

JESUS IS LORD!; 2:9-11 (Ed O'Leary)

INTRODUCTION.

THIS A.M. WE'LL FINISH LOOKING AT VERSES 5-11.

▶▶ Recall Paul's main point in this paragraph, ~ exhortation in **vs. 5**. ~ Calls believers to adopt the same attitude toward one another that Jesus had.

▶▶ Then, ~ as we know, ~ in **verses 6-11**, ~ from exhortation to explanation.

▷▷ Remember in **verse 6** Paul explained Jesus' attitude.

▷▷ And in **verses 7-8** Paul described the actions Jesus took based on his attitude.

▶▶ Today we'll finish this paragraph by looking at **verses 9-11**.

IN VERSE 9, ~ PAUL EXPLAINS THE RESULT OF JESUS' ACTIONS.

PAUL BEGINS BY SAYING "THEREFORE."

▶▶ The word "**Therefore**" shows that what follows is a direct result of Jesus' two actions.

▷▷ Jesus, ~ who is *God*, ~ went from the highest position to the lowest. ~ ~ *God* became a servant.

▷▷ And Jesus humbled himself, ~ the ultimate demonstration of which being his total and willing obedience to the Father's will even to the point of death, ~ **↓↓**

↳↳ despite the fact it was death on a cross, ~ the most cruel and humiliating death known at that time.

▷▷ And he did it all for us. ~ ~ He became a servant and humbled himself in order to personally carry our sins in his body on the cross.

↳↳ Jesus substituted Himself in our place. ~ ~ He took our place on the cross.

→→ He paid the penalty ~ that we deserved to pay ~ and that He ~ absolutely ~ did not deserve to pay.

▷▷ Jesus' actions opened the door to forgiveness of sins and eternal life for us. ~ ~ We just need to repent of our sins and accept the forgiveness offered by him. **↓↓ 1/6**

▶▶ As a result of Jesus doing all of this, ~ "God [the Father] has highly exalted [Jesus] and bestowed on him the name that is above every name."

▷▷ I.e., ~ as a result of the actions Jesus took, ~ the Father raised him from the dead, ~ brought him back up to heaven, ~ and glorified him.

↳↳ Heb. 1:3b says, ~ "After making purification for sins [i.e., ~ After accomplishing cleansing for sins], ~ he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."

→→ "sat down at the right hand" is a way of saying that Jesus has the place of supreme honor, ~ authority, ~ and power.

▶▶ Back to [verse 9](#). ~ The Greek verb behind phrase "has highly exalted" literally means "to super-exalt," ~ "to raise someone to the loftiest height."

▷▷ It depicts God in one dramatic action lifting Christ from the depths to the highest place.

▶▶ Now, ~ it's important to understand here that this exaltation was a return to the highest position that Jesus held as God.

▷▷ Jn. 16:28, ~ NIV, ~ "I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."

▷▷ In his high priestly prayer, ~ Jesus asked the Father to return him to the glory that he shared with the Father before the world existed.

THIS MOVE OF JESUS FROM HIS THRONE TO THE EARTH TO THE GRAVE AND THEN being restored to his throne reflects and serves as an example of a principle of God's kingdom.

▶▶ The way up is down.

▶▶ Jesus' words on this subject were gloriously fulfilled in himself. ~ Matt. 23:12, ~ "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

▶▶ Bible teaches that those who exalt themselves will be humbled, ~ that those who humble themselves will be exalted, ~ that God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

▶▶ Jesus said that those who humble themselves like a child will be greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

▶▶ Prov. 29:23, ~ "One's pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor." ~ Pride ends in humiliation, ~ while humility brings honor. ↕ 2/6

PAUL GOES ON AND SAYS AT THE END OF VERSE 9, ~ THAT GOD BESTOWED ON JESUS the name that is above every name.

▶▶ This is actually very similar to what Paul just said. ~ Jesus has the highest position. ~ Jesus has the highest name. ~ The connection is the word "highest."

▷▷ Both indicate possessing the maximum status.

▶▶ So I would suggest that Paul is not referring to two different things in [verse 9](#). ~ Rather, ~ he's referring to the same thing in two different ways.

▷▷ And here's the point Paul is making: ~ Jesus is absolutely sovereign.

▷▷ Referring to it in two different ways, ~ "highly exalted" and "the name that is above every name," ~ combine to put emphasis on Jesus' absolute sovereignty.

▷▷ There is absolutely no one above Jesus in any area, ~ any characteristic, ~ any anything!

▶▶ Jesus declared this to be the case when he gave us the great commission.

▷▷ [Matt. 28:18](#), ~ "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.'"

▷▷ Note the comprehensive nature of this

▶▶ Nothing and no one is outside of his sovereign control.

▷▷ No plunging stock market, ~ terrorist attack, ~ troubled Middle East, ~ or presidential election ~ threatens His control or hinders it in the least.

▶▶ He is infinitely superior to and sovereign over all human governments.

▷▷ Pilate

▶▶ There will never be a time when any human government, ~ or any human or human group for that matter, ~ will in any way threaten or rival the absolute supremacy of Jesus.

▷▷ [Ps. 2:1-6](#)

▶▶ Jesus has authority over disease and natural forces. ~ He has the authority to forgive sins and to raise the dead. ~ He has the right to judge the living and the dead. **⇓ 3/6**

▶▶ In Eph. 1:21, ~ Paul has demonic forces in view, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ and declares that Jesus is "far above ~ [i.e., Jesus is infinitely superior to] ~ all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named ~ [i.e., ~ no demonic being has been excluded, ~ not only in this age but also in the one to come."

▷▷ Simply put, ~ Paul's point is that Jesus is infinitely superior to Satan and all of his fellow fallen angels, ~ and will be forever.

↪↪ Paul assures us that there will never be a time when any demonic being, ~ Satan or otherwise, ~ will in any way threaten or rival Jesus' absolute sovereignty.

▶▶ Jesus has supreme authority throughout the universe. ~ He is sovereign over all of history and all of life. ~ Nothing is out of His control.

▶▶ And think about this as we ponder these things my brothers and sisters in Christ.

▷▷ The way we respond to circumstances in our lives and to current events speaks volumes about our belief in the sovereignty of Jesus.

▶▶ Now, ~ all of this is extremely good news for us, ~ my

OK, ~ IN VERSE 9, ~ PAUL EXPLAINED THE RESULT OF JESUS' ACTIONS, ~ THEN in verses 10-11 he describes a little of what Jesus' exaltation means.

NASB, ~ "EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, OF THOSE WHO ARE IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH AND under the earth, and . . . every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." ~ Comprehensive

▶▶ Now, ~ let us not make the mistake of thinking that this is teaching some kind of universal salvation.

▷▷ Word for "confess" has the sense here of "to declare openly in acknowledgment."

↪↪ Public acknowledgement, ~ not praise or personal confession, ~ is in view.

▷▷ Could read: ~ "and every tongue will acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord."

▷▷ So what Paul is saying is that all will bow, ~ whether willingly (believers and holy angels), ~ ¶¶

↪↪ or in submission and fear (unbelievers and evil angels), ~ and all will acknowledge . . .

▶▶ But the thing of it is, ~ God would rather have all people do it willingly, ~ i.e., ~ in adoration and worship.

▷▷ I say people, ~ because there is no possible redemption for fallen angels. ~~ So there is no possibility of them willingly bowing and acknowledging Jesus.

▶▶ As I said, ~ God would rather have all people do it in adoration and worship.

▷▷ In Eph., ~ Paul says that God is "rich in mercy."

↪↪ This implies that He is much more interested in being merciful to humans than in bringing His wrath down upon our heads.

▷▷ To put it differently, ~ God would much rather people face His mercy, ~ love, ~ and grace ~ than His wrath. ~~ Scripture makes this abundantly clear.

↪↪ In Jn. 3:17, ~ Jesus said, ~ "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, ~ but in order that the world might be saved through him."

↪↪ In 1 Tim. 2:4, ~ Paul tells us that God "desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." ~~ Please understand. ~~ Not saying

↪↪ And in Ezek. 33:11a, ~ God says, ~ "Say to them, ~ As I live, ~ declares the Lord God, ~ I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, ~ but that the wicked turn from his way and live." ~~ God would much rather

(Verses 10-11) EVERY KNEE, ~ NO EXCEPTIONS, ~ WILL BOW BEFORE JESUS, AND EVERY tongue, ~ no exceptions, ~ will acknowledge "that Jesus Christ is Lord."

▶▶ Paul is alluding here to Is. 45:23, ~ where God promises that all the ends of the earth will openly acknowledge that He is the one true God.

▶▶ The word "Lord" is the translation of a word found in the Greek translation of the Old Testament, ~ where it is used to translate the personal name of God in the OT, ~ i.e., ~ Yahweh.

▶▶ What's Paul saying? ~~ This: ~~ "Every knee, ~ absolutely no exceptions, ~ will bow before Jesus, ~ and every tongue, ~ absolutely no exceptions, ~ will acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Yahweh, ~ the one true God, ~ the eternal and sovereign Creator of the universe."

▷▷ To paraphrase Is. 45:5a, ~ "Jesus is Yahweh, ~ and there is no other, ~ besides him there is no God." ~~ Furthermore, ~ besides Jesus, ~ there is no Savior. ⚡ 5/6

BACK TO VERSES 10-11.

▶▶Speaking of when this bowing and acknowledging takes place, ~ it will not happen until Jesus returns to establish his universal kingdom and fully implement his universal authority.

▷▷It's "will bow" ~~ "will acknowledge."

▷▷Dan. 7:13-14.

"↪↪¹³ I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.

→→¹⁴ And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

▶▶In the meantime, ~ Jesus is temporarily allowing the curse of sin and the powers of evil to continue.

▷▷One of the reasons for this is to give people time to repent and turn to him, ~ as Peter tells us in his second epistle.

▶▶But Peter also assures that the day is coming when Jesus will exercise his authority, ~ universally, ~ and forever. ~~ 2 Pet. 3:10

▷▷"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, ~ and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, ~ and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, ~ and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed."

(Verses 10-11) AT THE END OF VERSE 11, ~ PAUL NOTES THAT THIS BOWING BEFORE Jesus and openly acknowledging that he is Yahweh will bring glory to God the Father.

CONCLUSION.

JESUS IS LORD!

▶▶Praise him with hallelujahs, ~ for Jesus is Lord!

LET'S PRAY 6/6