

Life & Times of Jesus #01

by Jack Hibbs

The sermon explores the pre-existence and deity of Jesus Christ, emphasizing the importance of understanding His identity for a deeper faith.

Duration: 58:38

Scripture: Proverbs 30:4, Isaiah 41:4, Micah 5:2, Matthew 26:63, Luke 8:26, John 3:16, Acts 13:33

Topics: "Christology", "Sovereignty Of God"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher discusses the different aspects of Christ and His role in eternity. The first week focuses on the wonderful news about Christ and eternity. The second week explores Christ's first coming to Jerusalem and Israel. The third week delves into the incarnation of Jesus and His identity as the Word made flesh. The fourth week examines the purpose of Christ's mission and His earthly work. The sermon emphasizes the control and power of Jesus over all things, including the physical world, and encourages listeners to praise and rejoice in His sovereignty. The preacher also criticizes the worship of creation over the creator and challenges the logic of evolutionism.

Transcript

We are going to be starting this series in the life and times of Jesus Christ. And we hope for you that it is going to be an eye-opening experience. We can do better every day if we know Jesus more and better every day.

Amen? He is the one who in the world today is under attack because of his deity, because of his work, because of his mission, because of his call. He is the one, as the Bible says, there is no other name given among men or mankind whereby we must be saved. That is the name Jesus Christ.

The Bible says, at the name of Jesus Christ. And when we say Jesus Christ, we are actually talking about Jesus, you know, Christ or the Christ, that is his title, Christ Messiah. But when we talk about Jesus Christ, we are speaking of Jesus of Nazareth.

Paul the Apostle warned us that there are many other Jesuses, but we are speaking of Jesus of Nazareth, Jesus the Christ. And so we want to be looking clearly and carefully at him. We are going to be learning this morning about Christ in eternity, and that is specifically about the pre-existence of Jesus Christ.

What brought on this study, and I must tell you up front, what caused us to go rather to a book at this time, we diverted and went to this series, is because a couple months ago a woman came up to me after service and said, you know, you referred to Jesus Christ today as God, and I want to know why you did that. And I was dumbfounded. I was shocked.

I assumed all of you knew what the Bible has to say, that the Bible says that Jesus Christ is God, the second person of the Holy Trinity, that God came among us in the form, in the person of Jesus Christ, and that he bore flesh, that we might know him. And so when we say Christ in eternity, we are going to be speaking many times of his deity. The Bible says that he is God.

When we say Christ in eternity, or Christ is from eternity, it is so vitally important that we define what we mean by that. It is so, so very important. As humans, we begin to pride ourselves that we know everything.

I mean, my goodness, we can log on the internet and you can get more information in 20 minutes than what used to take maybe a week or a month to get in the comfort of your own home. You can get everything you need on how to build a soapbox derby car, to a race car, to a cake, to, sad to say, a bomb. You can get it on the internet.

You can find out too much on the internet, as many people are finding out. But we are a generation that prides itself on knowing more and more. And yet, I believe personally, I have to agree with Vance Havner.

If you ever want to buy any great reading, buy any book by Vance Havner. Vance Havner said, we are a generation with more illumination than any other generation before us, but with less light. Think about it.

We have Las Vegas, but it only speaks of the little amount of light that we have in our hearts and lives. Oh, we have skyrockets and great firework displays, but we have very little light. We have TVs illuminating our living rooms 24 hours a day almost, but we increasingly have little light.

The only light that we can really have that's going to account for anything is as many of the collegiate and universities of the nation of America display in their icons. They have the Bible open wide, and it speaks about the light. Let the light of knowledge be upon us.

It's a cry to God. You go to UCLA, and their original logo was not that little fat bear that's on the hat or the pennant, but it is the Bible open, and it says in the original UCLA logo, let there be light. And many of the universities, Harvard included, had this thing about knowledge.

Let there be light. And yet, the technological advancements that we have have led, I think, to more superficial knowledge than true knowledge. Well, in this series we're going to be going through, we're going to be talking about the light of knowing Jesus Christ.

Very, very important. The world today, listen, this is so bizarre to say. The world today, we can understand, is ignorant about who Jesus is, but the church is predominantly ignorant about who Jesus Christ is.

Isn't it strange? But let me tell you something. I don't know if you've gone outside this area. You know, you and I live in an incredibly blessed area.

Do you know that? Yes, I know it's Babylon. I mean, we really live in Babylon. We can fulfill any pleasure we want here.

But have you noticed there are an incredible great plethora of churches in Southern California unlike any place else on the face of the earth? Did you know that? If this place gets too big for you, you can go somewhere else. It's wonderful. We can turn on Christian radio here and listen to excellent Christian broadcasting 24 hours a day.

That is rare. Have you been east of the San Bernardino mountain range? Just go east of those mountains that are just a few moments from here. And there is a wilderness and a dearth for God's word and God's teaching in sporadic cities.

Yes, you get to the east coast and it's a little bit more, but you have to drive so many miles for a church that is committed to the word of God. We have churches today in the world that do not exalt the Lord Jesus Christ. You would think that that'd be an impossible thing, but it's very true.

Regarding the person, the mission, the life of Jesus, the world today is by and large uninformed and willfully ignorant about who he really is. And to me, that's amazing to even consider. And so for the next, listen to this, 16 weeks.

Yeah, 16 weeks, we're going to be going through a very detailed study concerning the life and times of Jesus Christ. So we're going to be looking, looking at some of those things. Even now this morning, as we go through our study together, I'm going to ask you to make note of these things.

The first week today, we're going to be looking at the wonderful news about Christ and eternity. And the second week we'll be looking at Christ and his first coming. That is him to Jerusalem, to Israel.

The third week, Christ, the word made flesh. We're going to study the very person of Jesus's incarnation. That's going to be great, great knowledge to have.

The fourth week, we'll see Christ and his mission. Why did Jesus come? Why did he have to come? And then we'll see Christ and his earthly work. What did he accomplish when he came? The sixth week, we'll see that Christ and his creation is something that is a wonderful study and that he is responsible for creation.

We'll talk a little bit about that this morning. And the seventh week, we'll see that Christ and his place in the Godhead. That is, the Bible teaches that the Lord is one, but the Bible also teaches that there's the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and that these three are God.

And we'll see a little bit on that this morning as well. We'll see Christ and his redemptive work. We'll see also in the ninth week, Christ and the sinners.

That's us. His relationship to the lost and sinful world, very important. The tenth week, we'll see Christ, the Son of God.

We'll touch again a little bit on that this morning because this is kind of an introductory morning. The eleventh week, we'll see Christ and the church, Christ and the angels. The twelfth week, the thirteenth week, Christ and the rapture.

You guys are probably one of the most knowledgeable Calvary chapels anyway on the rapture. And maybe you'll come up and teach us about that, but you guys know a lot. And we hope around this time frame of this study, we don't know if we'll make it there in time, but we're going to interrupt it for a

month-long study by some experts, some of them the greatest experts alive today on prophecy.

We have coerced, what can I say, done everything we can, begged, pleaded, cried, wept to get John Wolvert, who has now ceased from guest speaking. He's retired in that manner. He's coming out of retirement for three services at Calvary Chapel, Chino Hills, and then is going back to Dallas to retirement later that afternoon.

So we're very blessed to have Dr. John Wolvert coming on prophecy, and he'll be speaking more about that. And we'll have some great men coming during that month. The fourteenth week, we'll be talking about Christ and the tribulation period.

The fifteenth week, Christ and his second coming. And then finally, we'll wrap it up with Christ and the millennium age. And so that is something that we're going to be very, very excited to look to.

But right now, why don't we look at our first, very first point this morning, and that is Christ and eternity. And the theme, and I want you to jot this down, the theme of our study through all of these weeks is going to be Colossians chapter 2 verse 9. This is one of the most fun and exciting verses in the Bible. Colossians chapter 2 verse 9, where it says right there, for in him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead in bodily form, speaking about Jesus Christ.

That's a great statement. So we're talking about Christ and eternity. And Paul speaks to the church at Colossae, for in Christ, all the fullness of the Godhead dwells in bodily form.

What a great, great declaration that is. So if you have your notes, let's get ready. And we're going to start off right now.

We're going to look at three points this morning, but we're going to look at them carefully and slowly. So the first one we're going to ask you to look at, and that is this. We're going to be looking at Christ, and that he was before time.

So look at that, if you would. Christ was before all things. And so if you jot that down, we're going to look at that.

Christ was before all things. That's our first point this morning. When we say before time, we're meaning this, that Jesus Christ existed before the physical creation, that before the observable universe was ever brought into being, the Bible teaches Jesus was.

In John chapter 1, verse 1. I know you know this verse. Don't say, well, you know, I know. I'm not going to write it down.

Write it down. This is great stuff, because you know what? You're going to be prepared for every occultic and cultic and lunatic person that knocks at your door. Or maybe, you know, it's summer's about halfway done.

We're going to be heading into the holidays. Get your homework ready. And you're going to be learning some things that's really going to help you.

Listen, Christ was before all things. And when we say that, we talk about John chapter 1, verse 1. Very, very important. He says there, in the beginning, that is, at the moment of physical creation.

In the beginning, John 1, verse 1, in the beginning, that is, at the moment of physical creation, was the Word. And the Word was with God, and the Word was God. So we know right away that Jesus Christ, from John chapter 1, verse 14, jot that down now, where it says there, and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Listen, friend, if you're a skeptic, if you're a doubter, listen to what the Bible says. The Bible says that the Word was with God. You got that, everybody? You're going to need to respond and keep me awake this morning.

You're going to need to help me. I could fall asleep right in midstream here. That the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

And that Word, which was what? God, became flesh and dwelt among us. Who in all history has dwelt among mankind, whose title is the Word, who is claimed to be God? Jesus. Absolutely, Jesus Christ.

Before anything was physically, there was the Word of God, who's Jesus, who John chapter 1 says is God. The doctrine of preexistence is what we're talking about, that Jesus Christ existed before the physical universe was ever created. We're going to see how much so a little bit later from now, but not only was He present before the physical creation, but we're going to argue this morning, listen carefully, it's going to cause an eyebrow to go up.

He even existed before the spiritual realm was created. Oh yeah, we'll talk about that in a minute. But this doctrine of preexistence, it is something that the Bible teaches that is solely, solely attributed to God and God alone.

The Bible says in the book of Isaiah chapters 40, 41, 42, 43, and 44, that God is specifically the one who has dwelt from all eternity, that is timelessness. He has preexisted before anything ever was, that is God. But the Bible also says in no uncertain terms that Jesus Christ also has existed before all things and has existed from eternity, that is from the eons or the eternal moment where God dwells in what is called the eternal now.

Sounds funny how to say that. But see, right now our clocks are ticking. It's about 28 minutes after the hour where you and I live.

And it's funny, as you travel around the world in every hour time zone, it's 28 minutes after the hour in each time zone, 24 hour time zones around the world. But interesting, God begins to play with us a little bit. If you begin to launch a rocket out into space, we have found out that when you strap somebody in a rocket with a wristwatch, an atomic clock, and they go and come back, that the atomic clock that that astronaut had on his wrist is different from the atomic clock at Houston Space Center.

Isn't that interesting? God begins to flirt with us. That as you go away from earth, time changes. Now that's in the physical realm.

But in the spiritual realm, there is no time. We think of God as somebody being one who has a lot of time. Now, I told you before, I love big watches.

I love the bigger the better. I think they're fun, and I collect them. So we think, you know, God's a man, or God is God, and he's got a huge watch.

No, he doesn't have a huge watch. He doesn't have a watch. He doesn't live where time exists.

You cannot have time unless you have physical matter. Where there is no physical matter, there you have no time. Time is a physical attribute of this created universe, and it is also, as we've said, this timelessness unique to Jesus.

In John chapter 17, verse 5, John 17, 5, Jesus says, Oh now, oh Father, glorify me together with yourself, with the glory which I had with you before the world ever was. John 17, 5. In Micah chapter 5, verse 2, the Bible says, But you, oh Bethlehem, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to me the one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, even from everlasting. Well, whoever was born in Bethlehem by Mary, stepfather Joseph, his goings forth have been eternal.

That's the great incarnation of Christ. More next week on that. John chapter 8, verse 56.

This is all introductory, so hang on to your seats, okay? Do you think I'm going to miss it? I'm not going to miss it. This is all introductory. John 8, 56.

Jesus responded to the Pharisees and he said, Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day. What a radical statement. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day, and he saw it and was glad.

And then the Jews said to him, You're not yet even 50 years old. How is it that you said you've seen Abraham? And Jesus said to them most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am. Oh, listen.

Abraham rejoiced to see his day. Come on, think for a moment. When did Abraham see the day of Jesus Christ? How did Abraham see Jesus? Well, at least on one occasion, remember when Abraham was sitting on the side of the hill and his nephew Lot was living down in Sodom and Gomorrah down there near the end of the Dead Sea? And Abraham was there and two angels and the Lord came walking up.

And Abraham perceived that this one was the Lord. And as the two angels, it's kind of eerie, the two angels peeled off and went down into Sodom and Gomorrah because they had work to do. You know the story.

And it says that the Lord sat there with Abraham and Abraham, you know, had Sarah make them dinner and all. And as they're talking, Abraham says, Lord, will you destroy Sodom and Gomorrah if there's 50 people? And the Lord says, no, I'm not going to destroy it if there's 50 people. Righteous? No, I won't do it.

So Abraham, being the good father of the Jews that he is, he says, how about 45? How about 45? And the Lord says, no, I won't destroy the city and the place for 45 righteous people that are there. Lord, don't be angry with me, but how about 30? No, I won't destroy the place even if there's 30 righteous. And Abraham says, well, how about 20? And he just begins to whittle the Lord down, trying to figure out where.

And it's interesting, if you read the story carefully there in Genesis, it stops at 10. Will you destroy the city for 10? Now, 10 is the number for a synagogue, for a place of worship. 10 is also the amount of people, if you count them, who made the exit with Lot.

Interesting. Abraham must have known that Lot had 10 relatives in that city, and he was interceding for them. Very, very important.

And so, Jesus says to the Pharisees, Abraham saw my day and he was glad. It could also make or be a reference to Abraham's encounter with Melchizedek, which is a theophany, is a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ. But Jesus is the one in that portion of John chapter 8 that says, I am.

Listen, you and I don't get what that means. It would be equivalent today for someone to stand up and say, I am God. Now, I saw a man on TV utter a heretical declaration.

I thought God was going to kill him on the spot. And I am not kidding. This man, very well known.

I hope none of you watch him, but he's very well known on TV. He has a ministry that's titled by his name, the Blankety Blank Ministries, with the big logo behind his head. He's about five feet tall, little tiny guy, real squinty little eyes together.

He's got perfectly combed hair. His wife is often on the program. He has a daily teaching program.

His initials are K.C. And he stood up there and he said, I am God, just as Jesus is. I am. And I thought my TV was going to blow up.

That's blasphemy. He invoked the word, the name Ego Emi in Greek, which is a title reserved for God alone. Only God is the Ego Emi.

Jesus says, I am Ego Emi, which is this. I am the only one. I am the self-existing one.

I am the cause. I am the originator. I have, when he says, I am, no beginning.

I have no end. I am preexistent. I am before all things.

When somebody spouts off, I am, like Shirley MacLaine says, I am, people better know what they're talking about because that is the ultimate form of blasphemy. I am the self-contained existing one. Before anything was, I was there and I have been.

I am the creator, sustainer, orchestrator of it all. Jesus said that. People say, well, Jesus never claimed to be God.

He certainly did. People who don't know their Bible just don't know that when he says, I am. He invoked the name that was found in Exodus chapter three, verse 14, when Moses said, when I go back to the children of Israel, whom shall I say sent me? And God said to Moses, you go back and tell them that I am sent you.

You tell them I am has sent you. And in Hebrew, it is not the Greek word Ego Emi. Of course not.

It's in Hebrew. It's the word Hayah. And it means to always have been existing, to be the one who orchestrates, the one who supplies all of your needs, the beacon, the source, the truth, the strength, the one.

You go back, Moses, and you tell them the I am sent you. Jesus in Israel nearly 2000 years ago told those religious hierarchies, he said, listen, I am. And if you doubt if they understood what he said, it said there that they picked up stones to kill him.

They knew exactly what he was saying. And it was for that reason, by the way, that they got their gears going to plan his death. Remember? Do you remember why those people wanted to kill Jesus? It's

because they believed he committed blasphemy.

That's why they killed him. Did you know that? That's why Rome said we don't even see any reason why we should kill him. And Israel said, for blasphemy, he's claimed to be God.

That's why Jesus was killed. Jesus couldn't say, I'm sorry. He couldn't say, please forgive me.

It's truth. We'll see more on this this morning. As we look, Jesus announced his own origins when he said, I am the pre-existence of Jesus Christ.

He appears in the Bible and the Old Testament as the angel of the Lord. He appears to Joshua in chapter five, verse 13, as the captain of the Lord's host. And he appears in the Bible as the Lord himself.

Very, very important. In Isaiah chapter nine, verse six, am I going too fast? I'm so excited about this series. In Isaiah chapter nine, verse six, the Bible says, therefore unto us a child is born and a son is given and the government will be upon his shoulders and his name will be called Wonderful.

Listen, everybody. His name shall be called Counselor. Go to him first.

Mighty God, that's rather clear. Everlasting Father, that's not so clear in English. In the Hebrew, it's father or governor of time.

Interesting. And then finally, Isaiah nine, six, the Prince of Peace. That's very clear and we understand who he is.

So let's look at this point that we're talking about this morning in that Jesus was before all things. And look with me as we consider this, that he's before the spiritual creation. This is a wild concept.

Listen to this, that he's before the spiritual creation. What do we mean by that? Well, the Bible teaches, first of all, that God is spirit. Jesus Christ in his eternalness was spirit until Mary had a little lamb.

Until Mary gave birth to Jesus, he was spirit. God is spirit. When Christ became human flesh, he was to be that way for that moment on forevermore.

Do you know right now that Jesus Christ is 100% God and 100% man right now in the throne room of heaven? Isn't that wild? It's wild. So look at this. Before the spiritual creation ever was, Jesus was before that.

And it means this, that he orchestrated and created the spiritual realm. Now I'm not saying that God created God. God can't be created.

I'm not talking about that. I'm talking about what has come out from him Jesus has created. Example, it's going to click right now when I say this.

Jesus, the Bible says, has created all principalities and powers, whether they be thrones or dominions above the earth or under the earth. That is spiritual world. Jesus has created it.

Angels. Jesus has created them. Jot it down if you would.

Colossians chapter 1 verse 14, Colossians 1 14, in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of his sins. Does anybody wonder who that is? It's reading verse 15. He is the image of the

invisible God.

By the way, the word image means the exact copy of God in flesh. He is the image of the invisible God. Jesus is the image of the invisible God now made public.

The firstborn over all creation. This doesn't mean that Jesus was the firstborn. It means that Jesus is the preeminent one.

He's the number one like a son in the Jewish culture. Culture has the birthright order. The firstborn son has everything.

Jesus has everything. For by him were all things created that are in heaven and that are on earth. Visible things.

We have no problem with that. We understand that. And invisible things, atoms, protons, electrons, the invisible world, spirit things, whether they be thrones, dominions, principalities or powers, all things were created through him and for him.

Now this is elementary Christianity. Jesus Christ is the creator. Not only did he create everything, quite frankly, he created them for himself.

He liked it. Jack, are you suggesting then that Genesis 1.1 is about Jesus Christ? Absolutely. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

According to Colossians chapter 1 verses 14 through 16, who is that God who created the heavens and the earth? Jesus Christ. Let's put it this way. In the Trinity of God, in the Godhead, as our theme verse is in Colossians 2.9, Jesus Christ is the general contractor.

He's the carpenter. He builds worlds and all that is in them. Isn't that fun? Isn't that exciting? That's Jesus, the one and only.

In Nehemiah chapter 9 verse 6, an often hidden verse, Nehemiah 9.6, the scripture says, And the host of heaven worships you. The host of heaven is a reference to the angels of God. Jesus Christ created them.

Very, very important. Jesus created them. The second thing that we see here is that Jesus is before the spiritual purpose of all things.

He's before the spiritual purpose of things. Not only did he create the spiritual realm, the angelic host and all, but also the spiritual purpose for their very existence, meaning this, that in God's foreknowledge, in Christ has foreknowledge. We'll talk more about his limitations when we talk about his incarnation, which, by the way, were willful.

That's to follow later on. But concerning the spiritual purpose of his work, the Lord knew all things. He knew, and this blows my mind, he knew exactly how not only the spiritual realm that he had created would go, but also the physical realm that he had created.

He knew where they would go. Example, what I mean by that is, he created even this wonderful, his most precious created angel in the universe. You know his name? His name's Lucifer, son of the morning, the most awesome angel ever created.

But in God's creation, he instilled within the angelic host a free will. And Lucifer exercised that free will, the Bible says, and said in Isaiah chapter 14 and Ezekiel chapter 28, I will be like God. I will have a throne like his.

I will have a universe like his. I will have servants like his. I will have my position just like God has his.

I will be as God. You ever hear that? Sounds a little familiar to the Garden of Eden doctrine, doesn't it? I will be as God. And God says, you will not be as me.

He says you will be cast down. Why? For it says in the day that pride was found in your heart, you sinned. You anointed cherub who covereth.

That means he had the top dog if I can put it that way, position. Lucifer was number one, the big kahuna of heaven when it came to leading all service and worship to God. Every angel had to go through Lucifer.

But because of his pride, he sinned. In that spiritual creation, the Bible tells us in the book of Revelation, one third of the angelic host was deceived by Satan and judged. But concerning the spiritual creation, consider this, that we as human beings, the Bible says in 1 Thessalonians 5, 23, that we are both, or I should say, in all body, soul, and spirit.

We are a trichotomy as a human. We have a body, that's obvious. We have a soul, that's our thinking and our emotions.

And we have our spirit, and that's who we really are. And by the way, that's the portion that needs to be born again. Everything else needs to be redeemed, but the spirit needs to be born.

So in God's foreknowledge, he knew that before he ever created the world, listen to this, he knew that we were going to have a very, very bad beginning in the Garden of Eden. Did you know that? He knew that before he ever created the garden. So you might say, well, why did he just not create it? Because, jot it down, here's your answer.

Somebody knocks on your door, or maybe you're witnessing to some friends, and oh yeah, well, if your God is so loving, then why did he let the Garden of Eden thing happen anyway? Well, the Bible tells you in Ephesians chapter 2, verses 7 through 9, it says there that in the ages to come, he might show the exceeding riches of his grace. That's what's on display, his grace in his kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that is not of yourselves, it is a gift of God, not of works, so that no man can boast.

Listen, you're going to go to heaven because Jesus did it all, and all to him you owe, and by nothing else. It's grace. Grace and a gift is synonymous, same thing.

It's not earned, it's given freely. If you earn, if you attach any workmanship to what Christ has done, you have to cut the word grace right out of your Bible. There are a lot of people who shun the word grace today because it's so ill-represented in the Christian witness, and it's true.

It is ill-represented. There are uninformed people who are either not Christians or Christians who are very, very uninformed and ignorant, where they'll say, well, I can sin, God's grace will cover me. You can't think that way as a true Christian.

You can't think that way at all, but there'll be people who will say that. Well, the fact is God's grace is so wonderful, it's so free, it's so powerful that it causes us to be converted as we come to him and we say, Lord, I'm going to put my faith in your wonderful greatness. And even that faith that he gives us is not of ourselves.

And we cannot work our way into heaven. If anyone ever attaches anything to God's grace and acceptance of the sinner before God, it is blasphemous. It is an affront to God's work of salvation on the cross.

You cannot be saved only after you have done all that you can. It is by grace or it's not at all. Do you understand that? That's why we can't wait to sing him praise songs.

You know what I mean? That's why we can't wait to lift our hands. Think about the wonderful truth of God's grace in our lives. In 1 John 3, 8, the Bible says, for this purpose, the son of God has been revealed to mankind that he might destroy the works of the devil.

Hey, that's the spiritual creation and the spiritual purpose all in one verse right there, the spiritual creation and the spiritual purpose. In Revelation 19, 10, I want to give you this verse because God knows all things. Jesus knows all things.

It says, worship God, says the angel to John, for the testimony of Jesus, the declaration, the message of Jesus is this, is the spirit of prophecy. God knows all. Jesus knows all.

So it's so very, very important. Let's look at our second point this morning. We go from this to Jesus is over all things.

He governs or is over all things. Our second point, what we want to see right here is very important. We see that that he's over the physical creation.

In Hebrews chapter one, verse one through three, it says, God, who at various times and in various ways spoken times past to the fathers by the prophets has in these last days spoken to us by his son, whom he has appointed heir of all things through whom also he made the worlds. It's pretty clear who being the brightness of his glory and the express image of his person and upholding got to circle that word, all things by the word of his power. When he had by himself purged our sins, by the way, it's past tense in the Greek sins have been taken care of all done for all time.

He sat down at the right hand of the majesty on high. Jesus is overseer of the physical creation. He made it and it says here that it's held together by him, that he holds it.

This is wild. Creation is accredited to Jesus. We saw that in Genesis one, one, but in Colossians one 17, the Bible says, and in him, all things consist.

This is Jesus is literally the atomic glue that has never been found in the study of astronomy or astrophysics or the study of physics itself. How is it that all things be at microscopic or just universal are held together? Did you know it's a mystery to this hour right now to this hour? We don't know why in an atom there is the orbiting and the holding together with there as the orbits are taking place around that nucleus. No one on earth, no one has ever been able to determine how is it that those little things keep their orbit at a certain distance and don't collide into each other and are so wonderfully ordered and they don't fly apart.

It's a mystery that they don't fly apart. Did you know that if we were to reduce this pulpit, it would be a little speck of dirt on the platform here. If we were to remove all the space between the physical matter that's here, you are looking at it, your eyeballs see wood, but there is more space between the wood than there is wood.

That's a scientific fact. Well, you look and you go, I don't believe what you just said because all I see is wood. I know that's all you see, but there is more what you can't see than what you can see.

Isn't that weird? And if you were to remove the space of what's between these wood molecules, this pulpit would be about a quarter of an inch tall and I would be very small. Isn't that a wild thing? He is over all of these little atoms. He holds them together.

Who does? Jesus. He's the atomic glue. Who says? Bible says.

God says. He's over the physical creation. He watches over it.

He's orchestrated. He put it into motion. It's us, man, that tampers with things.

You know, I had this weird thought and I don't know. It's just one of those weird thoughts. I recently was in New York City and I went up on top of the World Trade Center.

You know, if you've ever been up there, you go up there and you go outside. You go up top and look over the edge and you're over 1,200 feet up from the bottom there. You're up on top of the world.

I mean, it looks like you're on top of the world. And it's kind of weird. And there's planes flying below you.

It's a weird thing. You're up there. And you look at all the cement that's on Manhattan, the island, what you and I visually would say is New York.

It's just a little island. All the concrete rises, if you put it together, miles and miles and miles into the sky. And I was thinking, gosh, all this weight, all this stuff was taken from some other place and it was stacked on one island and lifted up all of these buildings.

And you would think, wouldn't it kind of throw the world off on its rotation? I mean, everything is so perfect that if we move the sun five miles closer, just five miles, you know, the sun is 93,000. Is it a thousand or a million? I'm losing my mind. Ninety-three million miles from here.

And if we move the sun five miles, just five miles closer, we would all melt right now. In eight minutes, we would melt. If you move the sun five miles further away, in eight minutes, we would freeze to death.

Isn't that weird? So if we build all that stuff in New York, doesn't it kind of like throw the earth off and it's very specific rotation? No, Jesus is holding it together. And by the way, if you read 1 Peter, he's going to tell you what's going to happen. Peter says in the end, Jesus is going to let go.

He's going to say, all right, I'm going to relax. And it says that the elements will bombard, collide one to another. And it says that the universe will begin to melt with a fervent heat.

Why? Because Jesus is going to relax his grip. That's how much control he has. Don't you just want to sing him a song? Don't you want to say, thank you, Lord, for holding things together? Did you notice how beautiful yesterday was? It looks like today's starting out just like it.

It was perfect outside. And because I was preparing this message, I went out there and I said, thank you, Lord. Thank you.

I love what the Bible does to my heart and your heart. It caused you to think different. Last night, as I think it was Saturn was setting as you, it's the big bright star in the summer sky this and these evenings.

As it begins to set the beauty of that, thank you, Lord. You're so great. Exciting.

It's so wonderful. Jesus is holding it all together. Let's keep going.

It also says in Colossians chapter one, verse 15, that he's the first born over all creation. And that word simply means the preeminent one, the architect, the orchestrator. He's the one.

It doesn't mean that he was born and had a beginning. He's preexistent, as we saw. Isaiah chapter 40, verse 26, tells us, lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these things, who brings out their host by number.

That is the stars of the sky. He calls them all by name. Isn't that great? By the greatness of his might and the strength of his power, not one of them is missing.

The Bible says that Christ in Isaiah 40, verse 26, has named the stars. He calls them out by name. He orchestrates them.

He's the architect. Pluto, come out. Pleiades, come out.

Orion. Job tells us that he calls Orion, Orion. Isn't that great? We caught up to the fact.

Job, the oldest book. By the way, Job is the oldest book in the world. Did you know that? It's in your Bible.

Oldest book ever to have been written in the world. Oldest book in your Bible is the book of Job. Job says that he calls out Orion, the constellation, and that God alone has orchestrated the Mazaroth, Job tells us, the Mazaroth.

Yeah, that's the Hebrew word for what Nebuchadnezzar polluted. When Nebuchadnezzar took Jerusalem captive, he took the Mazaroth because it had 12 constellations in it, and it described the deliverance of mankind in the Mazaroth. Nebuchadnezzar, who was pagan, didn't like it, and he changed it, and in its meaning, put the Babylonian name to it, called Zodiac.

That's Babylonian. So you know one Babylonian word, Zodiac. It means the 12 constellations.

That's why there's a Virgo. It's not Virgo. It's the maiden.

It's the virgin that gives birth to the son. Leo. It's not Leo.

It's Judah. The lion from the tribe of Judah is Jesus Christ. That's why the Bible says in Galatians that God preached the gospel to Abraham.

How did he give it to Abraham? In the heavens, the Mazaroth. That 12 wonderful announcements in the sky to early Abraham, God's redemptive work. That's why Satan would love to get people to look at the Zodiac, because it's been redefined and polluted, and it can lead you terribly astray.

The Bible says stay away from it now, completely. Isaiah chapter 40, verse 26. The next thing that we see right here in our study is this, and that is that Jesus is over all things, over the physical purpose as well.

This is something that we're going to have to take by faith, people, very carefully, because this is where you and I can relate. That Jesus is over the physical purpose of things. If that's true, Jack, then why is the world falling apart? Well, because that's true.

What? Jesus is over the physical purpose of all things in this world, and yes, they are falling apart. Why are they falling apart? It's because Jesus is over them all. Listen.

Man has usurped authority and has violently treated this earth. Now, don't be afraid. I'm not going the way of Al Gore, but I will say that mankind has not taken care of what God has given.

I think, personally, the Christian should be the greatest custodian of the environment, because our dad made it. But the Christian's not to worship the environment, because there's only one that we worship, and why would you worship the work of his hands when you can worship his hands and kiss his feet? Well, Jack, are you saying that we should not protect the animals? Well, we can protect the animals, but let's not make them gods. You know what I mean? Sorry, you can't build a house here.

There's a kangaroo rat. Well, excuse me, but my Bible says that God has given this earth over to our dominion and to our power. Let's pack up the little rat and move him somewhere else.

But see, when you begin to divorce God in your thinking, you begin to worship creation, and you begin to make the kangaroo rat your god. Oh, that's ridiculous. Oh, no.

Read Romans chapter one. That says when we reject the concept of God in our minds, we begin to worship the creation, creeping things, things of animals and fowls and birds of the air. We begin to worship them instead.

Men will worship something. Don't you worry about him. He'll build an altar to anything.

These people, oh, have you seen this guy that's on TV? This wacko crazy nut from Australia? Now, I'm going to show you three of the most deadliest snakes in the universe. Whatever you do, don't get near them. So he walks right up to him and he's going, if this thing bites my lips, I'll die in three minutes.

And he's kissing it, and he's out in the middle of the woods. What a lunatic. It's nuts.

I just had to insert that. It came, I gave it, there it is. But this world's falling apart.

If we divorce God from our thinking, we begin to worship and serve the creation rather than the creator who's blessed forever. And we begin to say things like we have to save this animal at all costs. Listen, what I find interesting is how intellectually dishonest all that logic is.

If you are an evolutionist, don't raise your hand because I don't want to indict you right now because I'm going to. If you're an evolutionist, why don't you get honest? If you're an evolutionist, stop trying to say the California condor. If you're an evolutionist, stop trying to save the kangaroo rat.

If you're an evolutionist, stop trying to save the dolphins. Because if you're an evolutionist, you believe that this is the survival of the fittest. So pluck the feathers off the condor and make a hat out of them and go over there and eat dolphins because you preach the survival of the fittest.

Why try to preserve something if evolution's marching onward and upward? It's because it's not. It's intellectually dishonest. Yes, we should take care of the California condor.

God made it. We don't worship the thing. And boy, was that a digression.

The physical purpose, Psalm 96 verse 11, that Jesus is governor over the physical purpose. Psalm 96 11 says, Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad. Let the sea roar and all of its fullness.

Let the field be joyful and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice before the Lord for he is coming. Don't you love this? He is coming.

He is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with righteousness. Isn't that needed today? And the peoples with his truth.

The earth seems to be rejoicing at the fact that Jesus is governor. The Bible says in Isaiah again that the heavens are going to, or the book of Psalms says the heavens are going to rejoice and the trees of the field are going to what? Clap their hands. Well, that's silly.

Trees don't have hands. Well, maybe God considers the leaves on trees as hands. But when he comes, the trees are... Can you imagine all the leaves clapping? And I'm not talking about like a gopher's clap.

Oh, John, that's a great putt from 49 feet. And there's this little token thing. Oh, Tiger, that was just... Oh, man, they're just going to... Yes, God.

Hallelujah. They're going to clap. They're going to rejoice.

Boy, we ought to do that. I think we should be doing that. Jesus is governor over all things, even the physical purpose.

He's got a plan. It's all marching to a very, very specific conclusion. Jesus is orchestrating it.

Psalm 148. That's one of my favorite Psalms. What a great Psalm.

If you're ever depressed, read Psalm 148. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted. His glory is above the earth and heavens.

Look around at what God has done. The next and final point that we'll see this morning is this, and that is Jesus is the Son of God. We'll study more about this as we go through these weeks together.

We'll touch on it a little bit right now this morning, but we need to understand something. We need to really, really clear up our thinking on something when it comes to Jesus being the Son of God. Everyone, listen carefully.

Don't you ever think that Jesus, the Son of God, means that he's less than God the Father or less than God the Holy Spirit. You and I, in our culture, we have been robbed. In our western culture that we live in, we think that the Son is less than the Father, don't we? In fact, if we go to a place and it says, Joe and Sons Building Company or whatever, and you walk in and you say, I want to talk to Joe and Sons Building Company, and this guy says, Hi, I'm Joe Jr. You say, listen, I don't want to talk to Joe Jr. I want to talk to Joe Sr. I want to talk to the big guy.

Now, in our culture, we understand that. I don't want to talk to you. I want to talk to your dad.

You see how we think? In the Jewish culture, in the Middle East, they don't think like we do. This is tough for us to grip. They don't think like we do.

When you, and they have such a wonderful depth of understanding and posterity, the continuing on of life. If you're talking to Joe's son, if somebody says, I need to talk to Joe and Sons Builder. Yeah, I'm Joe's son.

I'm Joe Jr. This is how they do it in the East. Oh, great. Great.

Then you have all the power and the authority to do what I need to have done. On what grounds? You're his son. Whatever the father owns, you own.

Whatever the father says, you say. Whatever the father believes, you believe. Whatever you are is your father.

Like father, like son. We have this saying in America, but we don't believe it. Like father, like son is only true of Jesus Christ.

And this is exciting. When the Bible says he's the son of God, we blow it off in our Gentile reading. The Jews who in Jesus's time, when they heard that he was the son of God, they picked up stones to kill him because they understood exactly what he meant when he said, I'm the son of God.

Or when they said, do you, do you, or are you the son of God? He says, it's true. They went berserk because what they were saying is, or what they believed was, Jesus was saying, and he was, that God has now come in human form among mankind. See, you and I lose that because of our Gentile-ness.

We need to be careful as we study the Bible. It's very important news. All right, let's look at this now.

Very, very important. His unique purpose. Jesus has a very, very unique purpose.

In John chapter 19, we can see here a witness of the people. In John 19 verse 6, the Bible says, Therefore, when the chief priests and the officers saw Jesus, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. And Pilate said to them, You take him and crucify him, for I find no fault in him.

And the Jews answered and said to him, We have our law, and according to our law, he ought to die because he made himself the Son of God. You got that? That's John 19 verses 6 through 7. Very important. I'm going to give you a lot of verses, and we'll be done.

Luke chapter 8 verse 26. Luke 8, 26. Then they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee.

And when they stepped out on the land, there they met him, a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time, who wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. And when he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him. And with a loud voice said, this is the voice of the demon, What have we or what have I to do with you, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me.

Interesting, the demon was scared to death about Jesus and the fact that Jesus was the Son of the Most High. Listen, it's admitted by Jesus himself in Matthew chapter 26 verse 63. But Jesus kept silent and the high priest answered and said to him, I put you under oath by the living God.

Oh, now Jesus must speak. Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God. And Jesus said to him, it is as you have said.

It's confessed by Rome as well in Matthew chapter 27 verse 50. And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. And then behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

And the earth did quake and the rocks were split open and the graves were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had died were raised from the dead and coming out of their graves after his resurrection. They went into the holy city and appeared to many.

So when the centurion and those with him or with the centurion were gathered around guarding Jesus, guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and the things that happened, they feared greatly saying truly this was the son of God. John chapter 10 verse 30 says, I and my father are one. Then the Jews picked up stones to stone him.

And Jesus answered and said to them, many good works have I done of my father. For which of these do you stone me? Then the Jews answered and said to him for a good work, we do not stone you, but for blasphemy, because you being a man declare yourself to be God. That's very clear.

Don't you think in your Bible? It's very clear. Acts 13 33. God has fulfilled this for us, his children in that he has raised Jesus Christ as it is also written in the second Psalm.

You are my son today. Have I begotten you? That's Psalm chapter two, verses five through seven. And then finally this verse here, and we'll go to the next point.

We need to wrap this up quickly. Proverbs 30 verse four. Who has ascended into heaven? God's asking you and I this question.

Who has ascended into heaven or who descended? Who has gathered the wind in his fist? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name? And what is the name of his son? Can you tell me? Is that awesome? That's Psalm chapter 30 beginning at verse four. The next thing that we need to see here very important quickly is this. He has a union calling.

Jesus is calling is altogether unique and you know it very quickly for God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten glorified unique one and only son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. I have a string of verses but no time to give them to you. Isaiah chapter 41 verse 4. Jot it down if you would.

Next to your notes research them later. Jesus is unique. It says there that he's the first and the last.

Isaiah 44 verse 6. He is again the first and the last and besides me there is no God. Isaiah chapter 48 verse 12. He is again the first and the last and when he says the last that is the word there will be no other gods after me the one and only for all eternity of all realms the one and only.

Hosea chapter 13 verse 4. I'll say it. I'll quote it to you quickly because it's important. Yet I am the Lord your God ever since the land of Egypt and you shall know no other God but me and you shall bow down to no other God but me for there is no Savior but me.

Revelation chapter 1 verses 17 and 18. It says there that the great first and the last the I am the Alpha and the Omega the beginning the end was he who was alive and became dead and behold he's alive

forevermore. That's Jesus Christ.

In Revelations chapter 2 verse 8 he says these things say at the first and the last who was dead and came back to life. That's Jesus Christ the unique call of God his precious son. Very very important and John says to us this morning John chapter 20 verse 31 John says but these things have been written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God and that believing you might have life in his name.

Very very important and finally here people I know we're over time his unique authority and this is what I want you to focus on as we close. He has an altogether unique authority. There's nobody else in the Bible where the Bible says that you must bow and confess his name.

Not Sun Young Moon, not Rajneesh, not Joseph Smith, not Chuck Smith, not Greg Laurie, not Billy Graham, not John Paul. Jesus Christ for the Bible says it is at the name of Jesus Christ that every knee will bow both angelic and human and confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord and the Bible says there's only one Lord. Amen? Amen.

I want to leave this with you as we close you can rest and relax. I want you to consider Christ's invitation this morning. The Bible says that he has loved you with an everlasting love.

Even though you're a little stinker. God knows you're a stinker. You've been such a brat.

We all have been. God says I've loved you and that's before eternity. The scripture also tells us that all those who will come to him he will not cast out.

Life is brutal. People are brutal. Life and people will cast us out.

God will never cast us out. And the final thing that I want you to consider Jesus said that he's the way the truth and the life and no man comes to the father but through him. Paul said if you confess that truth with your mouth that Jesus died for your sins and that he rose again from the grave you'll be saved.

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