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“Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever”

THE ESCHATOLOGICAL CHRIST

I. INTRODUCTION

Hebrews 13:8 *“Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever!”*

Having a right understanding of Who Jesus Christ was, is and is to come, is so important for us and our hearers! Look at the placing of this statement of Truth, it is right between the mentioning of:

1. true leaders (v.7)
2. strange teachings (v.9)

Jesus is the Anchor-point of all doctrine!

And the Jesus we know from the Gospels is the SAME JESUS

- yesterday (before the foundation of the earth)
- today (right now) and
- forever (in the future, when He’ll come to take us to be with Him forever).

I want to focus on Him today, as we should, and understand that He is the same, and yet also understand the distinguished role He has for His second coming.

II. “THIS SAME JESUS!”

In Acts 1:11, we find two angels accompanying the disciples, who - though Christ has already been taken up and received out of their sight by a cloud - said to them: “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This (same) Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Here, two things are the same:

1. Jesus is the same when He comes as when he went, and
2. the way He returns is the same as He went up into heaven

Questions of observation:

1. What was Jesus like, when He went up into Heaven?

- He was a resurrected Man Luke 24:5-7, Rev 1:17-18 and that's how He will return - with the marks of his death still in his resurrected body! See Rev 1:7, 5:6, Zech 14:10
- He was a Man, not a ghost, Luke 24:37-43 and as a Man He will come back and judge the world, see Acts 17:31
- He had a glorified body, as He could walk through matter, and be translated instantaneously to different geographical locations. Luke 24:31, 36, John 20:19, He will come back with that glorified body! 1Cor 15:42-49, and 1Jn 3:2
- Though He was the Son of God, He was fully Man, Phil 2:6, He will still be Man when He returns to judge the world, Acts 17:31,
- It was the exaltation/glorification moment, Joh 7:39, Phil 2:9, Psalm 24:7-10, Acts 2:33,
- He gained the God-given title "*Lord and Christ*", Acts 2:36 and a Name above every other name: Son, see Hebrews 1:4, Phil 2:9, Ephesians 1:12

2. How did Jesus go up into Heaven?

- He went up in the presence of witnesses, "*as they were looking on...*" (Acts 1:9), He will also return in the presence of witnesses "*every eye will see him*" (Re 1:7)
- He was physically elevated and was exalted into heaven "*...He was lifted up...*". He will also physically return to the earth! His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives. Zech 14:4
- He was lifted up and a "*cloud took him out of their sight*", Acts 1:9. And also at His Second Coming, Rev 1:7 "*He is coming with the clouds*"
- He went up from Mount Olivet, and that's exactly where His feet will stand when He returns, see Luke 24:50, Acts 1:12, Zech 14:4

Concluding: Jesus, once resurrected, was already in His eschatological form, how He will be at the end of the age! Right now, Jesus is in this glorified, powerful, heavenly body, which has no limits as to:

* time - it lives forever,

* space - it can be translated to various geographical locations instantaneously, and

* matter - it can move through walls and doors, and ceilings, yet enjoy a grilled-fish breakfast.

So it can move beyond the laws of nature: *“In the beginning (TIME) God created the Heaven (SPACE) and the Earth (MATTER)”* (Gen 1:1) and therefore it is fit for a heaven on earth reality! (Rev 21:1-3)

So it is the SAME JESUS who returns as the One that went up! John 8:58: *“I AM”*

III. HIS DISTINGUISHED ROLE

So not His nature, not his being, but what does change however is His role. And this is important to understand, otherwise you might be offended at His coming or deceived in the End Time.

OFFENDED & DECEIVED: FRUITS OF MISUNDERSTANDING

People got offended with Jesus first coming, because they didn't understand and recognise Him, and what He came to do.

- John 1:11 *“...His own did not receive Him...”*

- Matthew 11:6 *“blessed is he who is not offended by Me”!*

- Matthew 26:31 *“all offended...”*

We are in danger of having the same thing happen to us if we don't understand or have a revelation of the Eschatological Christ; what He is coming to do at His return!

The question comes: *“Who do you say that I, the Son of Man, am?”* - the Christ the Son of the Living God! - REVELATION! (Matthew 16:16-18)

Matthew 24:10 (AMPLIFIED)

“At that time many will be offended and repelled [by their association with Me] and will fall away [from the One whom they should trust] and will betray one another [handing over believers to their persecutors] and will hate one another.”

Jesus wept over Jerusalem (its people and religious leaders), because they did not understand/recognise the *“time of your visitation”*. Luke 19:41,44 The NIV states it in this way: *“because you did not recognise the time of God's coming to you.”*

Again this is reinforcing the importance of having a clear understanding of Christ and His Role in the Second Coming!

1. What is His distinguished Role?

1. The Lamb, now a Lion. (Rev 5:5, 19:15-16)
2. Our Justifier will be our Judge (Acts 17:31, 1Cor 1:30, Romans 4:25, John 5:22, Jude 1:14-15, Isa 26:20-21. Two Judgments: “Bema-seat” (2Cor 4:10) and the “Great White Throne” (Rev 20:11-12)
3. Our Comforting Saviour will be a Conquering Warrior. (Rev 17:14, 19:19-20)
4. The Alpha will prove also to be the Omega (Rev 1:7)
5. Favour makes way to Vengeance. (Isa 61:2, Rom 12:19)
6. He Who made a Way, now prepares a Place (John 14:1-6, Isa 26:20-21, Heb 11:16)
7. He is coming to RESTORE all things! (Acts 3:21)

2. What else is the Eschatological Christ doing now, until He comes again on the clouds?

- Always makes intercession for us! (Heb 7:25)
- Advocate on our behalf (1Jn 2:1)
- He is still guiding us into all Truth by His Spirit (John 16:13-15)
- He upholds/sustains the universe by the Word of His power! (Heb 1:3)
- He is seated at right hand of God (Heb 1:3), having all authority and power. He reigns! (Rev 11:17) notice - “begun to reign”

IV. CONCLUSION

So it is the SAME JESUS Who returns as the One that went up!
John 8:58: “*I AM*” - not His nature, not His being, but what does change however is His role. And this is important to understand to prevent being offended at His coming or being deceived in the End Times.

Amen.