

Jan 29, 2012

## Supremacy of Christ

(Isaiah 41:1-4, Psalm 110, Rev 5:1-14, John 1:29-34, Jeremiah 10:6-10, Acts 17:22-31)

Many of us do not fully understand "Supremacy of Christ" - what great a name He has and what great works He has done. Therefore, we lead a life without His purpose and without His fruit. Apostle Paul realized that the knowledge of Jesus Christ is surpassingly great. Paul lived his life teaching the Supremacy of Christ - Christ is all we need. Christ is the image of GOD, who is the 1<sup>st</sup> and the last (Isaiah 41:1-4), the Lord sent by the LORD (Psalm 110), the slaughtered Lamb worthy of power, praise and glory (Revelation 5:1-4), the Chosen one of GOD to be the Savior (John 1:29-34), the one and only King of all nations (Jeremiah 10:6-10), and finally the most high GOD (Acts 17:22-31). We must know the SUPREMACY OF CHRIST - that Christ is superior to Angles, greater than Moses, greater than Melchizedek as explained in the book of Hebrews. We must also know our role as GOD's creation and followers of Christ. Like Paul, we must say, "to live is Christ" (Philippians 2:21). We must realize the supremacy of Jesus and magnify Him in and through our lives.

In the Old Testament we find God revealing prophecies to His prophets and then sending them to prophesy to His people. John the Baptist who had the spirit of Elijah is the last prophet. God the Father revealed His son to John the Baptist like He revealed it to other prophets also. He told him how to identify His Son. God the Father revealed to John the Baptist that the one upon whom the Holy Spirit descends is the Son of God. In this way John had the knowledge of the Son of God. He learnt that Jesus was the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world and that He was far superior to him. He lived as a witness for all that is revealed to him regarding the Son of God Jesus. John the Baptist lived as a burning lamp giving the light of the supremacy of Jesus Christ preparing the way for Him. He had poured his life as an offering to God by dying for Him. In the same way apostle John is witnessing to the supremacy of Jesus Christ, which God has revealed to him.

The Bible is the revealer of the glory of God. Peter, John, Paul, Matthew, Mark and Luke who saw the glory of the Son of God, have described it in their books. Even the prophets saw the glory of the Son of God (John 12:41). John described the glory as the glory of the only begotten of the Father (John 1:14). Peter described it as the excellent glory and honor received from the Father (2 Pet 1:17). Paul described it as the unapproachable light (1 Tim 6:16). In this way they lived declaring what they heard and saw, and thereby glorifying Him.

Apostle John in his later years of life as an Exile in the island of Patmos saw the glory of the exalted Christ. He wrote about that and the things that would happen in the future when God told him to write and that is the book of Revelation. Dr. Warren Wiersbe said that Revelation is the book which had an inspired outline of the book (Rev 1:19). In the first chapter we find what John saw, in the second and third chapters we find the things which are and in 4-22 chapters we have the things which shall be here after.

In his vision God called John to come to heaven and revealed how heaven would be opened after the church age and how the believers would be caught up in the clouds at the blowing of the trumpet and how the judgment would begin after that. Before his anger is poured on the earth God is allowing us to see the glory of the heaven and the worship service in heaven. In the fourth chapter we find everyone worshipping God as the majestic Creator of all. In the fifth chapter we see people worshipping Him as the Redeemer. Different people interpret the book of Revelation in different ways. But all agree that John is describing the glory and the sovereignty of God. The word throne occurs in the book of Revelation 46 times. So God is the sovereign who rules the universe with His might.

In this chapter the scroll with the seven seals is like a title deed of the promise of the Father to the Son. God the Father gave His son this authority because of what the Son has done on the Cross (Hebrew 1:2). He is our kinsman redeemer who is willing to redeem us by giving His life as ransom (Lev 25:23-46, Jer. 32:1-6). He alone is worthy of opening the seals. If the seals are not opened, the work of redemption of mankind will not be complete. That's why we see John weeping. But praise God we have Jesus who can open the seals of the scroll and He redeemed us. In this chapter we find John seeing in vision Jesus being worshipped because of who He is (5-7), because of where He is (v6), because of what He does (8-10) and because of what He has (11-14). What John saw he recorded so that we too can have a glimpse of the glories of heaven with Jesus receiving honor and worship.

Only those who are born again can see the glories of Heaven and the glory of the Sovereign Lamb of God in all power, wisdom and might. Those who had the vision of Jesus can never keep quiet or can keep themselves from falling down and worship Him. Those who ask Him whole-heartedly to open their eyes to see those things which God prepared for those who love Him, He will open their eyes like He opened the eyes of Bartimaeus. May God help us to do that and realize how supreme Lord Jesus is!

### **Life Application:**

Are we able to see and help others see the Supremacy of Christ?

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