

**Hebrews 1: 8-12; “The Throne of Christ the Son”, Sermon # 5 in the series –
“Holding Fast our Confession”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on
December 30th, 2018, in the Morning Worship Service.**

I think that it needs to be understood by all Christians, whether you have known the Lord for years, or whether you are a babe in spiritual things; that your understanding of the Lord Jesus Christ; your comprehension of His goodness and love; as well as your understanding of His having been given the right by His Father to judge all things; this understanding is something that will grow in Your mind over time if you are a Christian. It will be a growing understanding, leading to growing convictions which you will act upon, and live by if you are wise. And it will also involve, then, your exercising faith in relation to your true knowledge of Him. Many people in our day have a view of the Lord Jesus Christ as someone who is just a man. To them He is the meek and mild Jesus. He would never lift His hand against any person in judgment. After all; didn't He say, “God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved?” (John 17: 17) This is true, but it is not the only truth that you should know about Christ if you would be saved from your sins.

It is true that the Lord Jesus was often demonstrating His power to gently teach, to heal, and to help people during the time of His earthly ministry. It is good to be able think about this and to behold the love and the mercy which He showed to helpless, needy, and sinful people; bringing salvation to many while He walked the earth. But I want us to look more deeply, more carefully at the fact that our Christ is the God-Man having a Mediatorial kingdom from His Father. In these verses, the writer sets before us the eternal power and divine attributes of God the Son, the One whom we now know as our Lord Jesus Christ, ruling over a spiritual and everlasting kingdom. I want to open up to you these descriptions of His glorious Person so that you will see that He has always had, and He always will have, the right to rule over all men and all things in human history. He has had that right for the following reasons. 1st of all – He has the right to rule because God the Father has decreed that His rule would be forever and ever. 2nd – He has the right to rule because He laid the foundation of the earth, and created also the heavens above. And 3rd – He has the right to rule because someday He will fold up the heavens and the earth like a cloak.

1st of all – The Lord Jesus Christ has the right to rule because God the Father has decreed that His rule would be forever and ever. (verse 8)

“But to the Son He says: ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.’” As I have said to you in past sermons; God the Son was, before time began. He was the only-begotten of the Father, and this begetting was an eternal begetting. He was brought forth as the Son within the Godhead and not something separate from it. He was the “Firstborn” before He ever came into this world as the Child of Mary. In His being begotten He was brought forth as the eternal Son of the Father, and He is rightly described as being “in the bosom of the Father” until His Incarnation. He had no body, no human nature, before His Incarnation. And so it will be good for us if we can think of Him as it is written of Him in John 1: 18 – “No one has seen God at any time.” “The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”

As a preface to opening up these words – This is the reason why worshipping artist's pictures of Jesus is unlawful. They not only do not perfectly represent what He looked like in His human body, but we in looking at them to find material for worship, cannot rightly think about His Deity when we are only gazing upon a picture drawn or painted by a man. When the eternal Son did become a man, He took to Himself a true human nature and human body. And from the time of His birth forward, to the end of His earthly ministry, He declared the Father's holiness, righteousness, and justice to those who sat in darkness. He was also declaring His and His

Father's love for undeserving, unworthy sinners, such as you and I. He had been held, as it were, "in the bosom of the Father", in the Father's very heart in this important sense that we are attempting to understand; that the whole purpose of God in electing love and saving grace was bound up in Him. The Son had been eternally existing in and with the Father, as the Word, the Logos of God; one with the Father. And so, when the Father sent the Lord Jesus into the World, it was the Father's giving Him, to demonstrate His love to sinful men, so that many people might believe in Him, and be saved from their sins. It was not at all a spontaneous sending; it was not at all a new thing to Him. But it was a new thing to all of mankind.

Titus chapter 3, verse 4 says – "But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy He saved us..." But this title of the Son, as being called the "Firstborn" in verse 6, is to be understood in relation to His having eternally existed in the everlasting kingdom of glory with the Father before the world began. It relates to His eternal dignity, and His greatness, and His glory as God the Son. As the Son of God, formed by the Holy Spirit in Mary's womb, He would come into the world to fulfill the decree by becoming a Man, and growing up in righteousness to fulfill all righteousness. He was born a child, and yet He was a Heavenly King, greater than all the kings of the earth. The decree which is mentioned here in verse 9 states – "Your throne, O God the Son, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom."

This is a direct quote from Psalm 45, verses 6 and 7. It shows us that our Lord Jesus Christ is most certainly and definitely both God and Man. The Mediatorial Kingdom of Christ; that kingdom which was given by the Father to the Son, from all eternity in the eternal decree, was based upon the position of His Divine Rulership which He had always held. "But to the Son, He (that is, the Father) says: 'Your throne, O God is forever and ever.'" But His being a King, He knew, would not be a reality which would be accepted by men unless His grace was at work in their hearts to bring them to an understanding, that by grace they wanted this Man to rule over them. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him." The King of the kingdom of God, the kingdom which was not of this world, would come to earth in His Incarnation with the purposed objective to accomplish the redemption of all of God's elect people. This Mediatorial kingdom was given to Christ the Messiah-King based upon the fact that His throne was already established in the heavens, from eternity past, but in His Incarnation He would actually come to earth and set up His kingdom.

Daniel chapter 2, and verse 44 says – "And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." And Daniel chapter 7, verses 13 and 14 say – "I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven!" "He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him." "Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him." "His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed." These are prophecies of Christ's Mediatorial Kingdom, and His throne which He would rule from, would be His spiritually ruling in the midst of His enemies, after He had come and suffered and bled and died for the sins of all of God's people.

"A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom." In other words, Christ would come to rule over all the kingdoms of this world through His loving righteousness and hating lawlessness, in fulfilling all righteousness on behalf of sinners everywhere. He fulfilled all righteousness in keeping God's law perfectly in respect to loving God His Father with all of His heart, and soul, and mind, and strength. And loving His neighbor as Himself. He reprovved God's enemies, the scribes and Pharisees, and rulers of Israel who would not receive His teaching of repentance and faith in Him. He suffered at their hands a most cruel death upon the

cross, and He was raised on the third day. But all of this was a part of the Father's plan that the Lord Jesus would rule all nations and all peoples in righteousness. In His resurrection God vindicated Him entirely from the unjust charges against Him, but at the same time, by His death, He made Him to be the substitutionary sacrifice for our sins in order that His justice might be totally satisfied, and sinners who believe in Him would be saved. This kingdom which Christ wields a scepter over, is the kingdom of His Church. It is the Church of the Firstborn whose names are registered in heaven, and in the Lamb's book of life.

This is why it says in verse 9 – Therefore, God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.” In Hebrews 12: 2 it says that the Lord Jesus, for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross and despised the shame and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” That is – upon the throne in heaven, where He presently rules and reigns over all men and all things during this whole Church age, He has great gladness in having accomplished our redemption and He has great gladness in applying it, unto our salvation. I wonder if you have thought upon this fact; that the Lord Jesus at the right hand of the Father has the oil of gladness more than His companions; that is more than all believing men and women, young people and children.

2nd – Jesus Christ our Lord has the right to rule because He laid the foundation of the earth, and created also the heavens above. (verse 10)

“And: You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands.” I would draw your attention to the little word, “And”. This little word, “And”, connects the Father's addressing His Son here as the One; who as a Man, loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; with His also being the One who in the beginning laid the foundations of the earth. The greatness and the majesty of our Lord Jesus deserve to be seen in light of this. It was through Christ that the Father laid the foundation of the earth. It was through and by Christ that the heavens were stretched out and put in their place. It was through and by Christ that the angels were created at that same time. Let us therefore draw this conclusion. If Christ has done these good things, should it be hard for you to see Him as the Author and Perfecter of your faith?

It will not be hard if you will only believe. If you have saving faith, you will be able by grace to set the Lord Jesus Christ before you always, in your mind's eye, as the One who upholds every aspect of Your life; your being, and your faith. It is not you, yourself with all of your efforts that does this. It is Christ and His powerful working in Your life. By the exceeding greatness of His power He not only created all things, but He upholds all things by the word of His power. He laid the foundation and created the heavens and earth in the Beginning. What a mighty work! But just as great is the work of the New Creation in your heart, and the work of sanctification in making you holy. The apostle Paul says in Ephesians 1: 15 says – “Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe...” Do you see Him in this majestic way as having all power to save you to help you and to keep you? Then you should ponder this great truth often and declare that it is so to others. He is not merely a man; He is also God who is Your Savior, Your Helper, and your Friend in everything.

Let's think for a few moments about His creation of the angels. He made them when He made the heavens, and they worshiped Him before the world was made. They were there when He drew a circle on the face of the great deep, and they sang for joy when the world was created. And when the Lord Jesus came into the world all the angels of God worshiped Him because they

knew of the great mission which the Father had sent Him on; but they still marveled that the Son of God; the king of the angels; their King, and the One who created them, should take on human flesh and live among men. These are the things which they longed to look into. They no doubt marveled at many points as they watched Him grow up as a young man; His needing to learn wisdom and obedience as a young boy, and a young man. They had been given charge over Him, from the Father, "to keep Him in all His ways." "In their hands they were to bear Him up, lest He dash His foot against a stone." (Psalm 91, verses 11 and 12).

And so how amazed the angels must have been when He went out into the wilderness, being led by the Holy Spirit to be tempted by the Devil. He had to fast for 40 days and 40 nights. The angels saw Him being confronted by Satan, the highest of the fallen angels, and they heard Satan quote this very passage to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down." "For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you, and in their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" This related to their holy work of caring and watching over their King, the Son of the Highest; their King of Glory. And they saw him pass the test that Adam did not, in the garden of Eden. He saw Him hold fast to the written word of God. He answered Satan three times with "It is written". "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" "It is written, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'" And, it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve." And after that; in the text in Matthew 4: 11, it says that "after the devil left Him, 'angels came and ministered to Him'".

Let us not despise the ministry of angels. They are ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation. They are not to be worshiped, but they are to be greatly respected. They are servants of the Almighty God. They are ministering spirits to do the bidding of our great King Jesus. He who is so much greater; infinitely greater than they are; does not despise to use their service. The Lord Jesus laid the foundations of the earth and they were there; singing for joy, as the morning stars at the dawn of creation. And they were there, too, at the time of His sufferings toward the end of His earthly ministry. At the very time when the Lord Jesus was agonizing in the garden; praying, "Father if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done;" an angel appeared to Him from heaven, it says in Luke 22: 43, "strengthening Him".

So, let us understand that the holy angels have a ministry, according to the will and purpose of God, "to strengthen" men and women who would serve their King Jesus, according to the will of God. You as a believer have much help in the spiritual realm if you are setting your mind and your heart to serve the King of Kings. If you are trusting in the Lord Jesus you are receiving the help of angels at many critical points in your life. See to it that you do not despise or forget their ministry. They may have to hide their holy eyes from your sins, and actually help in God's discipline of you if you do not walk in His ways; but they are there to help you and to deliver you from all outward evils.

"Jesus, King of angels, heaven's light, Shine Your face upon this house tonight. Let no evil come into my dreams; Light of heaven, keep me in Your peace. Remind me how You made dark spirits flee, And spoke Your power to the raging sea. And spoke Your mercy to a sinful man; Remind me, Jesus, this is what I am.

Chorus - *The universe is vast beyond the stars, But You are mindful when the sparrow falls, And mindful of the anxious thoughts That find me, surround me, and bind me*

With all my heart I love You, Sovereign Lord. Tomorrow, let me love You even more. And rise to speak the goodness of Your name Until I close my eyes and sleep again. Jesus, King of

angels, heaven's light, Hold my hand and keep me through this night. – **Fernando Ortega, Contemporary Christian artist.**

Let us see how much greater and more majestic is our Christ, than the angels. But let us not forget how the angels serve Him; the King of glory, so implicitly and lovingly that they perform service to Him and to us who will inherit salvation.

3rd – Our Lord Jesus Christ has the right to rule because someday He will fold up the heavens and the earth like a cloak.

Verse 12 says – “They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed.” “But You are the same, and Your years will not fail.” Since we have now seen that God the Son was the author of the first creation with God His Father in the beginning, I also want to set forth to you the truth that He will also be the One who brings this first creation to an end in a day which is coming. The heavens and the earth will perish, but the Lord Jesus Christ and all those believers who are with Him, will remain. Someday this physical earth and heavens will all grow old like a garment and like a cloak He will fold them up. But He is the same. He will always remain the same. Jesus Christ is same Yesterday, Today, and Forever.” In regard to these present heavens and earth, the Lord Jesus Christ is pictured as wearing them as a cloak or a garment. When He returns again, He will “take them off like a garment”, and “fold them up like a cloak”.

In a number of places in Scripture we see this truth of the creation being a garment stated. Let's turn to one of them. Psalm 104, verse 1. “Bless the Lord, O my soul!” “O Lord my God, You are very great; You are clothed with honor and majesty, Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, who stretch out the heavens like a curtain.” “He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, who make the clouds His chariot, who walks on the wings of the wind, Who make His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire.” “You who laid the foundations of the earth, so that it should not be moved forever, You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.” “At Your rebuke they fled; at the voice of Your thunder they hastened away.” “They went up over the mountains; they went down into the valleys, to the place which You founded for them.” “You have set a boundary that they may not pass over, that they may not return to the earth.”

It is the Lord Jesus Christ who did this in the creation. His Father's voice and His voice were together in the first words, “Let there be light.” The words “Lord God” are plural in this Psalm. Bless you Yahweh (or Jehovah)! My Yahweh Elohim; you are exceedingly great. This Yahweh Elohim is the Lord Jesus Christ we are told in Hebrews 1: 10-12. We are told here in this Psalm that He is clothed with honor and majesty, just as His Father, the first Person of the Divine Trinity. The light of creation which He spoke; He clothes Himself with it as a garment, and He stretched out the heavens in the creation at the beginning as a curtain. This curtain and the light of the Sun, Moon, and Stars are the garment with which He clothes Himself. He walks upon the wings of the wind and by all that He does; He is admired by the Holy Angels who are a “flame of fire for His Cause. He it is who laid the foundations of the earth so that they should not be moved forever. He covered the earth with the “seas” (the deep) as a garment.

All of these things, our text in Hebrews says, are something that He will change in the future. When, you ask me? On the Day that He returns. Proverbs Chapter 30, verse 4. “Who has ascended into heaven or descended?” “Who has gathered the wind in His fists?” “Who has bound the waters in a garment?” “Who has established all the ends of the earth?” “What is His name, and what is His Son's name, if you know?” Well, we should know by now. His name is Jesus. This is how the Lord Jesus Christ will change the creation as a garment. He will take it off by His walking on the wings of the wind in His Second Coming. He will come with the clouds and every eye shall see Him. All the dead will be raised when He returns. When He returns

personally and visibly in that Glorious and Majestic coming Day, He will come with all of His holy angels. He will make His ministers, the angels, a flame of fire.

You see, when King Jesus returns it will be the last Day of the World as we know it now. It will be glorious for all of Christ's saints to finally see Him as He is. Christ will then judge the world, and we will judge it with Him. "Do you not know that we will judge angels?", it says in 1st Corinthians 6: 2 and 3. When Christ is judging the world, He will say to the righteous, "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." And then He, our Great God and King, shall refine the earth, which He had made in the creation, the earth that He created so "that it should not be moved", as it says in Psalm 104. This present heavens and earth, as Peter says, will be dissolved by fire. "The heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up." The cloak of the light of the Sun shall be folded up; the garment of the waters and the seas shall all be dried up; the works of all men on the face of the earth shall be burned up; and the Lord having taken off this cloak of the first creation, which He has upheld for these thousands of years; He shall reveal the greatness of His glory in making a New Heavens and Earth in which dwells righteousness.

This is what all of the present creation is longing for now. Our blessed Lord Jesus Christ shall orchestrate all these events, and all these glorious changes. The old creation will all pass away; the stars in the heavens shall fall from the sky. But Christ's throne will be forever and ever. Those who have trusted in the Promise of salvation in Jesus, and have wanted the Lord Jesus to rule over them, shall know the joy of being changed to be like Him. We shall be changed in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye; at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound and dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." "For the Lord Himself will descend with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God." "And the dead in Christ will rise first." "Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air." "And thus we shall always be with the Lord."

1st Corinthians 15: 24 says – "Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power." "For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet." "the last enemy that will be destroyed is death." "For He has put all things under His feet." "But when He says, "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted." "Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all." And the throne of the Son will be forever and ever joined to the Father, that God may be all in all. How great this truth will be, will take us forever to search it out.