

## The Present Work of Jesus

What work is Jesus doing now?

## Introduction

- We study what Jesus has done for us – dying on the cross and being raised from the dead so that we might be saved
- We study also about what Jesus will do in the future - His second coming when all will be judged
- But, in these lessons, we study the work Jesus is doing now to benefit all and especially us, His children

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## Introduction

- Although Jesus has rested from His creative work and His perfect sacrifice for the world's sins has been completed, He still is doing much while ruling in heaven now
- We will focus on great Bible teachings about Jesus' person and position
- We will also focus on the attitudes and actions we must display in light of these teachings

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## Introduction

- Lessons designed to help us better appreciate and praise Jesus for who he is and what He is doing now
- Lessons designed also to help us because of our love for Him to be more obedient to him daily
- We will also be encouraged to become more like Him and increase our hope of one day being with Him

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## The Present Work of Jesus

Jesus – Sustainer of The Universe  
Jesus – Lord of all and king of the nations  
Jesus – Head of His one church  
Jesus – Our perfect high priest

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## The Present Work of Jesus

Lesson 1

Jesus – Sustainer of The Universe

## Introduction

- Many devote their lives to studying the inner workings of the universe
- They propose their grand theories about how it came into being, works in various ways and how humanity can “protect” it
- Sadly many deny the position and work of our Lord now concerning His sustaining and upholding the universe He, the Father and the Spirit have worked together to create

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## Introduction

- In this lesson, we focus on Jesus’ role as sustainer of the universe
- The same creative power that brought it into existence now upholds it until its purpose has been fulfilled
- While we should not intentionally seek to unnecessarily destroy the earth or our environment, we should not fear that we can destroy it if Jesus is upholding it

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## Jesus – Sustainer of The Universe

Background to Col. 1:15-17

Truths taught in Col. 1:15-17

Practical applications

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## Jesus – Sustainer of The Universe

Col 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

Col 1:16 For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him.

Col 1:17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

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## Paul’s Warning To The Colossians

Col 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

Col 2:9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,

Col 2:10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

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## Background To Col. 1:15-17

- Paul’s warning – don’t let human philosophy corrupt your faith
- Threatening philosophy probably Gnosticism – those who know

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## Some Main False ideas of Gnosticism

They only held special knowledge needed for salvation

Spirit is good but material world including flesh is evil

God was not Creator of the evil universe

Jesus did not come in the flesh but was in some mysterious spiritual form

Jesus was not God but spiritual being between God and man

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## Truths Taught In Col. 1:15-17

Jesus is God

Jesus is above all and Creator of all

All things created for Jesus

Jesus is sustainer of all things

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## Jesus Is God

Col 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

Col 2:9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,

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## Jesus Is God

- Jesus portrayed perfect picture of Father
- He and the Father possess the same perfect nature
- He is all that the Father and the Spirit are

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## Jesus Is God

Joh 14:7 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him."

Joh 14:8 Philip \*said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us."

Joh 14:9 Jesus \*said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how *can* you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

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## Jesus Is God

Col 1:19 For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, Heb 1:3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

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## Jesus Is Above All And Creator Of All

Col 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

Col 1:16 For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him.

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## Jesus Firstborn of All Creation

- Word firstborn can mean first one born in time
- Word can also mean one who is higher in position than all no matter in what time they were born
- Jesus being Creator, God, is above all having been made Lord of all by the Father

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## Jesus Firstborn of All Creation

Deu 21:17 "But he shall acknowledge the firstborn, the son of the unloved, by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the beginning of his strength; to him belongs the right of the firstborn.

Psa 89:27 "I also shall make him *My* firstborn, The highest of the kings of the earth.

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## Jesus Firstborn of All Creation

COL 1:18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

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## Jesus Is Creator of All

- Along with the Father and Spirit, Jesus created all things
- There are three who possess the nature of Deity, Godhead, the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit
- God used in its plural form in Old Testament
- Jesus the Creator became flesh
- He was not a created being, an angel

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## Jesus Is Creator of All

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 He was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

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## Jesus Is Creator of All

Joh 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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## Jesus Is Creator of All

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Gen 1:2 The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

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## Jesus Is Creator of All

Gen 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Gen 1:27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 27

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## All Things Created For Jesus

Col 1:16 For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him.

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## Truths Taught In Col. 1:15-17

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## Jesus Is Sustainer Of All Things

Col 1:17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

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## Jesus Is Sustainer Of All Things

- Behind the immensity and complexity of the universe is the Lord Jesus upholding and sustaining it until it will be destroyed when He comes again
- The laws of science are really God's laws that provide an orderly universe rather than chaos
- Without these laws such as gravity, we would not be able to exist and survive

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## Jesus Is Sustainer Of All Things

- First, consider the greatness of the universe
- Then, consider the greatness of the One that has created and is now sustaining the universe

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## Greatness of The Universe

- The Sun just one of 100 billion stars in the Milky Way Galaxy
- Estimated 100 billion galaxies in the observable Universe
- Our galaxy approximately 100,000 light years wide
- Each light year is six billion miles
- Average distance between galaxies is ten million light years

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## Greatness of Jesus – Creator And Sustainer of Universe

Psa 33:6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host.

Psa 33:7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deeps in storehouses.

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## Greatness of Jesus – Creator And Sustainer of Universe

Psa 33:8 Let all the earth fear the LORD;  
Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in  
awe of Him.

Psa 33:9 For He spoke, and it was done;  
He commanded, and it stood fast.

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## Greatness of Jesus – Creator And Sustainer of Universe

Heb 1:3 And He is the radiance of His glory  
and the exact representation of His nature,  
and upholds all things by the word of His  
power. When He had made purification of  
sins, He sat down at the right hand of the  
Majesty on high,

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## Greatness of Jesus – Creator And Sustainer of Universe

Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed  
from heaven against all ungodliness and  
unrighteousness of men who suppress the  
truth in unrighteousness,

Rom 1:19 because that which is known  
about God is evident within them; for God  
made it evident to them.

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## Greatness of Jesus – Creator And Sustainer of Universe

Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the  
world His invisible attributes, His eternal  
power and divine nature, have been clearly  
seen, being understood through what has  
been made, so that they are without excuse.

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## Practical Applications

Jesus is God

Human theories of the universe are  
foolishness

Jesus is upholding universe until God  
destroys it

Jesus capable of providing all we need

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## Jesus Is God

The Jews understood His claims

Father, Son and Holy Spirit possess the  
Divine nature

When we worship Jesus we worship God

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## The Jews Understood His Claims

Joh 5:14 Afterward Jesus \*found him in the temple and said to him, "Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you."

Joh 5:15 The man went away, and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

Joh 5:16 For this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath. 43

## The Jews Understood His Claims

Joh 5:17 But He answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working."

Joh 5:18 For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God. 44

## Father, Son And Holy Spirit Possess The Divine Nature

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

Mat 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." 45

## When We Worship Jesus We Worship God

Men and angels are never to be worshipped

Men and angels are to worship God only

Jesus accepted worship from both men and angels 46

## Men And Angels Are Never To Be Worshipped

Act 10:25 When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, and fell at his feet and worshiped *him*.

Act 10:26 But Peter raised him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am *just* a man." 47

## Men And Angels Are Never To Be Worshipped

Rev 22:8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things.

Rev 22:9 But he \*said to me, "Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God." 48

## Men And Angels Are To Worship God Only

Mat 4:8 Again, the devil \*took Him to a very high mountain and \*showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory;

Mat 4:9 and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me."

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## Men And Angels Are To Worship God Only

Mat 4:10 Then Jesus \*said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'"

Mat 4:11 Then the devil \*left Him; and behold, angels came and *began* to minister to Him.

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## Jesus Accepted Worship From Both Men And Angels

Joh 9:35 Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

Joh 9:36 He answered, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"

Joh 9:37 Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you."

Joh 9:38 And he said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Him.

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## Jesus Accepted Worship From Both Men And Angels

Heb 1:5 For to which of the angels did He ever say, "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"? And again, "I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME"?

Heb 1:6 And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, "AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM."

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## Jesus Accepted Worship From Both Men And Angels

Rev 5:9 And they \*sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

Rev 5:10 "You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."

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## Jesus Accepted Worship From Both Men And Angels

Rev 5:11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands,

Rev 5:12 saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."

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## Jesus Accepted Worship From Both Men And Angels

Rev 5:13 And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, *be* blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."

Rev 5:14 And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped.

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## Human Theories Of The Universe Are Foolishness

Rom 1:21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Rom 1:22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

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## Human Theories Of The Universe Are Foolishness

Rom 1:23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

Rom 1:24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.

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## Human Theories Of The Universe Are Foolishness

Rom 1:25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

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## Jesus Is Upholding Universe Until God Destroys It

Heb 1:10 And, "YOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH, AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS;

Heb 1:11 THEY WILL PERISH, BUT YOU REMAIN; AND THEY ALL WILL BECOME OLD LIKE A GARMENT,

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## Jesus Is Upholding Universe Until God Destroys It

Heb 1:12 AND LIKE A MANTLE YOU WILL ROLL THEM UP; LIKE A GARMENT THEY WILL ALSO BE CHANGED. BUT YOU ARE THE SAME, AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END."

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## Jesus Capable Of Providing All We Need

Rom 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us?

Rom 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

Rom 8:33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;

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## Jesus Capable Of Providing All We Need

Rom 8:34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

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