

Vintage Jesus 8

Where is Jesus today?

Lecture

- All right, here's what we've looked at so far. We started early on in the Vintage Jesus lecture series. How did people know Jesus was coming? All the Old Testament, prophecies and promises. Then we looked at how was Jesus born? His virgin birth, His incarnation, His coming into human history. Then we looked at His life. How did He live His life? By the person, the presence, the power of the Holy Spirit. And then we looked at the cross, why did He die? How did He die? Who did He die for? Then we looked at the resurrection, the fact that He conquered death, and rose from death and forgave our sins. And then this week, we're gonna deal with what is He doing today? What's Jesus doing right now? And then in the future, we'll deal in the ensuing lectures with what He'll do upon His return and what His plan is for history. But today, the question is what's Jesus doing today? Where is Jesus today? What is Jesus doing today? And so, we've established the fact that He is the most influential person in the history of the world. Christianity in His wake is the greatest movement of any sort or kind in the history of the world. And when it comes to where He is today, it's incredibly important, is Jesus still alive? Is He still involved in this world? Does He still hear and answer prayers, is He available to us? And so, there are a couple of options, and all of this is for you in the notes. Some would say, Jesus today is just dead. The early Jewish explanation was that Jesus died and He did not rise from death. In more recent years, things like the "DaVinci Code", which is crazy by the way, but the "DaVinci Code" says that Jesus kinda ran off, got married, had kids and died and was not God, just lived a very normal life. If that's the case, then at most, Jesus is an example of how to be a good person, but He's not alive to be of any help or use to us today. Some would say that Jesus rose spiritually but not physically, that His body stayed in the grave and that His soul somehow went forth so that Jesus is in some sense alive today, but only spiritually in the spirit realm. He's not available to us on earth. This would be certain world religions like the Baha'is. And this would be also the teaching of some Muslim scholars, I put that in quotes, that He was taken like Enoch or Elijah, the two people in the Bible that did not taste death and that He was just taken up into heaven. And what that would mean is Jesus is not alive necessarily in a way that is accessible to us. If He is alive, He's alive in a spirit realm, we're in a physical realm and He's not available to us. We have no access to Him. So He's of no real help or use for us today. Third category, some would say He rose spiritually, but not physically and He's still in this physical world. This is the teaching of the cult of Jehovah's witnesses founded around 1914. And they would say that Jesus is spiritually alive, not physically alive, and that He's ruling and reigning over His kingdom from Pittsburgh. I'm not making this up, I'm not making, I know for a fact, Jesus is not a Steelers fan. We know that for sure. I don't even need to pray about that. There's no way you're filled with the Spirit and a Steelers fan, that cannot even be a possibility, okay? Some would say that He rose spiritually and physically, but He doesn't have access to this planet, that instead, He rules and reigns on another planet, this would be the Mormons who would say that Jesus now is a God of another planet. And He's populating that planet with His wife or wives. All of this is not what the Bible says. What the Bible says is that Jesus died, Jesus rose. And that Jesus ascended, we'll get into all of this, and that He rules from the unseen spiritual realm, and He's available to us in the same physical realm that He is Lord overall, that He is alive and well, that Jesus is having a really good day right now, and that He is available to love you, to serve you, to forgive you, to hear your prayers and intercede for your needs. So Jesus is not just a great example from history.

He's a great help in the present. And so, where did Jesus say He was going? We'll start with that. And if you've got questions, just make note of them and I'll do my best to answer them for you at the conclusion of the lecture. And if you are new, I talk really fast. It's basically like auctioning off Bible verses. We're gonna cover a lot of theology, and I've given you the notes so that you can try and keep up as best you can. Jesus said John 16:28, "I came from the Father and entered the world, "now I'm leaving the world "and I'm going back to the Father." We looked at in John's gospel, the whole book breaks down to where the second half of the entire gospel of John focuses on the last week of Jesus' life, death, burial, resurrection. So He is just days here from being crucified and dying, and then a few days later rising. And what He tells them is, here's what's happening next, I was heaven, I came down, we looked at that in the lecture on the incarnation, He's gonna die, be buried, rise. And then He says, "I'm going back to the Father." So He's making the return trip. John 20:17, Jesus said to Mary, and this is after He rose from death, so He dies, He rises, He appears, we looked at this in the resurrection lecture. First Corinthians 15 says He appeared to crowds upwards of 500 at one time. And so, Mary who loved Him, they were friends like big brother and little sister, she sees Jesus dead, and then she sees Him alive. Well, she's really excited about that. And she's gonna go hold Him, like I can't believe you're back from the dead. Imagine somebody that you really, really love, and they died and then they came back. You'd probably not let go. Well, Jesus is gonna tell her, you need to let go 'cause I'm going up and this is gonna be awkward . It's like get before God, the Father, He's like, "Who's the girl?" she wouldn't let go. So Jesus said to her, "Mary, do not cling to Me." Can you imagine watching Jesus go and be like, "Who's the girl?" she's like, "I really missed Him." Awkward, "Do not cling to Me "for I have not yet ascended to the Father, "but go to My brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to My Father and to your Father, "to My God and your God." So before He dies, He says, "I'm gonna come back and then I'm gonna go up." And then after He rises, He says, "I've come down. "My mission ministry is now complete. "And My return trip is back to the Father." So He told us that's exactly what He would in fact be doing and how He would be operating. And so, just two concepts. Jesus lived in glory, Jesus lived in glory for all eternity. It says in Isaiah, Isaiah says, "I saw the Lord high and exalted, seated upon the throne, "surrounded by angels and divine beings who are crying out, "'Holy holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty.'" It's what Isaiah says when He sees into the unseen realm. I think it's in John chapter 12, verse 41. He says that Isaiah saw Jesus and spoke of His glory, His glory, so before He walked on the earth, Jesus was in glory, okay? And then He came down in humility. He goes from hearing worship to hearing false accusations. He goes from hearing holy, holy, holy to hearing crucify him, crucify him, crucify him. He goes from a throne in heaven to a manger on the earth. He goes from wealth to poverty. He goes from being served by angels to washing the feet of Judas Iscariot, His betrayer and pretend friend. This is Jesus in His humility. So He went from glory to humility, to identify with you and me. After His death, burial, resurrection, He returns into heaven where He is ruling and reigning in glory. And what Jesus is doing for us is He is showing us the future for those who trust in Him. It says this in First Peter five, it's actually quoted twice in the new Testament. "God opposes the proud, He gives grace to the humble. "So humble yourself so that He can exalt you "when it is the proper time." And this is the example of Jesus. He humbled Himself. And then He was exalted, He was ascended into heaven. If you and I will live humbly during our assignment here on earth, as Jesus did, that will be a glorious exaltation for those who had humility while living on the earth. And it's time for Jesus to go up. And He's telling us that the time has fully come. All this to say, when you think of Jesus, don't just think of Him in humility, think of Him in glory. Don't just think of a humble marginalized Galilean

peasant who was poor poor. Think of Him as He presently is. When you're praying to Jesus, you're praying to Him as He is, not as He was on the earth. When we're singing to Jesus, we're singing to Him as He is, not as He was on the earth. So much of our understanding of Jesus is looking at His incarnation. I wanna shift your attention and focus to His exaltation. When we worshiped Jesus, we worshiped the big ruling and reigning Jesus. When we pray, we pray to the big ruling and reigning Jesus. So now, we'll look at the story of the Bible, following His resurrection. How did Jesus leave the earth? Acts chapter one, verse nine through 11 is written by the historian Luke. He's a medical doctor. He's the number one author of the New Testament, in so far as content goes, Luke is the story of the spirit filled life of Christ. Acts is the story of the spirit filled life of Christians that's in chronological order. And that's the history of the New Testament. And it says this. "He was taken up before their eyes." So Jesus is with some of His disciples, after His 40 days of evidencing His resurrection, they're having a conversation and He just starts to go up. Can you imagine that moment? At first, you'd be like, and then you'd be like, is it just me, or do you, come on, hey what? There He goes. And this is a place that historically, the archeologists and the historians believe that they know where it was, and I've been there. It was pretty amazing, to be honest with you. We're in Israel and went to that place that they believe that Jesus ascended from, and I just sat there, stood there, just thinking, what would it have been like to be standing here talking to Jesus, and He just goes up? And that's amazing, that's a first-class flight right there. "A cloud hid Him from their sight," which means eventually He goes how high up? He goes way up. Any of you, when you're a kid, hold a balloon, and let go, and just watch it, and then pretty soon you can't see it anymore 'cause it's up in the clouds? There went Jesus like that. "They were looking intently up "into the sky as He was going." Is He coming back, what now? "And suddenly, two men dressed in white," most likely angels, "Stood beside them. "'Men of Galilee,' they said, "'Why do you stand there looking into the sky?'" Right, which to me, it seems reasonable that they're looking up at the sky, but this might've been for a very long. "The same Jesus who has been taken from you "into heaven will come back in the same way "that you have seen Him go into heaven." And Daniel tells us that the Son of Man will come back riding on the clouds. So He who went up into the clouds is gonna ride back down on the clouds. A couple of other things, where is Jesus right now? If you love Jesus, that's a good question. If you love somebody, well, where are they? If you love Jesus, where's Jesus? It was promised about a thousand years before He even walked the earth, Psalm 110 verse one, "The Lord," that is God, the Father, "Says to my Lord," that is Jesus Christ, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool "under your feet." How many of you, you got a coffee table you put your feet up on? So does Jesus, it's His enemies, which is awesome. All right, that's awesome. But what it's saying is God, the Father and God, the Son are ruling and reigning, and the Father looks at the Son and He says, "You're gonna sit here until I send You down "to defeat Your enemies. "And then You're gonna come back "and they're gonna be Your footstool. "They're gonna be Your coffee table. "You're gonna ultimately emerge "with total victory over everyone who is against You." And what we're denoting here is the throne. This is one of my favorite images in the whole Bible. And so, what it's talking about here is Jesus sitting on the throne at the right hand of the Father. And I've got this in your notes, but the throne is one of the centerpieces of the entire Bible. There's a thing called the divine council. It's God, the Father, Son, and Spirit with His angelic and other divine beings, ruling and reigning in the divine council. And the center of the divine council is a throne. And that tells us that the Father sits on a throne and that the Son sits at the right hand of the Father. That's the seat of power, that's the seat of authority. And this concept of the throne denotes ruling, and reigning, and authority, and

kingship and lordship. And so, in that culture, people would generally sit on the floor. Have any of you been to the Middle East or to an Eastern culture? Even an Asian Eastern culture, oftentimes they just sit on the floor. Well, in that culture, there were three people who would primarily sit on a chair or a throne, a king who was ruling with authority, a soldier who had come home from battle and won a great victory to be honored, and a priest or religious leader who would be between the people who sat on the floor and God who sat on His throne in heaven, they would sit on a small throne mediating between God in heaven and the people on the earth. When we see the throne in the Bible, and we see Jesus seated on the throne at the right hand of the Father, He is all three. He is king, ruling and reigning, He is soldier who is victorious over Satan, sin, death, hell and the wrath of God, and He is also our great high priest who is mediating between us and God. Now this concept of the throne, and we'll look at it again, so keep this kind of in your mind's eye when we get into Revelation four at the conclusion, the throne appears about 196 times in the Bible, 135 of those are in the Old Testament, 61 are in the New, 45 of the 61 occurrences of a throne in the new Testament are in the book of Revelation. It's only 22 chapters. That's an average of about two appearances of the throne per chapter. And what you see in Revelation, the Western church tends to see the book of Revelation as a book of eschatology or what will happen in the future. I believe it is that. The Eastern church tends to see it as a book of doxology or worship in the present, and it is that as well. And the book of Revelation shifts between the unseen realm and the seen realm, between heaven where God is ruling and reigning and the earth where we are living and serving. And what it says is that the center of it all is a throne, and seated on the throne is Jesus, ruling and reigning. That's where He's at today. But all honor, all worship, all praise goes to Jesus on the throne, all authority, all decree, all dominion comes from Jesus on the throne. So when we say things like, well, Jesus is on the throne, it's not hyperbole or metaphor, it's reality present tense. Okay, present tense, and that's what it is intimating and alluding to here in Psalm 110. It's saying that God, the Father and God, the Son are ruling and reigning together. So that being the case, how far does Jesus' rule extend right now? Matthew 11:27, when He was on the earth, He said, "All things have been committed to Me by My Father." So the Father has all authority, Jesus, as the Son of God, ruling and reigning from the right hand of the Father in glory and power, He says, "All things." What that means is all peoples, times, places, religion, spiritualities, ideologies and philosophies, they're all under the authority of Jesus. The highest authority is the authority of God. There is no one equal to God, there is no one over God, right? That's why, when Jesus is at the end, He says, "All authority has been given to Me." That's the great commission, all authority. So He has dominion over everyone and everything. He said this in John 3:35, "The Father loves the Son "and has placed everything in His hands." So what's under Jesus' jurisdiction right now? Everyone, everything, everyone and everything. Says that Acts 10:36, "Jesus Christ is Lord of," what? "All," everything, everything. And what that means is ultimately, everyone and everything will give an account to Jesus on His throne. It's called there's judgment in the Bible. And the judgment is where everyone and everything is brought before Jesus on the throne. It says this in Colossians 1:15, and then 17 through 18. "He," that is Jesus, "is the image of the invisible God." And just tangentially, the word there is "icon" in the original Greek. Some of you grew up maybe in the Eastern Orthodox or in Catholic traditions where there were icons. The Bible says not to have graven images. It's one of the 10 commandments, because we don't need to represent God in any physical form or fashion. In fact, Jesus is the image of the invisible God. He is the icon. If you wanna know what the invisible God looks like, look at Jesus, He is the image of the invisible God. He is the mirror reflecting the character of God, the Father to all creation. So we don't need

images, we don't need icons. We don't need saints, we don't need statues. All we need is Jesus, that's why we look to Him. "He is the image of the invisible God, "the firstborn over all creation." That's prominence, power, that's His position of prestige. "He is before all things," so He's eternal, "And in Him, all things hold together." So He is the unifying force and factor for all creation. If it wasn't for Jesus, all that is creation would spin into ultimate chaos and dissolve, He holds it all together. The kid's song is really accurate. He's got what in His hands? The whole world, that's actually really theologically accurate. And He is the head of the body. Singular headship, plural leadership is God's governance structure. He is the head of the body of the church. So He rules and reigns over the church. There is the universal church. That's all of God's people through all times, places and nations, that would include all the saints in the past and those to come in the future, all of our local churches are part of the great global church, part of the church of Jesus Christ, the universal church, and over all churches is Jesus. He is the head, He is the head. So the first job for me as a leader or any church leader, should be to go to the head and ask, Jesus, what do You want for Your church? When somebody comes in and they're like, this is what I want for my church, if you're name ain't Jesus, that's not your decision 'cause it's not what you want and it's not your church. It's His church and we wanna ask Him what He wants. That's why it's so important that we know that Jesus is alive and well so that we ask Him, okay, what do You want? Especially for the church. If Jesus is not actively involved with the church, then people get to decide what the church should do. If Jesus is alive, we gotta go ask the head what He wants us to do 'cause it's His church, amen? It's His church. And this is why we work so hard for church unity among Bible-believing Jesus-loving churches. We believe that we are all one church and we're all under the same head. I was on a Zoom call today, there's dozens of pastors in the Valley and we meet every single week online for prayer, what we're learning, how we can support each other, what the needs are, how we can love one another and work together as one big church, across all the different denominations, all the different tribes, all the different traditions. And here's what we all agree to, Jesus is the head. And if we're under Jesus, then we need to be united. Because ultimately if we're divided, we're not gonna represent Him well. So Jesus is the head of the church. So He rules over everyone and everything, but He also rules over the church and over every single local church that is an expression of the universal church. This is really important. "He is the head of the body, the church, "He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead." So He was the first to die and rise. And He sets the precedent, pattern and paradigm for the rest of us to follow in his wake, "so that in everything," big word, "He might have," what? "Supremacy," okay, there's no one alongside of Jesus, there's no one equal to Jesus. There is no one and nothing that will judge Jesus. Jesus will judge everyone and everything. The point is this, it's what we would call, the theologians would call this a cosmic Christology. Ology is study of Jesus Christ, Christology is the study of Jesus. Cosmic is as big as you can think, Jesus is bigger than that. Not only is Jesus bigger than you think, Jesus is bigger than you can think, okay? And you need to know that so when you're singing, it's to Him, when you're praying, it's to Him, right? There's a book written some years ago, and it was "Your God is too Small". That's a good, simple little book. And it's basic point was some of us have such a small view of God that we don't pray big, we don't worship big, we don't live big 'cause our God ain't big. Well, I'll tell you, God's big, His name is Jesus, and in all things, He has supremacy, okay? How many of you have known Jesus for a while, and you thought He was big, and the more you get to know Him, He's bigger than you thought, amen? That's the good news, that's our Jesus, okay? So when we're talking about Jesus, we're not just talking again about incarnation, but exaltation. We're not talking about as He was, as He is, we're

not talking about Him in humility, we're talking about Him in glory, okay? Jesus is that big, that big. Next, what is Jesus doing for you right now, okay? We just established His supremacy over all things. That's what we mean when we say that Jesus Christ is Lord. What's He doing, not just right now, but for you? 'Cause this is what is amazing. He's not just at work in history, He's at work in your history. He's very global and He's very personal. John 14:2, Jesus says, "In my Father's house," and I love this language, "Are many rooms," big house. "If it were not so, I would have told you "that I go to prepare a place for you." So what's Jesus doing for you right now? He's your contractor, He's your contractor. You ever hired a contractor? Jesus was a carpenter on the earth. He knows how to build stuff. What He's doing right now, He's building the Father's house. That's the language of the Bible for heaven, okay? How awesome do you think that house is gonna be? Imagine if Jesus was your contractor. First of all, He'd make budget, secondly, He'd meet deadlines. So those would be two miracles from Jesus, the carpenter. Jesus has gone before you, and He's been now working on this place for 2,000 years. When you get there, there's gonna be a place for you. Have you ever been to a place where somebody was really, really, really looking forward to you coming, and they took careful attention in a hospitality sense to prepare all of the elements in the environment for you, and you showed up and you felt totally loved? You're like, you actually know me, and you custom architected an environment that I love and I flourish in. Great, so now we're talking about this. First time we kind of experienced this was some years ago, we led a small retreat and there was some friends of ours that are very successful, and they brought us to their huge home that they had custom built for retreats, for ministry leaders and to serve people in need. Very generous people. Everything was perfect, place was beautiful. The bed was comfortable, oh. If you're under 30, you don't know what I'm talking about. But if you're over 30, this is very important, okay, man? How many of you have gone on vacation, and you're like, "Oh, oh, oh, Lord Jesus, "come back right now, I mean, I can't move,"? The bed was super comfortable. They had robes for us with our name on it. The food was amazing. Everything was set up. The environment was unbelievable. And I just remember thinking, wow, these people thought of everything, and they knew us and they prepared everything for us 'cause they loved us. Jesus is like that, the Father's house is like that. Every room won't be the same, okay? Whomever you are, however God made you, Jesus knows you, He's custom building an environment in the Father's house that you will feel loved and blessed and prepared for you. That's what He's doing right now. It gives us something to look forward to, amen? This is like vacation forever that you don't pay for, that's amazing. First Timothy 2:5, "There is one," how many gods? One, when my kids were little, we had these theological questions I would ask them. So they kinda grew up on Bible Jeopardy and that's kinda how it was in my house. All right, I'll take Old Testament for 200. So I'd ask the kids all the time. The first question in the list was always, how many gods are there? One of our kids, I was worried, I thought he was gonna be a cult leader, he'd be like, "Seven," nope, nope, "Nine." He's just picking numbers, for two years, this kid's just picking, I'm like, "Dude," and the other kids are like, "He's gonna be a cult leader. "This one's cult, nope." Eventually we got him down, one God, one God, there's one God, it's what it says. One God, and how many mediators between us and God? One, the church doesn't mediate, the priest doesn't mediate, karma doesn't mediate, good works doesn't mediate, enlightenment doesn't mediate. Only Jesus mediates, only Jesus, there's one mediator. So what I like to say is Jesus is the only way to heaven, but there are many ways to Jesus, meaning your grandma might tell you about Jesus, you might go to a youth camp, you might read the Bible, you might hear a sermon, you might read a Christian book. As long as it gets you to Jesus, Jesus is the one who mediates between you and the Father. And so, Jesus is

fully God and He's fully man. Therefore, He can reconcile and mediate between men and God, and He alone can do that. And it's not that any of us can go up to God. It's that God comes down to us. Every other religion teaches that in some form or fashion, we go up to God, that's how we close the gap. The Bible teaches that Jesus comes down. God's the one that closes the gap. So what Jesus is doing right now, He is mediating for you. He knows what it's like to live life on the earth. He knows every thought of your heart. He knows every longing of your soul. He knows every grief of your day. He knows every hair on your head. And right now, He is talking to God, the Father about you. He is mediating. He has sent the Holy Spirit to comfort, lead, encourage and change you. And He is mediating between you on earth and the Father in heaven. He came down to the earth, He has returned to heaven, and He is now that bridge that is mediating between the two. And I love this. It's a little more specificity about His current ministry, Hebrews 7:25, "He always lives to make," what? "Intercession," you ever had somebody intercede for you, they're like, let me take care of that, let me go fix that, let me go talk to them? All right, that's a problem, you know what? Let me handle it. Don't we love those people that actually go before us and represent us well and fix problems that we have? Jesus is doing that for you right now. He is interceding for you before the Father. Father, so-and-so's having a hard day. Father, so-and-so has a certain need. Father, someone was offended and they're really struggling to forgive. I wanna talk to You about them and then we'll send the Holy Spirit to help them. See, we tend to think that God is way too busy for the stuff of our life. But again, in context, He keeps telling us that God is Father. And the good news is that our Father does not lack any resources. He can simultaneously love here and bless all of His children consistently and constantly. Therefore, you are not ignored, you're loved. And it is not like you don't have any access or representation before the Father. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, He is alive today, and He lives to make intercession for you. I really want that to comfort you. Especially on those hard days where you feel like I'm alone or I'm abandoned, Jesus is like, no, you're not, actually, I'm mediating for you, I'm interceding for you. He's actually praying for you. How many of you feel really loved when somebody prays for you? And what they're doing in that moment, sometimes we'll even call people who pray intercessors, they say, okay, you got a burden, I'm gonna pray and help you give that to the Lord. We call that a ministry of intercession. That's what intercessors in prayer do. Well, Jesus is the capital I Intercessor. He's praying for you. Here's how He said it in Romans 8:34 through 35. "Christ Jesus is the one who died, more than that, "He was raised who is at," present tense, "the right hand of God." So He died, raised, and He returned to heaven. He's alive and well right now, where's He at? The right hand of God, the Father seated on His throne. "Who indeed is," what? "Interceding for us." Right now, God, the Father is hearing from Jesus Christ about you. This is why we pray by the Spirit, through the Son, to the Father. This is why we worship by the Spirit, through the Son, to the Father, that we have not been left as orphans, Jesus told us in John, we have the Holy Spirit in us, Jesus mediating for us. The Spirit leads us and guide us. Jesus intercedes for us. And all that we desire, all that we pray, all that we worship, all that we ask goes to the Father, and Jesus lives to make intercession. Just think about this, Jesus never takes a day off. Jesus never sleeps. Jesus is always available to make intercession for you. So this is like heaven's version of customer service. All right, how many of you have had a very hard time? Like I just need to get through, I need my advocate to intercede and get me to the conclu, but they're always closed or they hang up or... Not heaven, heaven is always open. And the intercession is managed by none other than Jesus Christ, constantly, constantly. So what that means is for you, when you worship, heaven's open, when you pray, heaven's open, when you intercede for the needs of others, heaven's open. and Jesus makes sure that it's always open. And

He goes on to ask then, "Who shall separate us "from the love of Christ?" If you know the rest of the verse, it talks about angels or demons or the present or the past, what will separate us from the love of God? The answer is nothing can separate us from the love of God, why? Context, Jesus lives to intercede for us. Therefore that love that God has for us can never be broken because Jesus is constantly interceding and He is giving us the love of God through the Holy Spirit. Hey, this should warm your heart. This should alleviate some of your fears. Isn't it nice to know, as we look at the world, that there's somebody in charge over all of it, okay? That's good news, right? And He's good, and He loves you and He's available to you. Now, what that means is that the Christian and the non-Christian can go through some of the pains of this life, but the Christian sees that Jesus is over it all and available to them. It completely changes our emotional health and wellbeing, our level of anxiety and uncertainty because we both, Christian and non are going through it, but we see Jesus over it and available to us, okay? Do you see this? I just want this to be the burden lifter of the evening of of our time together, get those burdens off of you, see Jesus over it and available to help you through it. Next question, how is Jesus' power available to you right now? If Jesus is in heaven and He has all power and all authority, wouldn't it be nice if you had access to some of that? And you do, through the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:8 and nine, Jesus says, "You will receive," what? Power, you know what you need to live this life? Power, do you know what we run out of? Power, do you know what God has unlimited supply of? Power, "You will receive power "when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." So Jesus goes up and the Holy Spirit comes down. That's what happens in Acts chapter one, Jesus goes up, the Spirit comes down, just as we looked at the fact that Jesus was filled and led and empowered by the Spirit, He sends the Holy Spirit so that we would have access to the power that propelled His life in ministry to continue His message in ministry. And I wrote a whole book on this, "Spirit Filled Jesus", but the big idea is this, the Holy Spirit doesn't make you weird. He makes you like Jesus. The Jesus life is not just one to admire, but to experience. And if Jesus needed help from the Helper, imagine how much more help we need, okay? So Jesus lived by the person, the presence, the power of the Holy Spirit in His humility on the earth. And He sends the Holy Spirit to empower you and I to believe in His message and to continue His ministry. Here's how He says it. "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit "has come upon you, you will be My witnesses," you're gonna start talking to people about Me, "in Jerusalem," that would be your immediate area, "Judea," that would be your region, "Samaria," that would be beyond your nation, "to the end of the earth." And what's amazing is at that time, there's only about 120 believers on the earth. And this seems like a big promise, right? You're in the Middle East with 120 people. And He says, "Here's the deal, "we're gonna take over the globe." So that seems like a pretty high goal for 120 people. Did it come true? It did, today has Christianity, the message and ministry of Jesus continued to the nations of the earth? It has, the Bible is in more languages than any other book in the history of the world, Christians are making written languages so that they can translate God's word into English. Missionaries have been sent over, churches have been planted for a few thousand years. We looked at this, the Christian church is the biggest movement of any sort or kind, the most multi-lingual and multinational, most diverse movement of any sort or kind, billions of people alive today say they worship Jesus on the earth, everything Jesus said came true, how? Jesus went up, the Holy Spirit came down. Once the Holy Spirit comes down, there is power. Now, if you look at the church, you can't say that we are the biggest, longest lasting movement in the history of the world because we're incredibly organized, right? I had a guy come in recently, he's like, "I don't believe in organized religion." Well, then you found the right place, right? We are a disorganized religion, that's how Christians roll.

Christianity has not taken over the globe because we have the most money. Christianity has not taken over the globe because we've gotten a lot of good press. Christianity has taken over the globe because Jesus went up and the Spirit came down. That's it, that's it, amen, that's the story. So I even think the book of Acts should be titled the Acts of the Holy Spirit. Some people will say, it's the acts of the apostles. Ah, they're the kites, not the hurricane. Right, in a hurricane, any old kite'll fly, all right, right? So I see the Holy Spirit is the hurricane. I see the apostles is the kites. It's the acts of the Holy Spirit, okay? And so, it goes on, "And then as He said these things, "as they were looking on, "He was lifted up and a cloud took Him out of sight." So right now, the Holy Spirit is the power of Jesus available to you, need to know that. Ephesians 1:22 and then over in chapter two, verse six, "God placed all things under His feet," now that He's back into glory, "And appointed Him head over everything for the church." So Jesus has all authority and all resources to bless who? His people, see, I'm a dad, I've got five kids. Love 'em with all my heart, praise God, I got awesome kids thanks to Grace, and everything I have is to bless my kids. I've said this before, I said, I'm not money motivated, but I'm family motivated, meaning I'll do anything to bless my family. How many of you men, you get that? I just wanna bless my family. God who has everything, He wants it to be bless His church. That's His family, His people. So now the resources of the kingdom are available to you so that you can live the life that Jesus intends for you to live and become the person that Jesus intends for you to become. It goes on to say, "And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him "in the heavenly realms in Christ, Jesus." This word "realm", I use it a lot, unseen realm, here He uses that language, heavenly realm or unseen realm. What He says is this, Jesus came down, live, died, rose, physically and spiritually ascended back into heaven, physically and spiritually, that He is ruling and reigning right now, that He has all authority and resources. He loves to bless His people, the church and spiritually, God sees the end of all human history. He sees you resurrected from the dead seated where? With Him, now this is a mind blow. We'll get into this a little more as we get toward the end of the lectures. The Bible says in Revelation, "To the one who conquers, "I will give him a throne to sit upon." Normally, does Jesus sit on a throne? Apparently, we are spiritually seated with Him. He sees history in its completion. One day, we will rise from the dead and we will be with Jesus, ruling and reigning seated with Him. That's what the Bible says that we were made a little lower than the angels. And upon your resurrection and ascension into glory, it says that you will judge the angels, okay? So right now, you have access to Jesus spiritually. You are seated with Him. He's got a seat with your name on it, until physically you rise from dead and then take the seat He has given to you. This is an incredible declaration of spiritual authority. This is where Colossians says that He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness into His marvelous light. This means, you know what? When we're dealing with demonic spirits, and powers and principalities, as the scriptures say, "The Lord rebuke you." That we don't have authority, but we come with the delegated designated authority of Jesus Christ. And as a result, He sees us positionally seated with Him. He gives us the power of the Holy Spirit, and we now have access to the authority and the power of the kingdom of God. Let me just say, this should cause us great humility, not pride, okay? There was a group just kinda, just a little rabbit trail thought. There was, Jesus sent out a group of disciples. They got to cast out demons, which it's a big day. What'd you do today? Ghostbuster, I had a pack, it was awesome. Came back, He said, "Don't rejoice "that the demons are subject to your name, "rejoice that your names are written in heaven," okay? And so, what Satan will even do, he will see us exercise some of our spiritual authority, and then get proud, which is what? A demonic trap, a demonic trap. So what tends to happen on these kinds of doctrines, some people say, well, if you tell people they have spiritual

authority, they get very arrogant, therefore we're not gonna tell them they have any authority. While that cures the arrogance problem, it also cures power, which is not a problem. So the key is to wield the power with great humility, not to rejoice that you have spiritual authority, but rejoice that Jesus wrote your name in heaven. And that's where your power comes from. And the power is great. But what's really great is that you have access to Jesus. He's interceding for you, He's the mediator for you. He's prepared a place for you. He's got a room in the Father's house for you. Furthermore, He's given you the Holy Spirit and you are seated with Him in the heavenlies. Get excited about all of that. Get excited about all of that, okay? Thank you guys, nobody ever claps in a class, that's awesome. Matthew, 28:18 through 20, so after He rises from death and before He ascends back into heaven, this is sort of His final commissioning, we call it the Great Commission, Jesus said to them, how much authority? "All," this is incredible. What Jesus is saying is that He is the highest authority in all of the universe and human history, okay? And so, this is why He's gonna tell us then to go out and preach the gospel, this is why we go out and preach the gospel. Somebody says, "Hey, who are you?" I'm nobody, I'm just delivering a message from someone with all authority. Well, we don't agree, well, guess what? Rock, paper, scissors, Jesus, He's in authority. All right, that's just how this works. "All authority in heaven and on earth," seen realm, unseen realm, physical and spiritual has been given to who? "Me," let me just tell you this, if Jesus isn't God, this is the most arrogant statement in the history of world. If I stood before you right now, and I was like, heaven and earth, all authority given to me. You're like, I don't think so. Jesus makes this claim, and if it's not true, He is the most arrogant man in the history of the world, He's delusional, okay? He's delusional, all authority? Yes, all authority. "Therefore, as a result of this authority, go," and it's present tense here, as you go, so as you go to work, as you go to school, as you go home, what? "Make disciples," not just converts, but disciples, not just a decision for Jesus, but a lifestyle with Jesus, okay? There's a difference between getting married and being married, okay? Getting married, you're like, we said I do. Okay, now you've gotta live together. Now you've gotta build your relationship. Conversion is where we enter into relationship with Jesus. Discipleship is where we live with Jesus and we do life with Jesus. Conversion can happen in a moment. Discipleship is a lifetime process of developing character like Christ. So He says, "Go forth and make disciples." Not just people meeting Jesus, but people becoming more like Jesus. "Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them," showing the death, burial, resurrection of Jesus, the singular name, one God, three persons, this is one of the great illusions to the Trinity and the whole Bible "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit," the singular name of God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, "teaching them to obey." So if Jesus has all authority, we should what? We should obey Him 'cause if you say I disagree, your authority is not equal to His authority and your authority does not negate His authority. So if we believe He has all authority, we need, "To obey everything I've commanded you. "And surely I'm with you always "to the end of the age," how's that? Through the Holy Spirit, through the Holy Spirit. 'Cause what's gonna happen next? He's gonna go up, the Spirit's gonna come down, okay? Now let me wrap all this up in the book of Revelation. And I wanna talk about what are the people of God in the presence of God, giving praise to God right now? Who are the people of God in the presence of God, giving praise to God right now? So here's what I want you to do. I want you to think right now, what's Jesus doing? What's happening in the unseen realm where Jesus is present physically and spiritually? And what I wanna do is I wanna take you to Revelation chapter four. We're just gonna look at this chapter of the Bible. And John got this amazing experience. So John was the beloved, he was the one Jesus loved. He wrote John, First, Second, Third John, book of Revelation, longest lasting disciple. They tried to

murder him by boiling him alive. He did not die. So they exiled him to a penal colony of just a jagged rock, little island called Patmos. Kinda off the coast of Greece and Turkey in that area. We went there, we actually went to Greece, Israel and Turkey. We got on a boat, we went out to Patmos. We actually went to the place that they believe was the cave that John lived in when he was visited by Jesus from heaven, it was amazing. And it is the middle of nowhere and desolate. John had seen Jesus go up. He'd seen the other disciples die. He's an old man, nearing the end of his life. Probably nearing the conclusion to the first century, I believe. And he can't be in church on a Sunday. He calls it the Lord's Day, 'cause it was the day of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And what's amazing is he's all by himself, he's lonely, his body's probably scarred from being boiled alive, he's been exiled into the middle of nowhere, and we went there, it was just salt water, massive high winds, jagged rocks. It is a dry, and desolate and lonely little island. And Jesus visited him. Jesus came down to visit John. And Jesus showed him where he was and where John would be going. And he opened the unseen realm to give us a glimpse into Jesus, ruling and reigning, being worshiped and obeyed presently in history. So we'll deal, first of all, with the people of God, Revelation 4:1, "After this I looked, and behold, "a door standing open in heaven." I don't know if this is a vision or a dream, a dream, you're asleep, a vision, you're awake. Either way, it's a revelation from God. I've had both, I've had both. Sometimes God shows me something in a dream. I had a vision this week, I was doing a counseling session and I saw something that happened to a man when he was a boy. And I said, "Okay, this happened to you." "And when this happened to you, "this is what's happened since," and kinda unlocked some things in His life. These are visual revelations from God. Sometimes you're asleep, that's a dream. Sometimes you're awake, that's a vision. What John says, "I saw a door," right? "And the door opened." This is like the best episode of "Narnia" ever, amen? The door opened and in you go, you get into the unseen realm. "A door standing open in heaven. "And the first voice which I had heard speaking "to me like a trumpet said, "'Come up here and I will show you "'what must take place after this.'" He's like, John, you get to go visit Jesus today and see what He's doing, okay? So, now John, he's one of the people of God and he is going to be with the rest of the people of God. So then in the presence of God. So it's the people of God in the presence of God. And this is both a physical place and a spiritual realm. It's both because we physical and spiritual and God created both to coexist and live together. I've got just a few minutes. I believe in Genesis, I believe that the Garden of Eden was both a physical place and a spiritual realm. That's why God was there, angels were there, Satan was there, divine and human beings came together at the place of the divine council. What happens here, the physical and the spiritual come together. And you need to know when Jesus returns, the unseen and the seen realms, the physical and the spiritual will come together. You will see angels, you will be raised from the dead in a glorified body, that what God has for you is not just more than you think, it's more than you can think. No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no imagination has even entertained what God has in store for His people. So John's gonna get a little vision, he's gonna get a little vision here. He says, "At once, I was in the Spirit." The key is to live in the power and the presence of the person of the Holy Spirit. What he says is God showed up and the Holy Spirit was in and on me in a revelatory way. "And behold," a what? "A throne," the reason I told you so much about the throne is that ultimately, that's the centerpiece of human history. Everything is about that throne and who sits on it. And ever since Satan created a rebellion, everyone and everything has been trying to get Jesus off that throne and to get on that throne, okay? "There is a throne, stood in heaven "with one seated on the throne," okay? So John now is seeing God, Jesus Christ in glory in that moment because John is on the Lord's Day, he's a pastor who can't be with the church and

he gets taken up into heaven and he sees the church in the unseen realm, he sees it. What they're doing, singing, praying, worshiping, what this means is church is always happening in the unseen realm. And then as we worship in the seen realm, we are joining departed saints and divine beings in the unseen realm. This is why healing, miracles, revelation, transformation, salvation happens when the church assembles, the Spirit comes down and in some supernatural way, we're connecting to the unseen realm and we're joining the worship of Jesus with divine beings and departed saints that is going on continually. That's why when I get to church and people don't sing, or they don't clap, or they don't cheer, they don't understand Jesus in glory and they don't understand that there is excitement right now in the unseen realm, right, okay? So we got one, there we go, I got one, okay? And my thing is this, if you get excited because a grown man carried a dead pig over a chalk line, you should get excited that Jesus is, that's called football, that Jesus is on His throne. This should be some excitement about this, okay? So "I was in the Spirit, a throne stood in heaven, "one seated on the throne. "And He who sat there had the appearance "of jasper, carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow," they ripped that off, "That had the appearance of an emerald." Are there colors and lighting? Yes, today we would call this production. People will come into church and be like, "Why do you have a sound system?" 'Cause it sounds awesome in heaven. "When you have lights?" Well, there's lights in heaven. "Why do we need all these colored lights?" We're practicing for heaven. Why is there a smoke machine? Well, it says that there was smoke in the presence of God. I don't know who plugged it in, but it was there. That I would take from this that God cares a lot about the environment and the events and all of the senses being engaged. That's why I believe when people come together for large worship events, and there's lighting, and there's color, and there's smoke, and there's passion, there's enthusiasm, people are like, "Man, it reminds me of heaven." Yeah, that's what heaven's gonna be like, okay? So it goes on, "Around the throne were 24 thrones," possibly or probably the 12 tribes of Israel and or the 12 disciples. Could be, we'll see when we get there, "Clothed in white garments," clean, righteous, wearing their justified, righteous state before God because of Jesus Christ, "with golden crowns on their head." That is the rewards for those who are faithful servants of Jesus. "From the throne came flashes of lightning," production, lighting cube, Buzzinga. Every time I deal with sort of a fundamentalist and they're not fun, so they should change their name, a little mental, but not fun, "Why do we need to have lights and sound?" Well, look, you're gonna hate heaven. You're gonna be very frustrated that it's not black and white, you'd be very frustrated. "From the throne came flashes of lightning." Oh my gosh, that's like a Metallica concert. Was there like, geesh, was it like a flame show, okay? How many of you are from the '80? You know what I'm talking about. All right so, "From the throne came flashes of lightning "and rumbling and peals of thunder." Those are subs. A sound system is about the base, amen? Do you appreciate the base, right? You get a stock car stereo, that's not heavenly. There's no subs, you gotta go buy subs, they cost extra. Heaven, subs, be real, real deep base. That's what I'm telling you right here. It's what it means in the Greek, don't make fun of me. I'm a scholar, okay . Where was I? "Rumblings, peals of thunder," yeah. "And before the throne were seven torches of fire, "which are the spirits of God." Seven is the number of perfection. This could be seven divine beings, or it could be God, the Holy Spirit, the perfect God, the Holy Spirit. "And before the throne, as it were, "were like a sea of glass like crystal." Now it's looking like some high end resort in Scottsdale. All right, it's you got fire, you got sound, you got lighting, you got water, you got glass, it's awesome. "Around the throne and on each side of the throne "are four living creatures." These are divine beings. So right now, Jesus is on a throne right now, it's awesome. Right now, there are not only departed

saints who died in faith, loving Jesus. There are also divine beings who never rebelled against God, angels and other divine beings. So God has one reality in two realms, the seen and the unseen. And He has one family in two realms, His divine beings and His human beings. We were together until sin separated us in Genesis three, we will be together forever as one divine and human family in the presence of God. And right now, the departed saints who died in faith, they're with the angels and other divine beings. And they're all together with Jesus. This is awesome, imagine if you're a church and some angels showed up, you'd go like, "What a day," you'll be worshiping Jesus with angels. Just tangentially, this is why we don't worship angels. We worship with angels, okay? We don't worship other divine beings. We worship with the divine beings the one Creator, God. Goes on to say, "Four living creatures, "full of eyes in the front and behind." So maybe they're mothers, right? Just made that up. That seemed fun . "The first living creature like a lion, "the second creature like an ox, "the third with the face of a man, "the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight." Demons in the Bible are often typified by animals, serpents, scorpions, jackals. So also non fallen divine beings are presented in some imagery that we can relate to, but it's all very amazing. "And the four living creatures, "each of them with six wings," these are like the guys that Isaiah saw, "Are full of eyes all around and within," next slide, "And day and night," okay? So it's the people of God in the presence of God, giving praise to God day and night, "they never ceased to say," day and night, meaning that Jesus in the unseen realm is constantly being worshiped. I did a whole series on heaven. It's not that we're gonna be in church together forever eternally. We will be building cities, and working jobs, and writing literature, and creating architecture that the full restoration of all humanity and the resurrection of the dead will be beginning where Genesis three left off. We're gonna go back to Genesis one and two and proceed with God's original plan. But it does mean in the unseen realm now and forevermore in the presence of Jesus, there is worshiping and there is prayer. What this means is anytime you wanna see Jesus, you can go see Him. Any time you're like, "I need to go sing a bit today," you get to sing. Anytime you wanna go pray, anytime you wanna go give testimony, here's what God has done in my life, anytime you wanna be encouraged and hear about or recognize what God has done in other people's lives, you're there, you're there. The people of God in the presence of God, giving praise to God, that's what's happening right now. That's what's happening right now. 'Cause a lotta people think Jesus lived, He died, He went, and apparently He's just on vacation 'til He comes back. No, He's alive and well, He's hearing prayers, He's mediating, He's interceding, He's being worshiped. And when we worship and pray, we are joining that event that never begins or ends. It's ceaseless through all eternity. "Day and night, they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty." Again when Isaiah saw into heaven, he saw something very similar and he heard something very similar. That was 700 years before Jesus walked the earth. This is after His resurrection and ascension, about 100 years into the first century, John is writing, and it's just showing that this is Jesus in glory through all eternity. "Is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come." That's what we're waiting for, right? He was, He is, He is to come. He's coming, I don't know when but it's gonna be awesome. "Whenever the living creatures give glory, and honor, "and thanks to Him who is seated on the throne, "who lives forever and ever, the 24 elders," those are leaders, "fall down." I love this, "They fall down before Him "who is seated on the throne and worship Him." It's surrender, it's humility. Jesus, You are amazing and You've been amazingly good to me. This is why as Christians, we raise our hands, we raise our voices, we shout to the Lord, we kneel in prayer, we kneel and worship. And let me just say this. Sometimes people think, well, what will other people think? Ah, you're not worshiping them. And if you're worried about what they

think, you're not really concerned about what He thinks. There's somebody, it's like, I would raise my hand, but I don't want everybody to look at me. Well, if they're looking at you, they should be looking at Jesus. And sometimes, the body needs to demonstrate the enthusiasm or the disposition of the heart. So here they kneel, and they fall down, and they sing, and they pray, and they cheer, okay? I just want you to know as the people of God, at least in this church, when we get together to worship and sing and pray, the goal is not to draw attention to yourself or distract from someone else, but ultimately passion and enthusiasm and humility, it's contagious and it's good, okay? If Jesus rose from the dead and you look bored, probably not the best advertisement for heaven, okay? "They cast their crowns before the throne." So everything I did, everything I accomplished, every achievement I had, every award I won, every dollar I made, every test I passed, here it is Jesus, Yours, because You are the one who made it possible. All of this was by Your grace, through Your spirit for Your glory. So it's not that we're not rewarded, it's that we are rewarded by Jesus, and then we give that back to Him as an act of worship to Him. We live in a world where everybody's trying to wear a crown. And when you get to heaven, everybody just wants to take it off and give it to the only One who deserves to really be wearing a crown, okay? "They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, "Worthy are You, our Lord and God," it's personal, "to receive glory and honor and power "for You created all things and by Your will, "they existed and were created." Question, and then I'll answer your questions. Who sees this? John, before that, how did he see Jesus? His big brother. They're going for a walk, they're having lunch, taking a Sabbath, right? He's like Jesus' little brother. He's the one whom Jesus loved. He doesn't deny Him like Peter. He doesn't doubt Him like Thomas. He doesn't betray Him like Judas. John loves Jesus, Jesus loves John. How crazy do you think it was for John to spend years just hanging out with Jesus, and then he sees Jesus like this? Wow, You veiled all of that when You were on the earth, all of that in Your humility, You veiled all of that, and now You're unveiled in glory. Oh my gosh, that's who You really are. That's who You really are. And this shows us the humility of Jesus to walk with us and the glory of Jesus to rule over us.