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Thanksgiving - The Glory of Christ In His Going To The Throne

Introduction

Among the many blessings, both temporal and spiritual for which I am grateful, one which gives me joy and produces worship is the awareness of the exaltation of our wonderful Lord. It is an exaltation which is multilayered, beginning with His resurrection. His is an exaltation which is vertical, for He “went up”, and positional, for He is the One “Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.” (1 Pet. 3:22).

There are several observations which cause wonder and worship:

- a) The military victory of His resurrection over the government of Satan
- b) His journey to the Throne
- c) His immeasurable greatness in being able to enter the Throne Room of the Great King and, “set” (Himself) on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens” (Heb. 8:1).

The Military Victory of His Resurrection Over The Government Of Satan

When death comes the individual is reduced to completeness of weakness. There is not an iota of ability to think, move, or function in the slightest degree. There is scarcely a time I look at a dead body that I do not think, “The Son of God became that for me”. He who is the Prince of life was killed (Acts 3:15); they slew Him (Acts 5:30); and after He committed His spirit to the hands of God, gentle hands took Him from that cross and wrapped His body and buried Him. However, His death was much more than a physical extinguishment of life, for there was a spirit dimension. He entered a realm which was Satan’s stronghold for no one had ever, of their own volition, entered death. Into the mighty conflict, assured of victory, He went and by His very entrance assured the satanic spirit world that they would be defeated.

For three days His sacred body lay and early on the morning of the first day of the week (Mk. 16:9) He rose from the dead. He who had power to lay down His life had the power to take it again (Jn. 10:18). His spirit returned and from those grave clothes wrapt round His body He emerged, and with deliberateness He removed the napkin about His head and folded it, setting it by itself (Jn. 20:7). The Roman seal meant nothing, the powers of darkness were broken, the mighty general of infernal forces was defeated, and the glory and power of his infernal majesty was destroyed (Heb. 2:14). The stone was not moved to let Him out, but that man could see in and behold the evidence of a vacated tomb. In utter contempt the angel sat on the stone, another and speaking said, “Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen” (Lk. 24:5-6). Jesus is alive and held in His hands, “The keys of hell and of death” (Rev. 1:18). Well may we sing:

Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior;
He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!

Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o’er His foes,
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever, with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

His Journey To The Throne

When someone like the Queen comes to a city, she is accompanied by a great number of people. It can be a glorious spectacle of pomp and circumstance. Throngs line the pathway waving flags, cheering, and seeking to get a glimpse of her. However, there has never been a journey with greater accompanying glories than when our Lord began His ascent, and ascending entered within the veil, into Heaven itself. The Holy Spirit used seven words to describe the actual journey.

- a) He was “received up”(analepsis) (Lk. 9:51)

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- b) He was “carried up” (anaphero) (Lk. 24:51)
- c) He was “taken up” (epairo) (Acts 1:9). The verb is used to indicate that which is lifted up, used for the hoisting of a sail (Acts 27:40).
- d) He “went up” (poreuomai) (Acts 1:10). It means to continue on the journey begun.
- e) He was “taken up” (analambano) (Acts 1:11). It is the resultant action, that is, this is the end of the journey.
- f) He “ascended up” (anabaino) (Eph. 4:8)
- g) He was “caught up” (harpazo) (Rev. 12:5). It means to be snatched away.

What a journey it was:

- a) With angelic hosts accompanying Him (He will come the same way, with angelic hosts, the armies of Heaven (Rev. 19:11-20), thus He went up as the mighty Victor having overcome the world (Jn. 16:33), the devil, and His stronghold “death” (Heb. 2:14).
- b) “A cloud received Him out of their sight” (Acts 1:9; Lk. 24:31). What was the cloud? Was it a fluffy white thing? The shekinah glory? A vast multitude of angels? It definitely was a vast multitude of angels, but it could have been a cloud of vapor at the beginning and incorporated in it the glory of God.
- c) He ascended as the mighty Victor leading captivity captive (Eph. 4:9-10) and “passed into the Heavens”. (The preposition “into” indicates “through, thus “through the heavens” (Heb. 4:14); “made higher than the heavens” (Heb. 7:26); “Far above all heavens” (Eph. 4:10); “Into heaven” (Acts 1:11). He by-passed the archangels, cherubim, seraphim, thrones, dominions, authorities, principalities and powers until He came to the right hand of God; “Angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him” (1 Pet. 3:22).

His Immeasurable Greatness in Being Able To Enter The Throne Room of The Great King And Sit Down

When the Lord went back to Heaven the Holy Spirit uses a number of expressions to tell where He sat down.

- a) Where He sat:
 - i) “Sat on the right hand of God” (Mk. 16:19)
 - ii) “Sitteth on the right hand of God” (Col. 3:1)
 - iii) “Sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high” (Heb. 1:3)
 - iv) “Set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb. 12:2)
 - v) “Set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places” (Eph. 1:20)
 - vi) “Set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens” (Heb. 8:1)
 - vii) “Sit on the right hand of the power of God” (Lk. 22:69)
- b) He sat by divine command:
 - i) The Lord said . . . “Sit Thou on my right hand” (Lk. 20:42; Heb. 1:13)
- c) He sat in that place by:
 - i) “Being by the right hand of God exalted” (Acts 2:33)
 - ii) “Him hath God exalted with His right hand” (Acts 5:31)

How Was He Received?

When the Lord ascended, I speak reverently, God’s joy knew no bounds, beholding Him the Lord exalted Him by:

- a) Acclamation saying, “Sit Thou at my right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool” (Psa. 110:1)
- b) Affirmation, for He is brought to the Throne Sitter and takes the book from His hand (Rev 5:7)
- c) Adoration, for the hosts of heaven shall sing with genuine heartfelt praises, “And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and

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blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.” (Rev. 5:9-13)

I am thankful that the Lord is ascended. Because of that I have:

- a) A Priest after the order of Melchisedec who is ever interceding for me (Heb. 5:6; 7:25)
- b) I have an Advocate with the Father when I sin (1 Jn. 2:1)
- c) I have the assurance that where He is I will be also (Jn. 14:3)
- d) I have the assuring comfort of knowing that my standing before God will never change because, “As He is, so am I in the world” (1 Jn. 4:17). He stands before God in impeccable perfection, that shall never change.

As I think of this thanksgiving I can do nothing else but thank God for all His bountiful blessings, material, and spiritual to me.



.... Rowan Jennings