



Colossians 1:15-20

The Supremacy of Jesus Christ Part 3

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Matthew 16:13-15

*Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 He said to them, “**But who do you say that I am?**”*

Colossians 1:15-20

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Colossians 1:15-20

18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

V15-16 Who is Jesus?

He is the image of the invisible God

- This is not teaching Jesus is “like” God (Is 46:9)
- Jesus is the image of the invisible God because **Jesus is God** (Col 1:19, 2:9, Matt 1:23, Heb 1:3, John 1:1-18, John 10:30, John 14:6-10)

The firstborn of all creation

- This is not teaching that Jesus is a created being (Is 9:6, Ps 89:27)
- Jesus is the heir of all things and preeminent over all creation (Col 1:15a, 1:16, Heb 1:1-2)

V15-16 Who is Jesus?

For by him all things were created, in heaven & on earth, visible & invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-all things were created through him & for him

For by him all things were created:

- **John 1:1-3** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*
- **Hebrews 1:2** *in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.*

All things (everything): in heaven & on earth, visible & invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities

All things were created through him & for him

- Jesus Christ is the reason (goal) for creation
- All things find their beginning in him and their purpose in him
- He is the end of all things

Jesus is fully God, He is the rightful heir of all things, He created all things, and all things were created for him.

V17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

He is before all things:

- Jesus Christ created all things (v16) and is therefore before all things (Eternal)
- God is eternal (Another deity statement showing Jesus is God)
- **John 1:1** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*
- **John 8:56-58** *Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” 57So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” 58Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” 59So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.*
- **John 17:5** *And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.*
- **Revelation 22:13** *I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”*
- Jesus Christ, being God, is before all things

Jesus

Jesus is God, he is the rightful heir of all things, he created all things and all things were created for him, and he is before all things:

What is his current relationship to all things? Did Jesus create the universe, set it in motion and then step back and wait to see what would happen?

- Are things randomly happening? Is there order/purpose in the universe? Are there such things as luck and chance?
- Remember what you believe about Jesus changes and impacts everything.

V17 in him all things hold together

- Jesus Christ is the upholder, sustainer of the universe and all that is in it
- **Hebrews 1:3** *He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds (carries/bears) the universe by the word of his power.*

Does the Bible teach us that God is sovereign over all things in the universe?

- **Psalms 135:6** *Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.*
- **Psalms 115:3** *Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.*
- **Isaiah 46:9-10** *I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, I declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'*

in him all things hold together

Nature: Psalm 147:8 *He covers the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain for the earth; he makes grass grow on the hills.*

- **Job 38:12** *Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place.*

Chance/Luck: Proverbs 16:33 *The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.*

Womb: Genesis 29:31 *When the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.*

Life and Death: Deut 32:39 *See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.*

Business: James 4:13-16 *Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— 14yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. 15Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” 16As it is, you boast in your arrogance.*

Daily Plans: Proverbs 19:21 *Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.*

in him all things hold together

Nations/Kings: Romans 13:1 *Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, those that exist have been instituted by God.*

- **Proverbs 21:1** *The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.*
- **Acts 17:26** *And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place*

Sin/Evil: James 1:13 *Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil and he himself tempts no one.*

Job 1:21-22, 2:10, 42:11/ Genesis 50:20/Ps 105:25/ Acts 2:23

Acts 4:27-28 *truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.*

- God hates evil and punishes evil, yet is sovereign over evil, and decrees evil to happen to accomplish good, while not being charged with sin or tempting anyone to sin.
- We must not allow our ability or inability to reconcile truths to be the determining factor of truth and our acceptance of truth (finite/infinite)

in him all things hold together

Salvation: Ephesians 1:4-6 *even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6to the praise of his glorious grace*

Acts 13:48 *And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.*

- God's sovereignty does not remove man's responsibility to repent and believe (rather its gives hope to helpless mankind)
- God's sovereignty in all things does not bring us to fatalism (Our decisions are real and we will be accountable for them)
- God's sovereignty brings great hope for the believer:
- **Romans 8:28** *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*

Jesus is fully God, rightful heir of all things, the creator of all things, all things were created for him, he is before all things and in him all things hold together.

- The only reasonable and proper response to these truths is to love him, serve him and worship him for who he is
- May God help us to see Christ, believe Christ and worship Christ