

Heb. 1:2-3 The Supremacy of the Son (part 2)

Verses 2-3 give 7 affirmations to the supremacy of the Son. Our truth last week was his appointment as heir. This week, we continue with two more. The Son is supreme as He is: 1) the creator, and 2) administrator of the universe. Last week we considered his position of “heir” in regards to his work as mediator. As God the Son, from all eternity, He already owns everything. But, in his humiliation, namely his incarnation and his death on the cross, he is appointed by God as the “heir of all things.” As Phil. 2:9 says, **“Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name . . .”** Or, as Peter says in his first sermon, **“Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”** And we also learned that WE are his inheritance. This inheritance comes because of not merely WHO He is, but WHAT He has done on the cross to save sinners. This is why He can say in John 6:37: **“All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.”** And, in John 17:6 **“I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.”** So, being the heir has everything to do with Jesus the Son of Man as mediator, being obedient to death on a cross. In this way He is supreme. But when we consider our truths today as creator and administrator of the universe, we are thinking more of God the Son from all eternity, in essence God. This will help us understand more clearly with what humiliation we the Lord Jesus can say, “This is my body, broken for you.” Let’s begin.

1. He is the creator. In v. 2: **“through whom also he created the world.”** Gen. 1:1 says, **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”** We understand what it means to create. There was nothing. And then . . . God created; He spoke the words and the things we see and the things we don’t see were created. God spoke and, OUT OF NOTHING . . . creation. We may “create” something, but what we form and fashion always comes from something else. But not so with God! Well, this same act of creation is attributed to the Son. We see this truth in the OT as well. But, we can’t put things together until we get to the NT. And then we say, *“Oh, I see that now.”* There are many examples we could give, but let’s consider two: 1) Christ is the Wisdom of God; and 2) Christ is the Word of God.

i. Wisdom. In the NT Jesus is called the “wisdom of God.” 1 Cor. 1:24 says, **“but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”** In Col. 2:3 we read: **“in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”** With these verses in mind, let’s read Prov. 8:22-31 together.

Pastor: The LORD possessed (fathered) me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

Congregation: When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth, before he had made the earth with its fields, or the first of the dust of the world.

Pastor: When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he

marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master workman, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the children of man.

In these verses we see that Christ, as the wisdom of God, was there from the beginning. And through Him (wisdom), all things were created.

ii. Word. How did God create? He spoke. In the beginning God spoke words of power and out of nothing the created order. I think of the *Chronicles of Narnia* where Aslan sings and the worlds are created as the words flow from his mouth. Well, in NT Jesus is called the “Word of God.” Let’s consider this truth together as we read from the 1st chapter of John (vv. 1-5; 14-18)

Pastor: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Congregation: He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Pastor: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Congregation: For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

In these ways both as the wisdom of God and the Word of God, Jesus is the creator of all things. What a mystery! But what a beautiful truth! We will consider this truth further in application right before we take the Lord’s Supper.

2. He is the administrator of the universe. Look down at v. 3: “**he upholds the universe by the word of his power.**” Now, if there were any doubt that Jesus were less than God, or that God only created “through” him. We see here also that Jesus is the administrator of the universe. He upholds the universe by the word of his power. This word “uphold” can mean to “bring” or to “carry” something. Do you remember in Mark 2 when certain men carried the paralytic man up on the roof and dug a hole down to Jesus? This is the same word. They “carried” or “held him up.” This word can also mean to “energize” or “impel.” For example, 2 Pet. 1:21 says, “**For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**” They spoke as the Spirit energized them to do so. I believe both these meanings are in view. To “uphold” means to both “preserve” and to “govern.” In this way Jesus HOLDS all things together. And, EVERYTHING that happens is under his government and dominion. Ezek. 24:14 says, “**I am the LORD. I have spoken; it shall come to pass; I will do it.**” When we read Rom. 8:28 which says “**God works all things to good to those who love him and are called according to his purpose,**” we are referring to the great doctrine of providence.

What is providence? It is the working of ALL THINGS according to the counsel of his will. Many people think that God created and then merely sits back and lets things work out. But, this is not so! God is working ALL things according to his plan. And here in Hebrews, we see that the Son is doing this work. This is why Jesus can say in John 5:17: **“My Father is working until now, and I am working.”** As the Son of God from eternity, He is doing the same works as the Father. (This also applies to the Spirit.)

One theologian says, this work of providence, or “upholding” the universe by the Word of his power, “is a greater work than that of the creation.” (Chrysostom) He said this because in creation all things were brought forth from nothing. But, in the great work of “upholding” all things are preserved so as not to return to “nothing” again. And then to work ALL THINGS in such a way that history reads exactly as He decrees, is a display of infinite wisdom that only belongs to God.

In his life we see many examples of his great power, working all things according to plan. As He lived and grew and began his ministry, there was never an accident; everything happened according to his plan. At exactly the right time He began his ministry. When He spoke, people noticed something greater than their own religious leaders. They said, **“He speaks with one of authority”** (Mark 1:27). When he commanded the demons, at his word they came out. When he spoke to a storm, it ceased (Mark 4:39). Do you remember when Jesus was about to enter Jerusalem, he told his disciples, **“Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.”** And this happened exactly as Jesus said. (Matt. 21). The night before his death, in preparation of the Lord’s Supper Jesus says to his disciples: **“Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us.” And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.** Before He was arrested, he told the disciples **“All of you will leave me.”** And they did. To Peter he said, **“you will deny me three times before the rooster crows”** (Matt. 26). Let me ask, How does Jesus know these things? He knows them because He is the Lord of providence. **“He uphold all things by the Word of his power.”**

Let’s consider this truth as we read some verses from the OT and the NT.

Pastor: You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you. (Neh. 9:6)

Congregation: Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power, not one is missing. (Is. 40:26)

Pastor: Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created. (Rev. 4:11)

Congregation: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Is. 9:6)

Pastor: 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. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (Col. 1:16-17)

Today, Jesus is supreme. He is both the creator and the administrator of all things. And it is for this very reason that He can say, *“This is my body broken for you.”* Otherwise, his sacrifice would not have been enough. This is one of the points the author is making throughout the letter. Look over at 8:1: **“Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.”** As God is supreme, so is Jesus. This is why the Bible says in Acts 4:12: **“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”** The Jews as a whole are still waiting for the Messiah. But, the one they are waiting for is not supreme. He is not the creator and the administrator of all things. Muslims are trusting in the words of Mohammed. But, he was merely a man. He did not create, nor does he have anything to do with the administration of this world. And, He is in the grave. All the lesser gods of Hinduism are the same, they are not, in essence, the One and Only True God. Buddhists consider Buddah as the enlightened one. But, He is not the one who said, “Let there be light, nor is He the one that keeps the light shining.” Today when we take the Lord’s Supper, we know that Jesus is the Lord of creation and providence.

And we should also consider the great humiliation of Jesus as creator and administrator of all things. You see, in his essence God cannot die. This is true. Otherwise, He could not be God. But, God took on flesh. Phil. 2:5-9: **“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”** Brothers and sisters, this is the greatest of truths; that the Son from all eternity God, would enter into such humiliation! And to do this FOR US! TO LAY DOWN HIS LIFE AS A SACRIFICE FOR SINNERS! How beautiful is the Son of God! He is supreme!

As we turn our attention now to communion and remember what He has done for us. Let’s consider just a few verse from Hebrews in application as we examine ourselves this morning.

Application: Pay close attention to what we have heard concerning the gospel of Christ. Look at 2:1 & 3 **“Therefore, we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.** And then v. 3: **“How shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation.”** Brothers and sisters, how we doing? Is Christ the center of your attention day in and day out? Do you speak of him with your family members? Do you look to share Him with your co-workers and neighbors? Do you consider often, daily, what a great salvation you have in Christ?

Application: Jesus' humiliation is the very reason He is able to help you now in all the trials of life. Look at 2:14-18: **“Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.”**