

Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 50-51– Christ’s Power and Glory

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: There is a whole field of study that emphasizes how to use the visual effectively. This is especially true with advertising. Advertisers hope that you want something because you see it – and they promise it would make your life better. This is also remarkably true in the political world. The North Koreans wanted to show their power so they test-launched missiles over Japan. They weren’t trying to kill anyone but they want to give a visual. This visual, they hoped, would put fear in the Japanese. Another example: The United States, Russia, and China send out their aircraft carriers near other countries so they would see their military power. If a country doesn’t have such military power, it puts fear in them and removes their confidence (信心). The visual is strong.

And that is similar to what the Lord will show you today... Jesus Christ, having finished his work on earth, is now sitting on the throne in heaven – even as Stephen saw him.

Our headings are: **Power and Glory of Christ Displayed for friend and Enemies**, and **Power and Glory of Christ Deployed for Friends and on Enemies**.

Our goals are: That because you are on the Lord’s side, you **might find comfort that your Savior rules from his heavenly throne and from where he sends gifts –gifts of weapons to fight.**

Power and Glory Displayed for friends and enemies

50 Q. WHY THE NEXT WORDS: “AND SITTETH AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD”?

A. Christ ascended to heaven, there **to show that he is head** of his church, and that the Father **rules all things** through him.

1. Jesus Christ sits in heaven. With Christ’s work done on earth, he now shows that he is head of the church. Redemption was accomplished and applied. Now is the time of ruling and conquering.

Ephesians 1:20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

And being seated next to his Father demonstrates his preeminence 杰出 Jesus is not a puppet king!

Colossians 1:18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Jesus Christ is now in Adam’s place. He is head of the world. The Pope is not the head of Christ’s church, as Roman Catholics teach. The Queen is not the head of Christ’s church, as Anglicans teach. President Obama is not the most powerful person in the world.

The Apostle Paul heard him speak from heaven directly to him. (Acts 9)

The martyr Stephen saw Jesus sitting at the right hand of the Father. (Acts 7)

2. With Christ’s work done on earth he visually confirms that he rules all things from heaven and that he is a conquering king. This visual confirmed what he had earlier said on earth!

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

And no one is a ruler without the power to judge, so Jesus Christ has all power to judge.

Other passages show this visual: Jesus is pictured in Revelation as sitting on his throne in royal robes, and riding out on his white horse with white clothes.

Revelation 19:11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with **a robe dipped in blood**, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on

white horses.¹⁵ **Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword**, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Because of his work of conquering the nations and protecting his children at the same time, you see his clothes dripping in blood. This why we sing: "*Conquering now and still to conquer, rideth a king in his might.*" Of course his bloody clothes is not literal, but figurative, but it shows what a sitting king is doing through his people. Remember, the sword we use is his Word – the Bible- to wound men's hearts and make them surrender.

3. Application: Honor Christ by doctrine and life the one who is sitting on the throne and has all authority to judge. In fact, everyone ought to and will bow the knee to King Jesus. Every government of every nation on this planet is bound to obey Jesus Christ. They must bend the knee. They must stand in wonder of His majesty. If they don't bend the knee, he will break it.

John 5:22 "For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, ²³ "that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

4. Application: Evangelize. Is your clothes dripping with blood? Are you wounding people's hearts with the Word of God? Do you know the Sword of God well enough to use it to get to their hearts?

5. Application: Judgment. Those who do not submit to his rule will be destroyed, even as Israel and Judah were.

Hosea 6: 4 "O Ephraim, what shall I do to you? O Judah, what shall I do to you? For your faithfulness is like a morning cloud, And like the early dew it goes away. ⁵ Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets, I have slain them by the words of My mouth; And your judgments are like light that goes forth.

Psalms 73:16 When I thought how to understand this, It was too painful for me—¹⁷ Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end. ¹⁸ Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. ¹⁹ Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors.

6. Application: Be patient. Don't worry if you don't see the wicked destroyed now. Wait.

Power and Glory Deployed for friend and on enemies

51 Q. HOW DOES THIS GLORY OF CHRIST OUR HEAD BENEFIT US?

A. First, through his Holy Spirit he pours out his gifts from heaven upon us his members. Second, by his power he defends us and keeps us safe from all enemies.

1. Your king, who is rich in power and glory, pours out all the gifts you need from heaven to live for and serve him. (Nothing is worse than to have an army ill equipped 装备不良 to do the task set before them. Ask Napoleon.) Anyone who is a member of Messiah's kingdom can count on gifts
Acts 2:33 "Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, **He poured out this which you now see and hear.**

2. Through his Holy Spirit, the Lord gives specific gifts to his children. (We have already seen that the Holy Spirit is a guarantee of your place in heaven). What are proofs of those gifts?

a. Peter talked about these gifts that David had said that Jesus would give when he returned to heaven (Psalm 110). God promised sustenance 支撑物

Acts 2:34 "For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand. ³⁵ Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."' ³⁶ "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

b. Then the Apostle Paul talked about these gifts that David said that Jesus would give to his people when he returned to heaven. (Psalm 68).

Ephesians 4:7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." 9 (Now this, "He ascended" —what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) 11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

c. So God kept his 1000 year old promise to give gifts to men to do the task he gave them.

3. This is how you'll bring men to bow the knee to the Lord: Preach the Gospel by your lives and lips.

Christ's body could not be in many places at the same time, but his Spirit is in every believer. So every believer can go out in the power of the Spirit, under the banner of Christ, to preach truth. Before Jesus went up to heaven he commanded his disciples to go into all the world and preach the Gospel and make disciples of all the nations. The Father gave him the nations.

Psalms 2:8 Ask of Me, and **I will give You The nations for Your inheritance**, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

4. And while you labor for the King, you also know that your king who is mighty in power and glory destroys his enemies, keeping you safe in the process. (God works, you work.)

John 10:27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; **neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.** 29 "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 "I and My Father are one."

Being in the Lord's hands is the safest place to be.

5. And when all is said and done, your bodies will be transformed into the a glorious body - free from all the pain and suffering of this life.

Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue 独揽 all things to Himself.

Conclusion:

Jesus predicted he would go back to heaven. His disciples saw him go to heaven. The angels from heaven confirmed he went back to heaven. Steven and the Apostle Paul attested 见证 by their own experience that he was in heaven. He is now seated at God's right hand with all power, continuing the work of bringing the world under submission to himself through his Word and Spirit, through his people. What a picture.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus:

1. Being confident of Jesus' ascension, his sitting at the Father's right hand, and his rich dispersals 分配 of gifts to live and serve him, **you must not fear.**

2. **Cry out in this world: Be still and know that I am God!** You must cry out to the nations that they must kiss the son lest He be angry with them! Yes, in Sudan there are some 100,000 Christians in slavery. Yes, in Canada the tyranny 暴政 of liberalism and secular humanism 世俗的人文主义 are threatening your freedom. Islam rises in fury against our God and His prophet, priest and King, Jesus Christ. Yes, the Middle East is filled with the fury of Ishmael and Esau. Yes, the Christian all over the world is being attacked and the church is under attack. But just as in each generation the rider on the horse rules for the redemption and salvation of His beloved bride, so in this generation you will be justified and we will be vindicated 被辩护. Christ rules. See the picture. More than being vindicated, you will conquer.

Finally, let Christ conquer you. His yoke is easy and his burden light. Don't let him destroy you. These are your only two options. In this New Year, chose new life.