

the DISPENSATION OF CHRIST

Steve Magill – stevemagill@mail.com

And Jesus answered him,
"The first of all the
commandments is, 'Hear, O
Israel; The Lord our God
is one Lord:'"
(Mark 12:29)

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. (John 1:1-2). Even though Jesus was God he considered that there would be nothing wrong with remaining in the form of God (Philippians 2:6). However, as he watched sin overcome mankind his love for mankind moved him to do what our minds would consider unthinkable: he separated from his divine power, his glory, his throne as God and entered the earth with all the limitations of a man (John 3:16). This would be the only way that the Devil's power, sin's hold, and man's last enemy, death, could be destroyed: God as man had to die and defeat death by rising from the dead (Philippians 2:6-7; John 1:14; 12:28; 17:5; 1 Corinthians 15:26; Hebrews 2:14-15; 10:12).

JESUS ENTERS THE EARTH

After entering the earth, in the same manner as any other individual, through the womb of a woman, Jesus now had "life in himself" which is separate from God the Father and his divine power (John 5:26; Matthew 3:16-17; 17:5-6; John 12:28). This means he has thoughts, emotions, even a will of his own separate from God the Father. However, Jesus always did the will of His Father, choosing to think, feel, say, and behave in the manner of his Father; therefore, God never departed from him (John 8:29). Like you and me, Jesus had to make the conscious decision to choose God's will over his own will. He had to choose to submit his life to the Father's will (John 5:30-31; 6:38; 7:25; 8:54; 14:24). Because God took upon himself the body of a person with all its limitations, he also experienced the temptations of this world like the rest of us and had to overcome temptations in the same way

you and I must overcome temptations (Matthew 4:1-12; Hebrews 2:18; 4:14-15). Jesus used God's word to resist the Devil. Jesus is our example for overcoming sin. Even as Jesus lived a sinless life, we now have the power, with the Holy Spirit, to also overcome sin by overcoming the temptation that leads to sin (James 1:13-15). Because Jesus overcame the temptation before it became sin, he always remained without sin. Like Jesus, we must choose God's will over our own. We must choose to remove the temptation within us before it ever becomes a sin outside us. This is made possible because we now have the Holy Spirit in us, like Jesus. Since we have the Holy Spirit in us, we now have the power to live without sin and to live with God's character and behavior 24/7 (Galatians 5:19-25).

JESUS' DEATH, BURIAL, RESURRECTION

After Jesus died upon the cross and was buried, he then descended into the "center of the earth" where he preached to the spirits there, those people who disobeyed in the days of Noah, refusing to repent while Noah was building the ark. Since Jesus had not yet died on the cross when they died, he preached to them to give them the chance for eternal life (1 Peter 3:18-20; 4:6; Ephesians 4:9; Matthew 12:40).

RISES FROM THE CENTER OF THE EARTH

After preaching in the center of the earth for three days and three nights (Matthew 12:40), Jesus rises from the dead and returns to his earthly body (John 20:16-17; Ephesians 1:20; Matthew 28:1-6, 9). He remained on the earth in his resurrected body for forty days where he was seen by over five hundred people (Acts 1:3; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8). He then ascended into

heaven and into the clouds (Acts 1:9). Two angels made it clear that Jesus would return in the same way he ascended: he would descend to the earth from the clouds. (Acts 1:10-11).

RETURNS TO HEAVEN TO SIT AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD AND HIS THRONE

After his resurrection and ascension into heaven, he took his place and sat at the right hand of his divine glory, God's throne, and God the Father (Matthew 16:19; Luke 22:69; Acts 2:33-35; 7:55-56; Romans 8:34; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1;3, 13: 8:1; 10:12; 12:2; 1 Peter 3:22). This is where Jesus is right now, revealing that he is right now still separated from his divine glory and power that he had before taking the body of a man.

JESUS RETURNS

When Jesus returns, he will be seen in the clouds, still at the right hand of his divine power (Matthew 26:64; Mark 14:62).

REUNITES WITH HIS DIVINE POWER AND THRONE

When Jesus returns to the earth, he gives to God the Father everything that is in heaven and on earth. After handing all things to God the Father, Jesus then submits himself to the Father and reunites with his "excellent glory" (divine power and glory). Someone else will now have the privilege of sitting at his right hand when he sits upon the throne of his glory to be fully God with His divine power and with no human limitations (Matthew 20:20-23; Matthew 19:28; 25:31; Acts 2:33-35; 1 Corinthians 15:24, 28; Hebrews 1:13).

JUDGEMENT OF ALL

After Jesus sits upon the throne of God to reunite with the divine glory and power he had before entering the earth as a man, he then judges everyone at the great white throne judgment as God (Revelation 20:11-15). There is no longer

one Jesus and one Father with each having "life within themselves." There is only one, Jesus, reunited with his divine glory, divine power, and sitting on God's throne no longer at His right hand.

Steve Magill

stevemagill@mail.com

hope-for-today.com

12/29/2021