has made Him heir of all that the Father possesses …

All things have been given to Him

The Bible tells us in **Colossians 1:16** –

***“For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him”***

He holds the Title-Deed to the Universe

This Universe belongs to Him (He actually owns ALL things)

One day He will Rule and Reign over that which has been given to Him by the Father

In this, we see …

**His ‘Preeminence’**

His Royalty is also seen in …

**B. His ‘Person’**

Notice the words in **v. 3 –** *“****Who being the brightness of His Glory, and the express image of His Person”***

In **John 14:9** Jesus said ***“he that hath seen Me hath seen the Father”***

In Jesus, God the Son, we see God the Father

**1.** Note the words ***“express image”***

They are actually one word in the Greek

We get our English word *“character”* from this Greek word

It was a word that was used to speak of a tool for engraving

When the Bible says that Jesus was the ***“express image”*** of God …

It is saying that, Jesus revealed in His Person …

The very Nature and Character of God

As an engraving, on a die or seal, is an exact image of the engraving or seal itself …

So Christ is the *visible* image of the *invisible* God

Jesus is the exact reproduction of God Himself

He is the perfect copy

Now, let me be very clear that Jesus is not a reproduction or copy

He is God Himself

Jesus became man, but He *never* became God

*He is God and always has been God*

When He became man, He gave us, in flesh, a reproduction or copy of God

We not only see God’s ***“express image”*** … but …

**2.** In Jesus we see the ***“brightness”*** of God’s Glory

This brightness is what theologians call the *effulgence* of God’s glory

Effulgence - brightness or a brilliant light radiating from something (or in this case, Someone)

This ***“brightness”*** refers to the light of God’s glory

The Nicene Creed affirms Jesus to be -

*“Light of Light, Very God of Very God”*

The Bible says in **I John 1:5 –**

***“that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all”***

In Jesus we see the Absence of Darkness and Fullness of Light

As light which proceeds from the sun is of the same essence as the sun …

So says the Lord Jesus in **John 8:42 –**

***“I proceeded forth and came from God”***

Jesus in His person, is the Father in all the Light of His Glory,

And as man, He has showed us that glory

**His ‘Preeminence’**

**His ‘Person’**

His Royalty is seen in …

**C. His ‘Power’**

His Power is Magnified in that He is Declared to be the

Creator of the world

**1.** At the end of **v. 2** we read ***“by Whom also He made the worlds”***

One of the great examples of His Power is His Ability to Create

The Bible tells us in **John 1:3 –**

***“All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made”***

The Ability to Create belongs to God and God alone

The fact that Jesus Creates is another indication that He is God

Jesus Created everything, both spiritual and material

The Bible says in **Genesis 1:1 –**

***“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth”***

There is no contradiction here

Jesus is God; therefore He is the Creator of all things

Consider the Vastness of our Universe

If you could somehow put 1.2 million earths inside the sun,

You would have room left for 4.3 million moons

The sun is 865,000 miles in diameter and is 93 million miles from the earth

Our next nearest star, Alpha Centauri, is 5 times larger than our sun

Comparatively the moon is only 211,463 miles away

But it would still take you 27 years to walk to it

Light travels at 186,000 miles per second

Therefore a beam of light would reach the moon in only 1 1/2 seconds

If we could travel at that speed, it would take 2 minutes and 18 seconds to reach Venus, 4 1/2 minutes to reach Mercury, 1 hour and 11 seconds to reach Saturn, and so on

To reach Pluto, 2.7 billion miles from earth, would take nearly 4 hours

Having got that far, we still would be well inside our own solar system

The North Star is 400 trillion miles away,

But is still considered relatively close in relation to known space

The star Betelgeuse is 880 quadrillion miles (880 followed by fifteen zeroes) from us

It’s believed to have a diameter of 250 million miles, which is larger than the earth's orbit

Where did it all come from? Who conceived it? Who made it? It’s not an accident

Somebody had to make it, and the Bible tells us the Maker was Jesus Christ (Didn’t just evolve!)

The word that is translated ***“worlds”*** in **v.2** actually means *age* or *ages*

Jesus not only created the physical planet we live on

But He is also responsible for creating time, space, energy, and matter

The very things that make up all the planets

Christ created the whole universe and everything that makes it function

Notice in **v. 3** that Jesus is not only the Creator of all things,

**2.** But He is also ***“upholding all things by the word of His power”***

The word ***“upholding”*** means *to support, to maintain*

The words are in the present tense

Meaning that even at this very moment Jesus is doing just that

Scientists will tell you that the earth operates on a very delicate balance of laws

These laws are often referred to as the laws of nature

We are going to call them the Laws of Creation!

They say if these laws were altered in the smallest degree it would result in chaos

For Example -

- The sun has a surface temperature of 12,000 degrees F

If it were any closer, we would burn up

If it were any farther away, we would freeze

- Our globe is tilted on an exact angle of 23 degrees,

Providing us with the four seasons

If it were not so tilted, vapors from the oceans would move north and south and develop into monstrous continents of ice

- If the moon did not retain its exact distance from the earth …

The ocean tides would inundate the land completely, twice a day

- If the oceans were merely a foot deeper than they are …

Then the carbon dioxide and oxygen balance of the earth's atmosphere would be completely upset …

And no animal or plant life could exist

- If the atmosphere did not remain at its present density …

But thinned even a little, many of the meteors which now harmlessly burn up when they hit the atmosphere would hit the earth …

We would have to live underground

What keeps the earth at the exact tilt necessary to sustain life?

What keeps the oceans within their boundaries?

And the atmosphere at the density needed for life?

The question is not what, but Who!

The Lord Jesus not only created this world,

But He is the one who holds it all together

How foolish it is for men to think differently!

**THE “REGAL” SON OF GOD**

**II. THE “REDEEMING” SON OF GOD**

We continue in **v. 3** and notice the phrase –

***“when He had by Himself purged our sins”***

**Song:** “It Took a Miracle” - *My Father is omnipotent, And that you can’t deny; A God of might and miracles—‘Tis written in the sky. It took a miracle to put the stars in place, It took a miracle to hang the world in space; But when He saved my soul, Cleansed and made me whole, It took a miracle of love and grace.*

It was a wondrous work when Jesus created the worlds

Yet, it was an even greater work when He saved our poor hell-deserving souls

Jesus is not only the REGAL Son of God

But He is also the REDEEMING Son of God

Let’s look closer at His work as Redeemer

First, we see -

**A. The ‘Personal Nature’ of His Redeeming Work**

You will note carefully that the work of redeeming us was done by ***“Himself”*** (Middle of v.3)

***“when He had by Himself purged our sins”***

Salvation could not have been Bought or Accomplished by any other than Jesus

I love the song *“Oh What a Saviour”*

However, there is a line in the song that is not Scriptural

It’s the line *“they searched through heaven and found a Saviour”*

Friend, there was no search

There was no need to search

There was only One qualified to be the Redeemer and that was Jesus!

Only the sinless One, who becomes a substitute for sinful ones, could qualify to be the Redeemer of man

Someone that is guilty cannot take the place of another that is guilty

The Bible says in **I Corinthians 5:21 –**

***“For He (God) hath made Him (Jesus) to be sin for us, Who (Jesus) knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him”***

The Bible says in **Hebrews 9:26 –**

***“For then must He often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself”***

**Himself!** Jesus alone, the sacrifice for sin

Only Jesus could take our place!

**The ‘Personal Nature’ of His Redeeming Work**

**B. The ‘Purifying Nature’ of His Redeeming Work**

Look again in **v.3** and see it says He ***“purged our sins”***

The purging of our sins speaks of the taking away of our sins

When John the Baptist introduced Jesus, he declared,

***“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world”* - John 1:29**

Praise God, through Jesus our sins are gone!

The purging of our sins is more than just our sins being forgiven

The idea behind purification is that we are not only personally cleansed of sin

***“to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”* – I John 1:9**

But it is as if we Never sinned at all!

Therefore we are clean in God’s sight

When someone offered a sacrifice in the OT they would place their hand upon the head of the sacrifice

This was a symbolic act that said –

*“I am placing all my sin upon this sacrifice”*

It also said –

*“I am taking on myself the virtues of this sacrifice that is without spot or blemish”*

Salvation is not only accepting the death of Christ for your sins

But it is also an act whereby we are accepted in the Beloved

Because in Christ we have no sin!

When God looks at us, He sees us in His Son and sees us without spot and blemish

**Ill.** I read about a cemetery not far from New York City, where there is a grave, which has inscribed upon its headstone just one word - *“Forgiven”.* There is no name, no birth or death date. The stone is unembellished by a sculptor's hand. There is no epitaph, no eulogy - just that one word, *“Forgiven”*

I would submit unto you that that is the greatest thing that can be said of any man

Praise God I can say that I am forgiven!

**Quote:** George Henderson said - *“From all eternity He wore the insignia of royalty; as the universal Heir He assumed the crowns of creation and providence; but, stooping to Calvary with those glittering crowns on His brow He acquired yet another—the crown of redemption; a crown which is studded with jewels picked up from the mire of earth and which is the brightest of them all.”*

**THE “REGAL” SON OF GOD**

**THE “REDEEMING” SON OF GOD**

**III. THE “REIGNING” SON OF GOD**

Again in **v. 3** we read that having accomplished our redemption …

Jesus - ***“sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high”***

Four times in the book of Hebrews it says that Jesus is *seated at the right hand of God*

In these words we see Jesus (as we shall see Him often in the book of Hebrews) in a priestly role

The Bible says in **Hebrews 3:1 –**

***“Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus”***

Jesus is our High Priest

As we continue to look at **v. 3** we see that He is -

**A. A ‘Seated’ Priest**

**v. 3** tells us that He is seated at the right hand of God

As a seated Priest, we are reminded that He has finished the work of redemption

You will notice carefully that **v. 3** tells us that once He had purged our sins, He ***“sat down”***

In **Hebrews 10:11-12**, we read –

***“And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God.”***

In the OT, no priest ever sat down in the Most Holy Place

The reason was their work was never done

However, when Jesus offered Himself as the sacrifice for sin, He sat down

It Signified that Salvation was Complete, and the Work of Redemption was Finished

Salvation is not based on what we have done, but on what He has done

**Quote:** D. L. Moody once said to a man who was arguing with about how to be saved, *“The difference between what you believe and what I believe is two letters. Yours is ‘do” and mine is ‘done.”*

**Song:** I think of the story behind the writing of P.P. Bliss’ hymn *“Hallelujah, ‘Tis Done.”* It is told that an old man was ve­ry anx­ious about the sal­va­tion of his wife, and asked the preacher to vi­sit her. He did so re­peat­ed­ly, and ex­plained to her in ve­ry sim­ple words the plan of sal­va­tion, but she could not com­pre­hend the mean­ing of the mes­sage. Ev­ery time he left, how­ev­er, she would ex­press a strong de­sire for him to re­turn. One day he went to see her, and as before, talked to her about Je­sus, but again, no success. Then a thought struck him to sing some­thing to her, and so he com­menced, ‘’Tis the prom­ise of God, full sal­va­tion to give.’ When he was through the cho­rus, she ex­claimed ‘Sing it over again.’ He did so, time af­ter time. She began to sing it with him and as she did the light dawned on her dark mind. Her face light­ed up with ho­ly joy as she ex­claimed ’Hal­le­lu­jah, ’tis done! I do be­lieve in the Son; I am saved.’ Just then her hus­band walked in for his din­ner, and she shout­ed out to him, ‘Ah! I’ve got it! Hal­le­lu­jah! ’tis done!’ “*Tis the promise of God, full salvation to give, Unto him who on Jesus, His Son, will believe. Hallelujah, ’tis done! I believe on the Son; I am saved by the blood of the crucified One; Hallelujah, ’tis done! I believe on the Son; I am saved by the blood of the crucified One”*

**A ‘Seated’ Priest**

**B. A ‘Sovereign’ Priest**

Notice carefully Where Christ is seated

He is seated at the - ***“right hand of the Majesty on high”***

The word ***“Majesty”*** speaks of *God’s greatness*

The ***“right hand”*** is the Place of Power and Authority

Jesus is seen sitting as The Ruler

Sitting on the right hand of God, He is seen Ruling and Reigning

The Bible says in **Philippians 2:7-11**, that Jesus -

***“…made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:” “And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name:” “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth,” “And things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”***

As the Resurrected and Exalted Son of God,

He sits at the right hand of God as the Ruling and Reigning Son of God

As the Ruling and Reigning One, He is Lord!

Because He is Lord, every person should bow before Him and acknowledge His Lordship

**Ill.** When Alexander the Great was coming with his army against Jerusalem, Jaddus the high priest went out to meet him. He was adorned with his priestly robes, an upper garment of purple embroidered with gold, and a golden plate on the foreside, wherein the Name of God was written. The sight was so grave and solemn, that the Emperor fell to the ground in reverence.

**THE “REGAL” SON OF GOD**

**THE “REDEEMING” SON OF GOD**

**THE “REIGNING” SON OF GOD**

Jesus the Reigning Son of God deserves the same from each one of us

He deserves nothing less than our Total and Absolute Submission

The one most distinct characteristic of the Lord Jesus is …

That He is, The Son of God!

God … ***“Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His******Son”***

He is not *A* son of God

He is *THE* Son of God (The One and Only)

Let’s give Jesus all the Honor and Glory and Praise He deserves as GOD THE SON!