

Philippians 2:9-11

- The first stanza sings of His pre-existence in heaven (2:6)
- The second stanza sings of His humility in coming to earth (v. 7)
- The third stanza sings of His death on a cross (v. 8)
- Then notice this – the fourth stanza will sing of His resurrection and exaltation (v. 9)
- And the fifth stanza will sing of His vindication and terrifying, sweeping act of judgment (v. 10-11)

1. First, Jesus Christ is given divine confirmation

Vs. 9 – Jesus Christ’s exaltation: it includes His resurrection, His ascension and His reception back to Heaven. He has sat down at the right hand of the Father. The right hand speaks of sovereignty and divine authority.

The Greek word for *exalted* is used only here in the entire New Testament. It is a compound word made up the verb to “raise up” and the prefix which gives us our word “hyper.” In other word, God the Father hyper-raised Him up.

Hebrews 1:3-8 “... when He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.” But of the Son, God the Father says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.”

2. Jesus Christ is given a sovereign designation

Vs. 9 – “Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus...” **Vs. 11** – “and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Christ is Lord – Kurios – Kurios is the name above every name!

More than 6,000 times the Greek translation uses Kurios in the place of Yahweh, the designated and divine title of their living God. In other words, Lord and Jehovah are equivalent names.

Vs. 11

Jesus, the name of the Deliverer – Christ, the designation for the anointed one, the Messiah – Lord, Adonai, Jehovah, fully and equally divine.

These verses do nothing less than radically redefine monotheism in terms of one God in at least two distinct yet equal persons, God the Father and God the Son, and after Pentecost we see the recognition of the Holy Spirit as the 3rd person in the Trinity.

The declaration of Jesus Christ’s deity and equivalency with Yahweh is tragically overlooked by the Jews and completely refused by the Jehovah’s Witnesses, among others.

Paul is quoting what actually originated from Yahweh Himself. *Isaiah 45:21-24*²¹ “Declare and set forth your case; indeed, let them consult together. Who has announced this from of old? Who has long since declared it? Is it not I, the Lord? And there is no other God besides Me.”²² Turn to me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other.²³ I have sworn by Myself, the word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness and will not turn back. That to Me – every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess/or acknowledge –²⁴ They will say of Me, Only in the Lord are righteousness and strength.” This is taken right out of the pages of prophecy and is now fulfilled at Christ’s exaltation.

3. Jesus Christ will be given a universal vindication

Paul comprehensively includes everyone – notice:

- Of those who are in heaven – that includes the holy angels and the redeemed believers of all ages
- And on earth – a reference to all of humanity both redeemed and unredeemed at the end of human history
- Those who are under the earth. This was a common reference to the grave, which will include:
 - All the unredeemed dead who await their final resurrection and judgment

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- the phrase “under the earth” is a reference to the demonic kingdom of fallen angels and their leader Satan who all await their coming and final judgment

The text is speaking of a coming final vindication of the Lord. Those who believed in Him have entered into His eternal kingdom and those who denied Him now face their eternal punishment. No one will be judged on that final day without being brought to a confession. Notice verse 11 again, “... *every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*”

The word for **tongue** here is *glossa* which gives us our word glossary. Every language, every dialect, every tongue, will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. The verb “confess” here isn’t the usual word for agreement or confession. Here Paul uses a word (exomologeō) that refers to openly admitting, and publically acknowledging that Jesus Christ is Lord.

We are actually previewing the coming universal admission of every human being and every angelic being that Jesus Christ is triumphant, majestic, sovereign God. And even for those who denied Him, to their everlasting horror will this admission be made. For those who believed Him, to their everlasting joy this admission will be made.

One of the privileges the Father gave to Jesus at His exaltation, we learn from other passages, is the right to judge the world (**John 5:22**).

One Newsweek article reported, “*Today, hell has become theology’s H-word, in other words, good people never say it, it is rude and impolite. Gordon Kaufman of Harvard Divinity School believes this is a good trend – he wrote, “I don’t think there is any future for . . . hell.”*”

The Apostle John writes in the Bible’s final Book called Revelation of this judgment scene described Philippians chapter 2. Where on some future day “*every knee will bow and every tongue*” publically admitting that Jesus Christ is Lord. And for the unbeliever, that final judgment is irreversible as Jesus Christ Himself sits upon that Great White Throne.

Revelation 20:11-12, 15 ¹¹ *Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away* ¹² *and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life.*” In verse 15, “*And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*”

The theologian, Sam Gordon says this awaits the unredeemed:

- No parole from this place
- No appeal
- No pardon
- No early release
- No second chance
- No escape

The unbelievers may claim Jesus was just a good teacher or a prophet; Jesus Christ was indeed:

- More than just another prophet
- More than just another teacher
- More than a nice man who gave us the golden rule
- More than a Jewish philosopher
- More than a crucified victim of His own Messianic delusion
- More than glorified man who’d lived a good moral life

However, Philippians 2:9-11 promises that Jesus is not only more than all of these but that Jesus is God!

John records that scene which is yet to come for all who have believed and then in heaven. John writes, “[*They*] will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne saying, – literally chanting in song – *Worthy are You, our Lord and our God...*” (**Revelation 4:10-11**).