

We are living at a time of unprecedented interest in spiritual matters. The interest may not be measured in ways we are familiar with, like going to church, or belonging to a religious organization, but people are interested in matters supernatural and other worldly.

The clearest evidence of this is the rise in films and games relating to other-worldly material. Everybody wants to be “Master of the Universe” or Superman or Star Wars. The growing number of false religious sects, with leaders who claim Pseudo-Messianic powers is also alarming. The influence of Eastern Mysticism in our world is trying to fill the gap for a world that has no meaning. Even religious fanaticism and Agnostic beliefs point to world wanting to replace a traditional understanding about God.

In the light of all this interest in Spirituality, one question is most important. WHO IS GOD? Theoretically you could have two opposing forces, like Good and Evil, battling for supremacy, but in reality, you cannot have two Gods. The very concept of God excludes competition. Today I want to remind us that:

JESUS IS LORD IN THE HEAVENLIES

v2 ... his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. v3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. v4 So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. Heb 1:2-4

1) Jesus is Lord in the heavenlies BECAUSE HE ALONE IS ABLE TO FILL THE ROLE OF GOD.

It says in verse 2 that Jesus was “***appointed heir of all things.***”

At first glance the verse seems to support the JW teaching that Jesus was created by God to receive the power of God, given to him as the “heir” of God. However, this totally misunderstands the background to the verse.

The word translated “appointed” in the NIV is in what we call the “First aorist (kappa aorist) active” tense. The Aorist tense normally refers to an action that happened at a particular time in the past that has ongoing consequences into the future. For e.g. he was shot and now is dead. This aorist tense is different. It refers to a timeless event that has ongoing consequences.

JESUS HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE ONE AND ONLY HEIR OF GOD.

The concept of “Heir” here is pointing us more to the idea of being the only legitimate image of the father. Like Jacob became the one who received the birth-right from Isaac, rather than Esau, there is no one else who can claim the title of God, That is why when Jesus said in ***John 10:30*** “*I and the Father are one.*” the next verse says ***v31*** *Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him*”. The Jews knew JESUS WAS CLAIMING TO BE GOD.

2) Jesus is Lord in the heavenlies BECAUSE HE PRECEEDS CREATION.

The Bible is full of reminders that Jesus precedes creation.

In the very first verse of the Bible there is a reference to God as being Elohim, which is the plural form of the common name for God in the Ancient Near Eastern languages, of which Hebrew is one, called EL. **Genesis 1:1** *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.* A further reference to the plural nature of God is found in **Genesis 1:26** *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, ..."*

We read in **John 1:1-2** *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. v2 He was with God in the beginning."*

Jesus also said in **John 17:24** *"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world."*

The Apostle Peter writes in **1 Peter 1:18-20** *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, v19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. v20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.*

The Apostle Paul writes in **Col 1:15-16** *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. v16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.*

In the scheme of life, what is more important, the creation or the CREATOR? Of course, we should say, the CREATOR.

As we read in Colossians 1:16, Jesus is Lord in the heavenlies BECAUSE HE PRECEEDS CREATION

3) Jesus is Lord in the heavenlies BECAUSE NO ONE ELSE LOOKS LIKE GOD.

v3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being,

In Afrikaans we say: "DIE APPEL VAL NIE VER VAN DIE BOOM AF NIE." In the case of Jesus this is 100% correct.

Jesus is the radiance of God's Glory. The word translated radiance is found only here in the bible. Some translations use the word "reflect" or "mirror" to translate this word. Unfortunately, that is totally the wrong word. The word reflect, implies that the image is not the original.

The words translated as "Radiance" (NIV) or shining splendour (MKJV) or "the brightness" (KJV) are much more accurate.

The sun shines with its own brightness, whereas the moon reflects the sun's brightness.

ONLY JESUS LOOKS LIKE GOD, BECAUSE ONLY JESUS IS GOD!!!

4) **Jesus is Lord in the heavenlies BECAUSE HIS POWER KNOWS NO END.**

*v3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, **sustaining all things by his powerful word.***

WHO ARE YOU TRUSTING TO CARRY YOU THROUGH?

Friends, the world as we know it will come to an end. Scientists predict that in about 1-7.5 billion years the sun will destroy the earth as we now know it. Now I know most of us will not live that long, but at some point you are going to have to trust someone to carry you through.

I KNOW WHO I AM TRUSTING IN, DO YOU?

Job 38:33-38 *Do you know the laws of the universe and how God rules the earth? v34 "Can you shout to the clouds and make it rain? v35 Can you make lightning appear and cause it to strike as you direct it? v36 Who gives intuition and instinct? v37 Who is wise enough to count all the clouds? Who can tilt the water jars of heaven, v38 turning the dry dust to clumps of mud?*

Psalms 145:16-17 *When you open your hand, you satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing. v17 The LORD is righteous in everything he does; he is filled with kindness.*

Matt 10:29-31 *Not even a sparrow, worth only half a penny, can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. v30 And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. v31 So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to him than a whole flock of sparrows.*

Col 1:17 *He existed before everything else began, and he holds all creation together.*

Act 17:28 *'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'*

1 Cor 8:6 *yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.*

5) **Jesus is Lord in the heavenlies BECAUSE NONE OTHER CAN SAVE US.**

v3 After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Exo 15:2 The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

Psa 18:2 The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Psa 118:14 The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. v21 I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

Act 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Rom 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Heb 9:28 so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Rev 7:10 And they cried out in a loud voice:

"Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

Rev 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:

"Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ.

*For the accuser of our brothers,
who accuses them before our God day and night,
has been hurled down.*

Rev 19:1 Hallelujah!

this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

6) Jesus is Lord in the heavenlies BECAUSE HE IS IN THE POSITION OF POWER.

*v3 After he had provided purification for sins, **he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.***

Sorry to those who are left-handed, but in the Bible the seat of power is always at the right hand.

The phrase "right hand" appears 104 times, and almost exclusively refers to the place of ultimate power. The simplest reason the right hand is emphasised more is that the majority of people are right-handed.

7) Jesus is Lord in the heavenlies BECAUSE HIS WHOLE IDENTITY IS SUPERIOR TO OTHERS.

It says in verse 4 that "*... **the name he has inherited is superior.***"

Philippians 2:5-11 *Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: v6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, v7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. v8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross! v9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, v10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, v11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

- 1) Jesus is Lord in the heavenlies **BECAUSE HE ALONE IS ABLE TO FILL THE ROLE OF GOD.**
- 2) Jesus is Lord in the heavenlies **BECAUSE HE PRECEEDS CREATION.**
- 3) Jesus is Lord in the heavenlies **BECAUSE NO ONE ELSE LOOKS LIKE GOD.**
- 4) Jesus is Lord in the heavenlies **BECAUSE HIS POWER KNOWS NO END.**
- 5) Jesus is Lord in the heavenlies **BECAUSE NONE OTHER CAN SAVE US.**
- 6) Jesus is Lord in the heavenlies **BECAUSE HE IS IN THE POSITION OF POWER.**
- 7) Jesus is Lord in the heavenlies **BECAUSE HIS WHOLE IDENTITY IS SUPERIOR TO OTHERS.**