

JESUS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST; THE HOLY SPIRIT OUR COMFORTER

Week 13/JROC – What is Jesus Doing NOW?

April 14, 2024

Are we EXCITED that we have a great High Priest seated at the right hand of God?

Heb. 10:11-13 – *And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. but this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.*

This current timeframe where Jesus is NOW and what Jesus is doing NOW, has been labeled Jesus “present session.” After the “present session,” when the Son of Man comes in His glory (Matt. 24:29-30), then He will sit on His glorious throne, ruling as King. First act appears to be judging the nations that have come against Israel (Matt. 25:31-45).

Of all the ministries of Jesus that directly relate to our lives now, the “present session” is the most important ministry that Jesus is currently pursuing at the right hand of the Father – providing completely for the believer’s security. It is the ministry that relates directly to our lives in the most powerful way.

What is Jesus doing NOW...since sitting down at the right hand of God?

- Jesus sustains/upholds creation

Col. 1:16-17 - *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.*

Heb. 1:2b-3 – in speaking of Jesus, the author of Hebrews states, *through whom also He made the worlds; ³who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...*

Upholding in the Gk is better translated “maintaining.” The word does not carry the idea of passively holding something up, but of actively sustaining. His word is so powerful that it can uphold all things. And, the present tense of the verb upholding speaks of Jesus’ continual work in relation to the world – *and He is before all things, and in Him all things consist* (Col. 1:17).

God who keeps the planets aligned also holds you in His hands! We are part of His creation, which means God knows exactly how to hold us together.

- Jesus is the Head over the Church

Eph. 1:22-23 - *He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.* Jesus is the Head over the Church that is in opposition to Satan’s world.

The purpose of the Church:

- The Church exists to glorify God (Eph. 3:21- ...*to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

The Church exists to make known the fellowship of the “mystery.” The Apostle Paul wrote that the Church is a “mystery” – a truth hidden in the OT. Eph. 3:3-6 - *how that by revelation He*

made known to me the mystery..., ⁵ which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, ... ⁶ that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise

2

in Christ through the gospel.... The coming together of Jew and Gentile into the same body, the Church, was never spoken of in the OT.

- The Church exists to provoke the Jew to jealousy.

Rom. 11:11 - *I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles.*

- The Church exists to make known the manifold wisdom of God to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places (Eph. 3:10). It appears that angelic beings are interested and instructed by the lives of believers. The conduct of the body of Christ... our conduct... is important. Angelic beings are looking on! *The things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven; things which angels desire to look into (I Pet. 1:12).*

- The Church exists to equip the saints.

Eph. 4:11-12 - *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying (the building up) of the body of Christ.* These are gifts of offices within the Church. Spiritual gifts are given by grace from God through the Holy Spirit. They are listed in Rom. 12:6-8 I Cor. 12:4-11 and I Cor. 12:28. Not everyone receives the same gift (I Cor. 12:4). Each believer serves in the body of Christ through the gifts that Jesus has given us through the Holy Spirit! The gifts God gives us through His Spirit are to be used for His glory (Col. 3:17).

- Jesus is building the Church

Matt. 16:18 – *I will build My Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.* Jesus is building the Church as Satan is the god of this age (II Cor. 4:4).

The book of Acts takes us through the building process!

When the Holy Spirit descended in power, the uneducated Galileans, the disciples, spoke the gospel in multiple languages... understood by everyone celebrating the Jewish Feast of Weeks in Jerusalem (aka Pentecost [meaning 50]). The crowds were truly awe-struck! Peter, who had weeks before, denied that he knew Jesus, stood before the crowds PROCLAIMED Jesus. Acts 2:41 - *Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added.* In Acts 1 there were 120 believers in the Upper Room in Jerusalem before God's power came down. Growth that day: 2500%!

Acts 4:4 - *many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.* Acts 4:13 - *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.*

Acts 5:14 - *And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,* Acts 5:34-35, 38-39 - *...a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in respect by all the people, and commanded them to put the apostles outside for a little while. ³⁵ And he said to them: 'Men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what you intend to do*

regarding these men... ³⁸ And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; ³⁹ but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it—lest you even be found to fight against God.’

In Acts 6:7 - *Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.*

3

In Acts 8:4-8 - *Due to persecution, those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. ⁵ Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. ⁶ And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.... ⁸ And there was great joy in that city.*

In Acts 9 – Saul, the persecutor of Christians, became a follower of Jesus.

In Acts 10 - *Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment and his household, Gentiles, came to faith in Jesus!*

Acts 10:44 - *While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word... the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.*

Acts 11:18, 26 - *When the brethren heard reports of God’s work among the Gentiles, they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, ‘Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.’*

Acts 12 – Peter sat on death row in a jail cell. The Church prayed and suddenly Peter’s chains fell off...and Peter walked out of prison.

Acts 13 - *And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region.*

Luke, made much of God, as he wrote the book of Acts. These are progress reports. Acts 2:41 – *...about three thousand were added to their number that day.* Who added them? Acts 2:47 - *...the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

This is the design and the work of Jesus as the head of the Church. And, He receives the glory!

- Jesus as High Priest is also active in forgiving sins as the believer confesses it to Him (I John 1:9). Jesus does so...not for the purpose of restoring the believer’s position or standing before God, but He does so for the purpose of restoring the believer’s fellowship with God - keeping short accounts with Him.
- Jesus is our Advocate. I John 2:1 - *My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.* Thanks to the righteousness provided by His shed blood as applied to us, Jesus is active in pleading our righteous cause to the Father in the midst of Satan’s perpetual accusations.
- Jesus is the Bridegroom. The Church is the Bride of Christ
Eph. 5:25-27 - *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify (set apart) and cleanse her with the washing of water by the*

word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. Read Rev. 19:7-8.

As the Bridegroom, Jesus is preparing a place for us (John 14:3) Just as there was a betrothal period in biblical times during which the bride and groom were separated until the wedding, so is the bride of Christ separated from her Bridegroom during the Church Age. Her responsibility during the betrothal period is to be faithful to Him. II Cor. 11:2 - *I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*

At the rapture, the Church will be united with the Bridegroom and the official “wedding ceremony” will take place in heaven. The eternal union of Jesus and His Bride will be actualized.

4

- Jesus is keeping believers

I Pet. 1:3-5 - *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

- Jesus is interceding for believers

Heb. 7:25 - *Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. Because He is our High Priest forever, He can save forever.* Jesus continually represents us before the Father so that we can draw near through Him. And, He defends us against Satan’s accusations and attacks.

Luke 22:31-32 gives an example of Jesus’ intercession for His people: *Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.* Jesus prays to strengthen us in trials and seasons of attack, and against Satan’s accusations. He continually pleads our case before the Father (I John 2:1).

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by *His life* (Romans 5:10).

Rom. 8:34 - *Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.*

Col. 3:1 - *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.*

God always sees in His children who are born again the perfect righteousness of Jesus! When Jesus died on the cross, His righteousness (perfect holiness) was imputed to us (accounting verbiage – credited to our account]) while our sin was imputed to Him at His death. This is the great exchange Paul talks about in 2 Corinthians 5:21 - *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.* This great exchange that took place at the cross **before God**, so God can accept us as blameless before Him.

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, ²⁵ To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.