

HC Q&A 50-51– Display of Christ’s Power and Glory

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

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 and alter their behavior.

This past week China sent one of its warships very close to Taiwan. They did not fire on Taiwan, but they wanted to Taiwanese to see their power and stop talking about independence.

Today you will see the most remarkable visual possible. You will see Jesus as he is sits on the throne 宝座 in heaven. It is true that his power and glory put fear into the hearts of his enemies, but his power and glory in heaven is a source of confidence and comfort to his people.

Our headings are:

Power and Glory of Christ Displayed

Power and Glory of Christ Deployed

Our goals are: **That you will learn that since the Lord is seated and ruling in heaven, and since he sends all the gifts you need, you can confidently go about your work on earth.**

Power and Glory Displayed

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 sitting in heaven at the right hand of God the Father means he is the ruling head of the church.

He is preeminent 超群. He is not a puppet 木偶 king! This visual confirmed what he said on earth and what the Apostle said!

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

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.

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.

Jesus Christ is now in Adam’s place. He is head of the world. The Pope is not the head of Christ’s church. The Queen is not the head of Christ’s church. President-elect Trump is not the most powerful person in the world.

The Apostle Paul heard him speak from heaven directly to him.

Acts 9:3 As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. 4 **Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"**

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

Acts 7:55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, 56 and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

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

2. Jesus Christ sitting in heaven at the right hand of God the Father means he is head of the church and conquering.

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 火焰, 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, 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 are not literal, but figurative 不是字面的，而是比喻的。

Remember, the sword we use is his Word – the Bible- to wound men's hearts and make them surrender.

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."

The king is conquering through his people's preaching.

3. This picture of the ruler and conqueror must make you honor Christ by your doctrine and life.

You and every government of every nation on earth are bound to obey Jesus and must bend the knee to him. Everyone must stand in wonder of His majesty. If you 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. This picture of the ruler and conqueror must make you evangelize 传福音。

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

5. This picture of the ruler and conqueror must make you prepare for judgment.

Remember, those who do not submit to his rule will be destroyed, even as Israel and Judah were.

Psalms 73:16 When I thought how to understand this, It was too painful for me—17 Until I went into the sanctuary 避难所 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. This picture of the ruler and conqueror must make you patient.

Don't worry if you don't see the wicked converted now. Wait. Don't worry if you don't see the wicked destroyed by God now. Wait.

Power and Glory Deployed

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 ruling king, rich in power and glory, pours out all the gifts you need from heaven to serve him.

(Nothing is worse than to have an army ill equipped to do the task you set for them. Ask Napoleon about his failures in Russia.)

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.**

And remember that the gifts of the Holy Spirit were poured out...not dribbled out.

2. The pouring out of the gifts was pictured by Apostle Paul.

Apostle Paul quoted the Psalmist who illustrated the Lord pouring out his gifts on man to do his work by comparing him to a king who was returning from conquering nations and showering his people with the spoils of war. (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,

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

3. These gifts are poured out on all Christians so they are equipped to conquer the world.

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 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.

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

And yet, the best way to conquer the enemy is to change his heart! The Lord does this as well!

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永生, and they shall never perish消亡; **neither shall anyone snatch抢夺 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 glorious bodies - free from all 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符合 to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue征服 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 by their own experience that he was in heaven. He is now **at God's right hand with all power**, continuing the work of conquering the world through his Word and Spirit, through his people.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus:

1. You must not fear! Jesus is sitting at the Father's right hand, and he disperses分散 gifts to live and serve him.

2. You must cry out God's Words to the 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 and destroy them! Yes, in Sudan there are some 100,000 Christians in slavery. Yes, in Canada the tyranny of liberalism自由主义的暴政 and secular humanism are threatening your freedom. Islam rises in fury愤怒 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, Christians all over the world are being attacked and the church is under attack. But Christ rules. So don't be afraid to speak. This is how Christ will conquer.

3. Look at your clothes! Are they covered in blood...not literally, but symbolically. Are you wounding the hearts of men, women, boys and girls with the Gospel?

Finally, if you are not a Christian, let Christ conquer you. His yoke is easy他的轭很容易and his burden light. Don't let him destroy you. These are your only two options you have in 2017.