

Series: Ephesians  
Title: The Greatness of his Power  
Text: Ephesians 1: 15-23  
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The mystery of God from the beginning is:

Ephesians 1: 10: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him.

Our text tonight will an overview beginning in chapter 1: 15 through chapter 2. We will take it a few sections at a time.

**Ephesians 1: 15: Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, 16: Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; 17: That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened;**

The Ephesian were already born again of the Spirit of God, given faith in the Lord and love toward all saints, as is the case with many here. But Paul desired that God might give them greater wisdom and revelation, that their spiritual eyes, their spiritual understanding, might be further enlightened. Brethren, my sincere prayer to God and desire for us all here is the same. Verse 17 says, the way this wisdom and revelation is given is by God giving us a greater “knowledge of him.”

**Ephesians 1: 18:..that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints. 19: And what [is] the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power...**

I want to know more of Christ and the power of his resurrection, don't you? What God the Father did for Christ Jesus when he raised him from the dead, God did for those he put in Christ by his electing grace. Knowing more of the exceeding greatness of this power, is how we shall “be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man...filled with all the fulness of God.” By “him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.” (Eph 3: 16-21)

**I. THE POWER OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION--Ephesians 1: 19: the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, [is] according to the working of his mighty power 20: Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly [places,]--[and when Christ rose all the elect of God rose in him]—Ephesians 2: 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.**

### **Power of God's Glory and Grace**

This POWER is greater than God's sheer creative power. This is the power of God's glory and grace. The resurrection of Christ from the dead is the power of a creation that greatly exceeds, even the first creation. This is the power by which Christ reigns as the GodMan Mediator. His resurrection power is the power by which Christ sends the gospel to his people in truth. It is power by which he makes us willing to cast all care into Christ's hand and follow him. It is the power by which he works in our midst both to will and to do of

his good pleasure. This is the power wherein Christ makes all things new—which shall have its end in the NEW heavens and the NEW earth. This is the power that many with a form of godliness deny.

### **Abased and Exalted**

In exceeding great power, God has highly exalted Christ giving him all glory and all power because Christ highly exalted him. For God his Father and for his people, Christ Jesus willingly abased himself to the very least—even, the death of the cross.

God the Son became a man, uniting in one body the human nature of his elect together with his divine nature. He was made of a woman (formed in the lowest parts of the earth). Our Savior came down, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law. Then he came down taking all the sin of all the elect upon himself, being made a curse for us. He came down taking all our punishment on the cross. And when Christ had taken away all our sin, he even went down into the grave. Christ went as low as one can go. He gave all that one could give, for God his Father and for his people. It was the highest act of obedience to God, and the deepest act of love to man.

By this ultimate depth, Christ highly exalted God. In Christ the righteousness of God is manifest: God is just and the Justifier of his elect; in Christ is the manifestation of the holiness of God: holy justice, holy love, holy mercy, holy faithfulness, holy salvation. Everything God is and has for his people, is revealed in that one glorious person and the glorious work he accomplished. By being made the least, Christ highly exalted God.

Philippians 2: 9: Wherefore God ALSO hath highly exalted him and given him a name which is above every name. 10: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11: And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

By raising Christ from the dead to his own right hand, God the Father manifest his power and grace and faithfulness towards Christ and toward us in him. In raising Christ from the dead, God declared that sin is put away, the law is magnified, divine justice honored, the law and the prophets up till then were fulfilled (some yet remain to be fulfilled and Christ will fulfill them), every perfection of God is glorified, every attribute magnified and God is well-pleased in him!

Raising him from the dead, God the Father "declared [Christ] to be the Son of God with power." (Rom. 1:4.) It is the fullest declaration that can be made that Jesus of Nazareth, who his enemies crucified, who this world despises and rejects, is exactly who he declared himself to be, the Son of God. (Acts 2:23, 24.) The prophets foretold it.

Psalm 110: 1: «A Psalm of David.» The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. 2: The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. 3: Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: [the new day of grace] thou hast the dew of thy youth. 4: The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

## **II. CHRIST JESUS IS THE RESURRECTED ALL-POWERFUL GODMAN, MEDIATOR**

Be sure to note who it is that God has given this power unto. When Christ came down, he came as God the Son. When Christ ascended back, he went as the God-Man, glorified human nature together with his divine nature. It was as the glorified GodMan, that God gave all power in heaven and in earth to Christ.

**Ephesians 1: 21: Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22: And hath put all things under his feet**

All power over all things belongs to God our Savior, Christ Jesus. Right now, the GodMan Mediator, the Prophet, Priest and King off his people, is reigning over all.

### **Over the Devil and Wicked Powers**

Christ destroyed him that had the power of death, that is, the devil. (Heb. 2:14.) Christ has bruised Satan's head as the Lord said he would in Genesis 3:15. Christ has bound the strongman. And Christ is spoiling his goods. Christ has taken captivity captive.

Colossians 2:15: And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

By the greatness of his power do you see the sure hope of his calling? It is our risen Christ himself who reminds us through the Holy Spirit, through apostle Paul that:

Romans 8: 37:...in all...things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38: For...neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39: Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **III. CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH—Ephesians 1: 22...and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23: Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.**

God gave Christ to be Head over all things to the church. This is the gift of God to Christ as Mediator. It is God the Father glorifying him giving him all pre-eminence in all things!

And what a gift to us, brethren! He who loved us and gave himself for us, is now head "over all things" to us. He overrules all things for our good. Whatever it pleased God to do for his church, however it pleased God to save us, Christ has power to perform it. Whatever we need, Christ is head over all things to provide it. Do you see the riches of his inheritance in the saints?

The church is Christ's body, the fullness of him. He said in Colossians, 'Ye are complete [all fullness] in him' Here he says, his church is "the fullness of him." That means Christ will not lose one.

And be sure to get the nugget, "Christ filleth all in all." Christ is the Prophet, Priest and King—our Head—the one who is filling all in all his people through the gospel through the Holy Spirit.

### **A Picture of Headship and True Headship**

Under the old covenant, to show us a picture and type of this spiritual reality of Christ being the Head, you had several pictures of headship.

### **Head Over of One Nation**

First, a nation pictured this. There was that earthly, political Israel which was the earthly head of all nations. God said, “And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation” (Ex 19: 6). But the nation over all other nations in the earth is his regenerated people. Look down to chapter 2.

Ephesians 2: 19: Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints,...

“Fellow-citizens” is the language for one belonging to a nation. But it does not say fellow citizens with Israel or the Jews—that distinction is gone in Christ.

Galatians 3: 26: For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27: For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28: There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29: And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Get this blessing, brethren. By Christ our Head, every believer is a fellow citizen with the saints. It means we are a part of the one holy nation over which Christ is the Head.

Philippians 3: 20: For our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven;

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

### **The Prophet, Priest and King**

Secondly, there was a picture of headship in the prophets, priests and kings. In political Israel, there were earthly prophets, priests and kings who were the heads over that nation. For example: Moses was a prophet, Aaron was a high priest and David was a king. All three were types of one, Christ Jesus our Head. Now Christ is that One Head. Christ is the only one to hold all three offices at the same time and he is our Prophet, Priest and King for all eternity.

Hebrew 6:20: Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. (the King-Priest).

John 6: 14: This is of a truth that Prophet that should come into the world.

Revelations 19:16: And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

### **Head of One House or Temple**

Thirdly, there was a picture of headship in the earthly house or temple. It was the head of worship because it was the one house that the children of Israel flowed unto from all parts of the earth to worship God. But now there is only the household of God. Christ is the sanctuary and his people his tabernacle. Believers are...

Ephesians 2: 20:...of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone. 21: In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

It says we are a holy temple in the Lord. And it says we are a habitation of God through the Spirit—one in one. The LORD God promised this would be the case in these days. The first scripture below shows how the LORD God promised in the prophets that he would be the sanctuary of his people. And the second scripture below shows how the LORD promised to put his sanctuary in his people thus sanctifying them (this is Christ in you the hope of glory, taking up habitation in you by the Spirit.)

Ezekiel 11:16: Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come.

Ezekiel 37: 26: Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore. 27: My tabernacle also shall be with them: [note this: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people.] 28: And the heathen shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore.

Now listen to Paul. This is the divine commentary of the Holy Spirit on what we just read, declaring we are the temple of God.

2 Corinthians 6: 16: And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

So the house, the church of which Christ is Head is his regenerate people, called and assembled by him, us worshipping in him and he dwelling in us. It is a spiritual church, a spiritual house, just like it is a spiritual nation and kingdom.

### **Head Over One Mount and One City**

Fourthly, there was a city in a mount which showed a picture of headship. Under that old covenant, the picture which showed all of this was in earthly Jerusalem, in earthly Mt. Zion. That spot of ground was the head over all the earth. But now, for those in whom God has written the New Testament, that city and mount are the spiritual and heavenly place where Christ dwells.

Hebrews 12: 18: For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched,... 22: But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,

This is that city which Abraham sought by faith in spirit and in truth, whose builder and maker is God. It is the exalted place spoken of by the prophet Micah.

Micah 4:1 But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

### **Head over the Angels**

Even all the holy angels and authorities and powers are in subjection to Christ. They do Christ's bidding, ministering to his church as Christ directs. Christ is the Archangel.

1 Peter 3:22: Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

Hebrews 1: 13: But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? 14: Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

### **The Book of Hebrews Declares the Types Fulfilled**

Christ, through the Holy Spirit, declares throughout the book of Hebrews that the fulfillment of all the types and shadows of the old covenant is Christ. We are given the divine commentary on Psalm 8 in:

Hebrews 2: 7: Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst [Christ] with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: 8: Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. 9: But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour;

Now, let's put everything we have seen here together. Hebrews 7 and 8 does it wonderfully and all we have to do is read it. Oh, I do pray God would enlighten your eyes that you might see. This will give you such a greater hope of his calling and bring you into such a greater assurance of the riches of his inheritance. Read this carefully with me and prayerfully with me. Ask God to open our eyes.

Two things have changed—there is a new Head. Our Prophet, Priest and King is Christ. And the law has changed—the old covenant is abolished in the hearts of his people when he writes the law of the everlasting covenant of grace and peace.

Hebrews 7: 12: For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law. [Skip to verse 18 to stay with the covenant.] 18: For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof. 19: For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God...22: By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.

Now, let's see the change in the Headship shown by the priesthood.

Hebrews 7: 15: And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest, 16: Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.

Next, the Spirit of God sums it all up for us.

Hebrews 8: 1: Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such a high priest, who is set on 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 pitched, and not man....6: But NOW hath [Christ] obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises...8: For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: 9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. 10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, [these are the days after those days] saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be

to me a people: 11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. 12: For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. 13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away. (see also (Micah 4: 1-7; Gal 4: 26; Joel 3: 17; Php 3: 20; Heb 12: 22; Rev 3: 12)

Did you see it all in Hebrews 8: 1-2. It is the same as our text in Ephesians.

Hebrews 8: 1: Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such a high priest, who is set on 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 pitched, and not man...

Listen to the apostle Peter describe this spiritual Head, our spiritual house, our spiritual worship, our spiritual nation—those that worship God must worship him in spirit and truth. Without the Spirit these things are foolishness to a man because they are spiritual discerned.

1 Peter 2: 4: To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, 5: Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. 6: Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. 7: Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. 9: But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: 10: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

Paul said, “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.” (Php 3: 10)

What a blessing to not be confounded, to not stumble at the Cornerstone, but to believe on Christ in his holy nation, to worship him in spirit and in truth in his spiritual temple and house, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, the calves of our lips with you, my fellow kings and priest unto God, all by the exceeding greatness of his power!

“Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.” (Eph 3: 16-21)

Amen!