

Jesus Christ the Same

Introduction:

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

If you look for the meaning of this little verse in its immediate context, I think you'll flounder a bit. The verse seems rather isolated from both the preceding verse:

⁷ Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.

and the following verse:

⁹ Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.

But in the context of the whole Book of Hebrews, it seems relevant to the discussion. The 10th through the 12th verses of the first chapter of Hebrews quote Psalms 102 as referring to Christ in the yesterday of the past, the today of the present, and the tomorrow of the future.

Reading then, from the tenth verse of the 1st chapter of Hebrews we read:

¹⁰ *The past-Yesterday* "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth,
And the heavens are the work of Your hands.

¹¹ *(The present-Today)* They will perish, but You remain;

(The future-Tomorrow) And they will all grow old like a garment;

¹² Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed.

But You are the same, And Your years will not fail."

Please note that this quotation from Psalms 102 also states that Jesus Christ is "The Same"

In Revelation 1:8 He says:

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, *(The A to Z in English,)* the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

So let us look together at Him in the past, the present, and the future.

What we know of Jesus Christ from the Past:

The simplest place to see what Christ is from the past is the 1st chapter of the Gospel of John.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

And moving down to the 14th verse,

¹⁴ And the Word *(The Lord Jesus Christ)* became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jesus Christ existed in the beginning. He was not only with God, He was God!

He was part of the Trinity—He was GOD THE SON!

He was the One who spoke this universe into existence, and it belongs to Him.

°Travel with me beyond the sixth day of creation, when God made man in His own image, and see how Adam brought the sentence of death upon mankind by disobeying His creator and sinning.

Romans 5:12

Through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.

°Move on through the Old Testament and see how God judged this sinful world at the time of Noah's Flood, showing grace only to Noah and his family.

°See how God Chose Abraham and his descendants to be His special people, and how they continually rebelled against Him during the days of the judges, kings, and prophets.

°Pause with me a moment in Bethlehem Judea, Where the Son of God became the Son of Man by the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. Understand then, that Jesus Christ was the same person who was with God, for He was God.

°Moving on through the life of the Son of God here on earth--He lived a sacrificial life of service to others while He was homeless, despised, and rejected of men. Colossians 1 tells us that He was the image of the invisible God, and Hebrews 1 adds that he was the brightness of God's glory and the express image of His person, Who upheld all things by the word of His power. According to Hebrews 7, He walked through this world as the one who was holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners

°Finally, He went to the cross where He offered Himself as the sacrifice to God for our sins. There God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God.

John 3:16-18

¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

¹⁸He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Folks, the Crucifixion of Christ was not Plan B. God made man knowing exactly what would happen, and intended all along to give His only Son to take away our sins.

1 Peter 1:18-21

¹⁸You were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. ²⁰He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you ²¹who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

°But the life of the Lord didn't end with the crucifixion. God raised the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead to show that the debt of our sins was completely paid for. Acts 13:39 says, "All who believe in Him are justified from all things."

What we know of Jesus Christ in the Present:

He is in heaven at this time

Hebrews 1:3-4

^{3b}When He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

He already has a glorified body:

Philippians 3:21

(He) 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 all things to Himself.

He is crowned with glory and honor in the heavens

Hebrews 28:9-9

^{8b} Now we do not yet see all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

He is waiting His Father's time for his exaltation on the earth.

Hebrews 10:12-13

¹² But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.

He is the mediator between God and men

1 Timothy 2:5-6

⁵ For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

He is our High Priest in the Heavens

Hebrews 8:1-2

¹ Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, ² a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

He comes to our aid when we are tempted to sin

Hebrews 2:14-18

¹⁴ Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. ¹⁶ For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

Hebrews 4:14-16

¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

He intercedes for us when we sin

1 John 2:1-2

¹ My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

Romans 8:34-35

³⁴ Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

What we know of Jesus Christ in the Future:

He is coming back to take us to heaven to be with Himself

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

God will put everything under His feet:

Philippians 2:9-11

⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

He will establish a kingdom on this earth that rejected him

Revelation 19:15-16

¹⁵ 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

He is going to judge the world in righteousness

Acts 17:31

He (God) has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.

Folks, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The same one who created the universe is the same one who offered Himself on the cross as the payment for our sins. And the same one who was crucified by this unbelieving world is the one who is going to judge world in righteousness. Where do you stand with Him?