

• *Jesus as David's descendent is the final possessor of the priesthood and kingship of Jerusalem*

### 1. Jesus enthroned and reigning as King

• *Worldwide in scope and without end*

• *At the Father's right hand*

• *Above all rule and authority*

### 2. Jesus' kingship does not lead to immediate victory

• *It has already started*

• *Victory is on its way*

### 3. One day the victory will be total

• *Sin and Satan and death will be abolished*

• *His people share his rule with him*

Jesus is the one for whom David was looking. He is the final heir of the priestly kingship enjoyed by Melchizedek of Jerusalem. The unique royal priesthood was inherited by King David when he took over the city of Jerusalem. Jesus as David's descendant and heir is the final possessor of the priesthood-and-kingship of Jerusalem, that may be traced all the way back to the shadowy figure of Genesis 14 whom Abraham acknowledged as greater than himself.

**1. Jesus has been enthroned as King and is now reigning as King.** He was 'born king of the Jews' but his kingship is worldwide in scope. The Lord gives him the throne of his father David; his kingdom will have no end. God has raised up for David a king who will reign wisely and who will do what is just and right <sup>☞1</sup>.

'I will appoint him my firstborn', said Psalm 89:27. He is 'the most exalted of the kings of the earth'. The kingly power of Jesus commenced when he was anointed by the Spirit in the River Jordan. From that point forward he began to drive back the kingdom of Satan. 'If I by the Spirit of God cast out demons, then certainly the kingdom of God has come upon you', he said <sup>☞1</sup>. A further step of victory was taken on the cross. 'Now shall the prince of this world be thrown out', he said <sup>☞2</sup>. He devastated 'principalities and powers' and 'triumphed over them' <sup>☞3</sup>. Then he rose from the dead and ascended to take his throne. His 'appointment' as King of the universe took place at the time of Jesus' resurrection-ascension. The stone the builders rejected became the head of the corner <sup>☞4</sup>. He was 'exalted to the right hand of the Father' at that point <sup>☞5</sup>. Paul says he was 'raised...and seated...far above all rule and authority, power and dominion...And God placed all things under his feet' (Ephesians 1:19-23; see also Philippians 2:9; Colossians 2:10; 3:1; 1 Peter 3:22; Revelation 3:21). It is this theme that will be taken up throughout the letter to the Hebrews <sup>☞6</sup>.

**2. The kingship of the Lord Jesus Christ does not lead to immediate victory.** The kingship of the Lord Jesus Christ does not commence at the time of his second coming. It has started already! Yet there is a time gap before all enemies are put down. 'Sit at my right hand, until...'. There are many things to happen, and Jesus is exercising his kingship 'until' they take place. Victory is on its way. Pagan darkness must be totally overcome. There was a time when the entire world was in darkness, in ignorance of God. But the whole world is getting to hear about Jesus, the Son of God. Jesus is raising and exalting his church, not some man-made organization, but the company of all who know Jesus as Saviour and Lord. He has set apart the true church for himself and he is cleansing it, washing it with his word, until his church is ready for him to come.

**3. One day the victory will be total.** The picture is one of enemies prostrate on the floor before a conqueror who places his feet on them as a sign of their total humiliating defeat. Joshua 10:24 gives us a good illustration of the kind of picture involved. Jesus must go on reigning until he has abolished sin and thrown the devil into the lake of fire. Then at last there will be no Satan in the new heavens and new earth in which dwells righteousness. The last enemy is death itself. Death itself will die and there will be no more death. Jesus will reign supreme and will hand the kingdom to the Father. Meanwhile he goes on ruling in this world, using his people who share his rule with him. He stays ever youthful. Like the life-giving dew he retains youthful energy, as full of power as he was on the day of his

☞1

Matthew 2:2;  
Luke 1:32;  
Jeremiah 23:5

☞1 Luke 11:20

☞2 John 12:31

☞1

Colossians 2:15

☞3 1:2

☞4

Psalm 118:22

☞5 Acts 2:33;

5:31

☞6 see

especially 2:5-9;  
10:12; 12:2

• *The earth filled with God's glory*

ascension. Soon all enemies will be put down and the earth will be full of the glory of God – for ever.

• *The position of angels?*

If angels are junior to the Lord Jesus Christ and Jesus is vastly superior to them (as Hebrews 1:1–13 has argued), it leaves an obvious question to be answered: what then is the position and status of the angels? In Hebrews 1:14, the writer answers the question. *Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to do service for the sake of those who shall inherit salvation?* Angels are 'spirits', non-material beings.

• *Angels work for Jesus to help his people*

They are famous for worship, humility and obedience. Our letter to the Hebrews is especially concerned to emphasize that the angels are servants. They are not lords of creation. Neither salvation nor redemption is specially designed for them. They are ministering spirits sent forth to do service. They work for Jesus and for his people, 'those who shall inherit salvation'. How do they minister to us?

(i) *Unusual help to sustain us*

(i) They sustain us. Just as angels came to help Jesus when he was exceptionally hungry and had been attacked by Satan, so we may believe they do the same for us <sup>☞1</sup>. We may not always be conscious of their presence but when we find we are given unusual help it may well be that angels have been at work.

(ii) *Protection*

(ii) They protect and preserve God's people <sup>☞2</sup>. They come at times to deliver us and rescue, when the need arises <sup>☞3</sup>.

(iii) *Intercession*

(iii) Although we should never try to pray with or to an angel, yet there is reason to think that secretly – and without involving us – they intercede for God's people (as Zechariah 1:12 shows us). They are secretly involved in the prayers of the saints according to Revelation 8:3, 4.

(iv) *Immediately after death*

(iv) The angels minister to the righteous immediately after death <sup>☞4</sup>. The intention of the angels in all of this is to help the people of God get to their final 'salvation', their final reward in heavenly glory.

• *Jesus, God himself appears before God he Father on our behalf*

We must remember everything we are reading here when we get into later sections of the letter to the Hebrews. The greatness of what Jesus does for us is determined by the greatness of who he is. Angels are just servants instructed to hide themselves. But the One who died upon the cross, the One who presented his blood in the heavenly sanctuary, the One who ever lives to make intercession for us, is no ordinary man. He is not even an angel. He is God himself, appearing before God, on our behalf!

☞1 see  
Matthew 4:11;  
Luke 22:43;  
1 Kings 19:5

☞2  
Genesis 16:7;  
24:7;  
Exodus 23:20;  
Revelation 7:1

☞3 see  
Genesis 48:16;  
Numbers 20:16;  
Psalms 34:7;  
91:11;  
Isaiah 63:9;  
Daniel 6:22;  
Matthew 26:53

☞4 Luke 16:22



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