

WHY I BELIEVE: JESUS REIGNS WITH GOD

Acts 13:30-38

I. INTRODUCTION

A. I BELIEVE GOD IS FATHER, ALMIGHTY, CREATOR

1. ALMIGHTY CREATOR

- Evidence of—Biblical Record—Science—Nature
- Human—Logic—Conscience—Intuition

2. FATHER

- His Spirit enables us to call Him “Abba, Father”—[Gal 4](#)
- His Spirit bears witness to our Spirit—we are His children—[Rom 8](#)

B. I BELIEVE JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD AND LORD

1. ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD

- Eternal—co-equal and co-creator with God the Father
- Poured out—as Son of Man

2. LORD

- Exalted above all—for His obedience—death on cross
- Restored Son of Man—to pre-incarnate glory of Son of God
- We acknowledge Him as Lord—key to salvation

3. IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE—HE HAS CHANGED ME

- [II Cor 5:17](#)—*Therefore if anyone is in Christ, his is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

C. I BELIEVE GOD’S SON WAS VIRGIN-BORN

1. IMPORTANCE

- Full humanity of Christ—born of woman
- Full deity of Christ—supernaturally conceived by God

2. CHRIST’S ETERNAL RIGHTEOUSNESS—BASIS FOR REDEMPTION

- a. **Perfect** God-Man—inherently **sinless**—**infinite** divine sacrifice for all human sin
- b. Our Righteousness—comes from His perfect obedience—and eternal righteousness as Son
- c. Our Pardon—relies on this righteousness

D. I BELIEVE GOD’S SON DIED FOR ME

1. WHAT HIS DEATH DOES

- Demonstrates God ‘foolishness’ and ‘weakness’—defied human wisdom and power
- Vanquishes death
- Atones for sins
- Reconciles us to Father—saved us
- Demonstrates God’s love
- Assures us of final victory

2. HOW I KNOW CHRIST DIED FOR ME

- *Only* to those being saved—the preaching of the cross is the *power* of God—[I Cor 1:18](#)

E. I BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST WAS RESURRECTED

1. EVIDENCE OF EMPTY TOMB
2. BIBLICAL ACCOUNTS OF RESURRECTION AND HIS APPEARANCES
3. WITNESS OF EARLY CHURCH
4. PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF PROMISE OF RESURRECTION

II Cor 4:14—*Because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you.*

F. I BELIEVE JESUS REIGNS WITH THE FATHER

He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty

II. BIBLICAL TEXT—EPH 1:18-23

18 *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might 20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

III. BIBLICAL RECORD

A. PROPHESIED—BY DANIEL

- ❖ **Dan 7:13-14a**—*I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven, One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him.*

B. PROMISED—BY JESUS

1. HIS CALLING TO COSTLY DISCIPLESHIP

- **Mk 8:38**—*For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in His Father's glory with the holy angels.*

2. HIS PREDICTING END TIMES

- **Mk 13:24-26**—*But in those days following that distress, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time, men will see the Son of Man coming on clouds with great power and glory.*

3. HIS RESPONDING TO HIGH PRIEST

- **Mk 4:61-62**—*Again the High Priest asked Him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?” “I AM,” said Jesus, “and you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.*

C. **FULFILLED**—IN HISTORY

1. JESUS’ PROCLAMATIONS OF AUTHORITY

- Before inviting the ‘weary and heavy-laden’ to come to Him
 - o **Mt 11:27**—*All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.*
- With Great Commission
 - o **Mt 28:18**—*All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth*

2. HIS ASCENSION—EYEWITNES ACCOUNTS

- By Mark—[for Peter]
 - o **Mk 16:19**—*After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.*
- By Luke—[from witnesses—whom Jesus told to remain in Jerusalem]
 - o **Acts 1:11**—[As they watched—2 angels told them]—*Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him to into heaven.*

3. STEPHEN’S WITNESS

- **Acts 7:55-56**—*But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, “Behold I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.*

4. PAUL’S WITNESS

- Acts 9**—Paul encountered post-resurrection Christ—road to Damascus
- Twice testified—before Jewish officials—AD 59
 - o To Sanhedrin—in Jerusalem—**Acts 22**
 - o To King Herod Agrippa II—at Caesarea—**Acts 26**
- Central to Paul’s gospel message—He saw the resurrected Christ
 - o **I Cor 15:8**—*as to one untimely born—He appeared to me also*

IV. WHAT THIS MEANS

A. HIS POSITION IS SUPREME—SOVEREIGN

1. GOD HIGHLY EXALTED HIM—ABOVE ALL—**Ph 2:9**
2. ALL THINGS ARE *BEING* SUBJECTED TO HIM—**I Cor 15:27**
3. HE *IS NOW WORKING* OUT THIS SOVEREIGNTY—BY ASSERTING HIS POWER

B. HE IS IN HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE—GLORIFIED AT THE FATHER’S SIDE

1. FOLLOWERS GLIMPSED A SPARK OF HIS DIVINE GLORY
 - a. **Jn 1:14**—they saw His glory, even of the Only Begotten, full of grace and truth
 - b. **John 2**—miracle at Cana—He manifested His glory, and the disciples believed
 - c. **II Pe 1**—Peter and others saw His glory at Transfiguration
2. GLORY UNMASKED—MANIFESTED IN HIS DEATH—AND RESURRECTION!

Jn 13:23-24—*The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.*

3. HE HAS RECLAIMED HIS FULL PRE-INCARNATE GLORY

Jn 17:4-5, 24—*I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. Now Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. . . . Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with e where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.*

C. HE IS RULING OVER HIS KINGDOM

1. KINGDOM **INAGURATED**—BY HIS EARTHLY MINISTRY
 - **Mk 1:15**—*The time has come; the Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news.*
 - **Lk 17:20-21**—*The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed, nor will they say, “Look, here it is!” or “There it is!” For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst.*
2. LORDSHIP OVER **ETERNAL** KINGDOM
 - a. **Isaiah** prophesied
 - o **Is 9:6-7**—*And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forever.*
 - b. **Daniel** prophesied
 - o **Dan 7:14b**—*His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.*
 - c. **Gabriel** announced to **Mary**

- o **Lk 1:32-33**—*He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.*

d. **Heavenly**—not earthly—Kingdom

- o **Jn 18:36**—[answering Pilate]—**My kingdom is not of this world.** *If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews, but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.*

3. **UNIVERSAL KINGDOM**—FOR ALL WHO FOLLOW

- **Dan 7:14**—*And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him.*
- **Is 66:18, 19, 22-23**—*the time is coming to gather **all nations and tongues**. And they shall come and see My glory. . . . And they will declare My glory among the nations. Then they shall bring all your brethren from **all the nations** as a grain offering to the Lord . . . For just as the new heavens and the new earth which I make will endure before Me, declares the Lord, And it shall be from new moon to new moon and from Sabbath to Sabbath, **all humankind** will come to bow down before Me, says the Lord.*

4. KINGDOM OF **RIGHTEOUSNESS**

a. Jesus' exhortation—do not seek *earthly* things

- o **Mt 6:33**—*But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness*

b. Paul's description

- o **Rom 14:17**—*for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit*

V. WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

A. HE IS WHERE HE BELONGS—AT HOME WITH THE FATHER

1. **DETERMINED TO ASCEND**—[AND RETURN HOME]

- Set His face toward Jerusalem—before His ascension—**Lk 9:51**
- **Like a spiritual GPS—spiritual 'homing' drove Him on!!!**

2. EXPRESSED HIS **INTENTION**—TO DEPART—AND RETURN HOME

- **Jn 17:11**—*I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You.*

3. **PREDICTED HIS DEPARTURE**

a. To the Pharisees—who *could not* follow Him

Jn 7:33-34—*For a little while longer I am with you, then I go to Him who sent Me. You will seek me, and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come.*

b. To His disciples

1. So they might **do greater things**—**Jn 14:12**
2. So He could **send the Holy Spirit**—impossible without His ‘going away’—**Jn 16**
3. So they might **rejoice**—in His return to the Father

Jn 14:28—*If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.*

- a. Reason for joy—reunification of Son with Almighty Father
- b. Together—with His Father’s power—they secure our salvation

Jn 10:29—*My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.*

4. So they **could follow** Him—eventually

Jan 14:36—*Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow later.*

- c. His repeated insistence
 - o **Jn 16**—Jesus told them 3 times—*I go to the One who sent me—to the Father*
 - o **Jn 20**—To Mary outside the tomb—*I ascend to My Father and your Father, and my God and your God*

B. HE IS DOING HIS WORK THERE

1. FULFILLING HIS PROMISE—TO US

- **Jn 14:2**—*I go to prepare a place for you . . .*

2. INTERCEDING WITH THE FATHER—FOR US

- **Rom 8:34**—*Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.*

3. ACHIEVING FINAL VICTORY—WORKING IT OUT

- a. Now—He is using His power—fulfilling His sovereignty—making it a total reality
 - b. Seen in—Purposes of Reign—eventually accomplished
 - o **I Cor 15:24-26**—*Then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death.*
1. To **defeat** all opposing power/authority—all enemies
 2. To bring everything into *total*—and *actual*—**subjection** to Himself
 3. To finish defeating **death**—in finality!

- The ‘reign of death’—defeated by His righteousness—and ‘reign of life’
- **Rom 5:17**—*For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.*

4. To **return** everything to the Father—to glorify the Father

4. HOLDS EVERYTHING TOGETHER

- a. He originated—created—all power/authority
- b. Now—He sustains it all—by His power

Col 1:15-17—*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.*

- c. Not just theory—but **supernatural** reality
 - o His power binds all nature together—the whole universe!
 - o **Cosmic Christ**—*the fullness of Him who fills all in all*—**Eph 1:23**

Col 1:19-20—*For it was the Father’s good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross—through Him, I say— whether things on earth or things in heaven.*

VI. APPLICATION

A. HE SHARES HIS INHERITANCE WITH HIS FOLLOWERS

Eph 1:18—*The riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints*

1. PROPHESED BY DANIEL

Dan 7:18, 27—*But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come. . . . Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One.*

2. PROMISED TO GOD’S CHILDREN—JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST

Rom 8:16-17—*The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.*

3. HIS ‘BOND-SERVANTS’ WILL REIGN ETERNALLY—**Rev 22:5**

B. CHRIST-FOLLOWERS—CALLED TO SERVE ETERNALLY

1. JESUS IS **SERVANT KING**—SUBMITTING TO THE FATHER!

- He subjects Himself to the Father—who is greater than the Son

I Cor 15:28—*When all things are subjected to Him, then he son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be al in all.*

2. APPLICATION

- a. Our ‘**reign**’—will be a ‘**righteousness**’ one—obeying the Father—heavenly kingdom
- b. Only ‘**bondservants**’ who **serve** Him eternally—**Rev 22:3**—will ‘reign’ eternally
- c. Our **service**—is never *supplanted* by reigning—our service **is** our reigning
- d. **Following** Him *to and in* His kingdom—means following Him in **servanthood!**

Jn 12:26—*If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me, and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.*

VII. INVITATION

❖ OUR ‘HOMING’ CALL— SPIRITUAL GPS—TRILATERATION OF TRINITY

- **THE FATHER CALLS US HOME**
- **THE SON IS THE WAY—WHO PREPARES OUR PLACE**
- **THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH GLORIFIES THE SON—AND SHOWS THE WAY**

WHEREVER HE LEADS I’LL GO

“Take up thy cross and follow me,”
I heard my Master say;
“I gave me life to ransom thee,
Surrender your all today.”

CHORUS:
Wherever He leads I’ll go,
Wherever He leads I’ll go,
I’ll follow my Christ who loves me so,
Wherever He leads I’ll go.

He drew me closer to His side,
I sought His will to know,
And in that will I now abide,
Wherever He leads I’ll go.

It may be through the shadows dim,
Or o’er the stormy sea,
I take my cross and follow Him,
Wherever He leadeth me.