

Crystallization-Study Outlines

Daniel
Zechariah

2012 Winter Training Banners

We need a vision to see that the excellent Christ, the centrality and universality of God's economy, is the precious and preeminent One in God's move, that as the Son of Man in ascension He has received dominion and a kingdom, and that His coming will terminate human government and bring in the eternal kingdom of God.

The overcomers as the shining stars are a duplication of Christ as the living Star, and they are the messengers of the churches, those who are one with Christ as the Messenger of God and who possess the present Christ as the living and fresh message sent by God to His people.

Christ is everything for God's building, and as the engraved stone with seven eyes, the topstone of grace, He is now transfusing what He is and what He has accomplished into our being so that, by becoming the same as He is in life and nature but not in the Godhead, we may be His reproduction for the building of the temple of God.

In His heavenly ministry Christ was designated to be a kingly High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek to minister Himself as the processed Triune God into us in order to be our daily life supply and enjoyment for our nourishment, refreshment, sustenance, comfort, and strengthening, so that we may be saved to the uttermost for the building up of the church as the temple of God.

Crystallization-Study Outlines

DANIEL

Message One

The Rule of the Heavens, the Economy of God, and the Excellent Christ as the Precious and Preeminent One in God's Move

Scripture Reading: Dan. 2:35, 44; 4:17, 34-35; 7:13-14; 9:24-25; 10:4-9; Rev. 11:15

- Dan 2:35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.
- Dan 2:44 And in the days of those kings the God of the heavens will raise up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and its reign will not be left to another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms; and it will stand forever.
- Dan 4:17 This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the decision is a command of the holy ones, to the intent that the living may know that the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He wills and sets up over it the lowliest of men.
- Dan 4:34 And at the end of those days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted up my eyes to heaven, and reason returned to me; and I blessed the Most High, and I praised and honored the ever-living One; For His dominion is an eternal dominion, / And His kingdom is from generation to generation;
- Dan 4:35 And all the inhabitants of earth are considered as nothing, / But He does according to His will in the army of heaven / And among the inhabitants of the earth; / And there is no one who can resist His hand / Or say to Him, What are You doing?
- Dan 7:13 I watched in the night visions, / And there with the clouds of heaven / One like a Son of Man was coming; / And He came to the Ancient of Days, / And they brought Him near before Him.
- Dan 7:14 And to Him was given dominion, glory, and a kingdom, / That all the peoples, nations, and languages might serve Him. / His dominion is an eternal dominion, which will not pass away; / And His kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.
- Dan 9:24 Seventy weeks are apportioned for your people and for your holy city, to close the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make propitiation for iniquity, and to bring in the righteousness of the ages, and to seal up vision and prophet, and to anoint the Holy of Holies.
- Dan 9:25 Know therefore and comprehend: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the time of Messiah the Prince will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with street and trench, even in distressful times.
- Dan 10:4 And on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, while I was by the great river, that is, the Hiddekel,
- Dan 10:5 I lifted up my eyes and I looked, and there was a certain man, clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with the fine gold of Uphaz.
- Dan 10:6 His body also was like beryl, His face like the appearance of lightning, His eyes like torches of fire, His arms and His feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of His words like the sound of a multitude.
- Dan 10:7 And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; instead, a great dread fell on them, and they fled to hide themselves.
- Dan 10:8 Thus I was left alone and I saw this great vision; and no strength was left in me, but my color turned deathly pale; and I retained no strength.
- Dan 10:9 Yet I heard the sound of His words; and when I heard the sound of His words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.
- Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.

- I. The central thought of Daniel is that the ruling of the heavens by the God of the heavens over all the human government on earth matches God's eternal economy for Christ to terminate the old creation for the germination of the new creation and to smash and crush the aggregate of human government and establish the eternal kingdom of God—2:37, 44; 4:17, 26; Rev. 11:15.**

- Dan 2:37 You, O king, are king of kings, to whom the God of the heavens has given kingship, power, and strength and glory.
- Dan 2:44 And in the days of those kings the God of the heavens will raise up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and its reign will not be left to another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms; and it will stand forever.
- Dan 4:17 This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the decision is a command of the holy ones, to the intent that the living may know that the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He wills and sets up over it the lowliest of men.
- Dan 4:26 And in that it was commanded that the stump of roots of the tree be left, your kingdom will be assured to you after you have come to know that the heavens do rule.
- Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.

II. The Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He wills— Dan. 4:17:

- Dan 4:17 This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the decision is a command of the holy ones, to the intent that the living may know that the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He wills and sets up over it the lowliest of men.
- A. The book of Daniel shows that all the kings and kingdoms of the world are under God's administration—7:9-12; 2:34-35:
- Dan 7:9 I watched / Until thrones were set, / And the Ancient of Days sat down. / His clothing was like white snow, / And the hair of His head was like pure wool; / His throne was flames of fire, / Its wheels, burning fire.
- Dan 7:10 A stream of fire issued forth / And came out from before Him. / Thousands of thousands ministered to Him, / And ten thousands of ten thousands stood before Him. / The court of judgment sat, / And the books were opened.
- Dan 7:11 I watched then because of the sound of the great things that the horn was speaking; I watched until the beast was slain and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire.
- Dan 7:12 And as for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was given to them for a season and a time.
- Dan 2:34 You were watching until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the image at its feet of iron and clay and crushed them.
- Dan 2:35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.
- All human government from Nimrod to Antichrist has been and will continue to be under the ruling of the heavens by the God of the heavens—7:8, 24-26.

Dan 7:8 I was considering the horns; then there was another horn, a small one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted from before it. And there were eyes like the eyes of a man in this horn and a mouth speaking great things.

Dan 7:24 And as for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise, and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones; and he will subdue three kings.

Dan 7:25 And he will speak things against the Most High and wear out the saints of the Most High; and his intention will be to change the times and the law; and they will be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.

Dan 7:26 But the court of judgment will sit, and they will take away his dominion, so as to annihilate and destroy it unto the end.
 - God will rule over the world, produce a situation for Israel to be His elect, gain the church to be His mysterious people, and have all nations to be the peoples of the eternal kingdom of God; if we see this, we will know where we are, and we will know the meaning of our human life—2:34-35, 45; Eph. 5:27; Rev. 11:15.

- Dan 2:34 You were watching until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the image at its feet of iron and clay and crushed them.
- Dan 2:35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.
- Dan 2:45 Inasmuch as you saw that out of the mountain a stone was cut without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will happen afterward; and the dream is certain, and its interpretation trustworthy.
- Eph 5:27 That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.
- Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.

B. God caused Nebuchadnezzar to know that he was nothing and that the mighty God, the Ruler over the kingdom of men, the One who gives the kingdom to whomever He wills, is everything—Dan. 4:34-37.

- Dan 4:34 And at the end of those days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted up my eyes to heaven, and reason returned to me; and I blessed the Most High, and I praised and honored the ever-living One; For His dominion is an eternal dominion, / And His kingdom is from generation to generation;
- Dan 4:35 And all the inhabitants of earth are considered as nothing, / But He does according to His will in the army of heaven / And among the inhabitants of the earth; / And there is no one who can resist His hand / Or say to Him, What are You doing?
- Dan 4:36 At that time my reason returned to me; and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and my splendor returned to me; and my counselors and my lords sought me out, and I was established in my kingdom, and surpassing greatness was added to me.
- Dan 4:37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and honor the King of the heavens, because all His works are truth and His ways justice, and because He is able to abase those who walk in pride.

C. We need to see a vision of the throne of God as the center of God’s administration—Rev. 4:2; 5:1; Ezek. 1:26b:

- Rev 4:2 Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne there was One sitting;
- Rev 5:1 And I saw on the right hand of Him who sits upon the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed up with seven seals.
- Ezek 1:26b ... and upon the likeness of the throne was One in appearance like a man, above it.
1. God on the throne is behind the scene, ruling over everyone and everything—Isa. 6:1; 1 Kings 22:19.

Isa 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting on a high and lofty throne, and the train of His robe filled the temple.

1 Kings 22:19 And Micaiah said, Hear therefore the word of Jehovah, I saw Jehovah sitting upon His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by Him, on His right hand and on His left.
 2. We need to “come to know that the heavens do rule”—Dan. 4:26b.

Dan 4:26b ... your kingdom will be assured to you after you have come to know that the heavens do rule.

III. We need to see God’s economy as it is revealed in the book of Daniel:

A. Christ is the centrality and universality of God’s economy; in His economy, in His plan with His arrangement, God desires to make Christ the centrality and universality of His move on earth—2:35; Col. 1:15-27; Eph. 1:10.

- Dan 2:35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Col 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation,
 Col 1:16 Because in Him all things were created, in the heavens and on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or lordships or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and unto Him.

Col 1:17 And He is before all things, and all things cohere in Him;
 Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
 Col 1:19 For in Him all the fullness was pleased to dwell
 Col 1:20 And through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross-through Him, whether the things on the earth or the things in the heavens.

Col 1:21 And you, though once alienated and enemies in your mind because of your evil works,
 Col 1:22 He now has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and without blemish and without reproach before Him;
 Col 1:23 If indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast and not being moved away from the hope of the gospel, which you heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, of which I Paul became a minister.

Col 1:24 I now rejoice in my sufferings on your behalf and fill up on my part that which is lacking of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for His Body, which is the church;
 Col 1:25 Of which I became a minister according to the stewardship of God, which was given to me for you, to complete the word of God,
 Col 1:26 The mystery which has been hidden from the ages and from the generations but now has been manifested to His saints;
 Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
 Eph 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;

B. The book of Daniel covers five main points concerning Christ:

1. The death of Christ was all-inclusive, comprising every item in the universe—9:24-26:
 - Dan 9:24 Seventy weeks are apportioned for your people and for your holy city, to close the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make propitiation for iniquity, and to bring in the righteousness of the ages, and to seal up vision and prophet, and to anoint the Holy of Holies.
 - Dan 9:25 Know therefore and comprehend: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the time of Messiah the Prince will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with street and trench, even in distressful times.
 - Dan 9:26 And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah will be cut off and will have nothing; and the people of the prince who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end of it will be with a flood, and even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.
 - a. Christ's greatest achievement in His first appearing was to terminate the whole creation by His death—Rom. 6:6.
 - Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves;
 - b. In the universe Christ's death with His resurrection is a great landmark of the ages; in His resurrection Christ became the life-giving Spirit to germinate some of those in the old creation to be the new creation—1 Cor. 15:45b; 1 Pet. 1:3; 2 Cor. 5:17.
 - 1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.
 - 1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has regenerated us unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
 - 2 Cor 5:17 So then if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, they have become new.

2. There is the need of Christ's second coming to clear up the universe physically and materially; in particular, there is the need of Christ's second coming to terminate human government—Dan. 2:34-35, 44-45.
 - Dan 2:34 You were watching until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the image at its feet of iron and clay and crushed them.
 - Dan 2:35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.
 - Dan 2:44 And in the days of those kings the God of the heavens will raise up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and its reign will not be left to another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms; and it will stand forever.
 - Dan 2:45 Inasmuch as you saw that out of the mountain a stone was cut without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will happen afterward; and the dream is certain, and its interpretation trustworthy.
 3. Daniel 7:13-14 reveals that now Christ as the Son of Man is before the throne of God to receive dominion and a kingdom; He is making all the preparations to come back to rule over the world with God's dominion—Rev. 11:15.
 - Dan 7:13 I watched in the night visions, / And there with the clouds of heaven / One like a Son of Man was coming; / And He came to the Ancient of Days, / And they brought Him near before Him.
 - Dan 7:14 And to Him was given dominion, glory, and a kingdom, / That all the peoples, nations, and languages might serve Him. / His dominion is an eternal dominion, which will not pass away; / And His kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.
 - Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.
 4. Christ is the Companion of God's suffering people—Dan. 3:23-25.
 - Dan 3:23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, fell into the midst of the blazing furnace of fire bound up.
 - Dan 3:24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished and stood up in haste; he responded and said to his counselors, Did we not throw three men into the midst of the fire bound up? They answered and said to the king, Certainly, O king.
 - Dan 3:25 He answered and said, Look, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not harmed. And the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.
 5. Daniel 10:4-9 reveals Christ in His excellency.
 - Dan 10:4 And on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, while I was by the great river, that is, the Hiddekel,
 - Dan 10:5 I lifted up my eyes and I looked, and there was a certain man, clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with the fine gold of Uphaz.
 - Dan 10:6 His body also was like beryl, His face like the appearance of lightning, His eyes like torches of fire, His arms and His feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of His words like the sound of a multitude.
 - Dan 10:7 And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; instead, a great dread fell on them, and they fled to hide themselves.
 - Dan 10:8 Thus I was left alone and I saw this great vision; and no strength was left in me, but my color turned deathly pale; and I retained no strength.
 - Dan 10:9 Yet I heard the sound of His words; and when I heard the sound of His words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.
- C. Christ becomes the centrality and universality of God's elect through their environment; as God's elect, we need Christ to be wrought into us as our centrality and universality—Gal. 1:16; 4:19; Eph. 3:17a; Rom. 8:28.
- Gal 1:16 To reveal His Son in me that I might announce Him as the gospel among the Gentiles, immediately I did not confer with flesh and blood,

Gal 4:19 My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you,
 Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
 Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

IV. The excellent Christ, the centrality and universality of God’s economy, is the precious and preeminent One in God’s move—Dan. 10:4-9:

Dan 10:4 And on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, while I was by the great river, that is, the Hiddekel,
 Dan 10:5 I lifted up my eyes and I looked, and there was a certain man, clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with the fine gold of Uphaz.
 Dan 10:6 His body also was like beryl, His face like the appearance of lightning, His eyes like torches of fire, His arms and His feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of His words like the sound of a multitude.
 Dan 10:7 And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; instead, a great dread fell on them, and they fled to hide themselves.
 Dan 10:8 Thus I was left alone and I saw this great vision; and no strength was left in me, but my color turned deathly pale; and I retained no strength.
 Dan 10:9 Yet I heard the sound of His words; and when I heard the sound of His words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.

A. The excellent Christ, who appeared to Daniel in His preciousness, has many wonderful characteristics:

1. Christ appeared as a Priest in His humanity, signified by the linen robe, to care for His chosen people in their captivity—v. 5a; Exo. 28:31-35.
 Dan 10:5a I lifted up my eyes and I looked, and there was a certain man, clothed in linen, ...
 Exo 28:31 And you shall make the robe of the ephod all of blue strands.
 Exo 28:32 And there shall be an opening for the head in its center; around its opening there shall be a binding edge of woven work, like the opening of a coat of mail, so that it will not be torn.
 Exo 28:33 And you shall make on its hem pomegranates of blue and purple and scarlet strands, all around its hem, and bells of gold between them all around:
 Exo 28:34 A golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, on the hem of the robe all around.
 Exo 28:35 And it shall be upon Aaron when he ministers, and its sound shall be heard when he goes into the sanctuary before Jehovah and when he comes out, so that he may not die.
2. Christ appeared in His kingship in His divinity, signified by the girdle of gold, for ruling over all the peoples—Dan. 10:5b.
 Dan 10:5 ... whose loins were girded with the fine gold of Uphaz.
3. For His people’s appreciation Christ appeared in His preciousness and dignity, as signified by His body being like beryl; the Hebrew word for *beryl* could refer to a bluish-green or yellow precious stone, signifying that Christ in His embodiment is divine (yellow), full of life (green), and heavenly (blue)—v. 6a.
 Dan 10:6 His body also was like beryl, ...
4. Christ appeared in His brightness for shining over the people, as signified by His face being like the appearance of lightning, and in His enlightening sight for searching and judging, as signified by His eyes being like torches of fire—v. 6b-c.
 Dan 10:6 ... His face like the appearance of lightning, His eyes like torches of fire, ...
5. Christ appeared in the gleam of His work and move, as signified by His arms and His feet being like the gleam of polished bronze—v. 6d.
 Dan 10:6 ... His arms and His feet like the gleam of polished bronze, ...
6. Christ appeared in His strong speaking for judging people, as signified by the sound of His words being like the sound of a multitude—v. 6e.
 Dan 10:6 ... and the sound of His words like the sound of a multitude.

7. As a man, such a Christ is precious, valuable, complete, and perfect—cf. Rev. 1:13-16.

Rev 1:13 And in the midst of the lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment reaching to the feet, and girded about at the breasts with a golden girdle.

Rev 1:14 And His head and hair were as white as white wool, as snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire;

Rev 1:15 And His feet were like shining bronze, as having been fired in a furnace; and His voice was like the sound of many waters.

Rev 1:16 And He had in His right hand seven stars; and out of His mouth proceeded a sharp two-edged sword; and His face shone as the sun shines in its power.

- B. God's intention in His administration is to give Christ the preeminence in all things, to cause Christ to have the first place in everything—Col. 1:15, 18:

Col 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation,

Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

1. The entire world situation is under the rule of the heavens by the God of the heavens to match His economy for Christ—Dan. 7:9-10; 4:34-35:

Dan 7:9 I watched / Until thrones were set, / And the Ancient of Days sat down. / His clothing was like white snow, / And the hair of His head was like pure wool; / His throne was flames of fire, / Its wheels, burning fire.

Dan 7:10 A stream of fire issued forth / And came out from before Him. / Thousands of thousands ministered to Him, / And ten thousands of ten thousands stood before Him. / The court of judgment sat, / And the books were opened.

Dan 4:34 And at the end of those days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted up my eyes to heaven, and reason returned to me; and I blessed the Most High, and I praised and honored the ever-living One; For His dominion is an eternal dominion, / And His kingdom is from generation to generation;

Dan 4:35 And all the inhabitants of earth are considered as nothing, / But He does according to His will in the army of heaven / And among the inhabitants of the earth; / And there is no one who can resist His hand / Or say to Him, What are You doing?

- a. In His economy, in His plan with His arrangement, God desires to make Christ the centrality and universality of His move on earth—2:34-35.

Dan 2:34 You were watching until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the image at its feet of iron and clay and crushed them.

Dan 2:35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

- b. In 2:35 the stone refers to Christ as the centrality, and the mountain refers to Christ as the universality.

Dan 2:35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

2. For Christ to have the preeminence in all things, God needs a people; apart from God's having a people, there is no way for Christ to be made preeminent—Col. 1:18; 3:10-11; Eph. 3:21; 1 Tim. 3:15:

Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

- Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.
- Eph 3:21 To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.
- 1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.
- a. Christ must have the first place, the preeminence, in our personal universe—Col. 3:17; 1 Cor. 10:31.
 - Col 3:17 And whatever you do in word or in deed, do all things in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
 - 1 Cor 10:31 Therefore whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
 - b. Today Christ, the preeminent One, must be the centrality and universality in our church life, family life, and daily life—Col. 3:17; 1 Cor. 10:31.
 - Col 3:17 And whatever you do in word or in deed, do all things in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
 - 1 Cor 10:31 Therefore whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
 - c. Under His heavenly rule God is using the environment to make Christ the centrality (the first) and the universality (everything) to us—Rom. 8:28; Col. 1:18, 27; 3:4, 10-11.
 - Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
 - Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
 - Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
 - Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
 - Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
 - Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.
3. As those who have been chosen by God to be His people for Christ's preeminence, we are under God's heavenly rule—Dan. 4:26b; Matt. 4:17; 5:3:
- Dan 4:26b ... your kingdom will be assured to you after you have come to know that the heavens do rule.
 - Matt 4:17 From that time Jesus began to proclaim and to say, Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near.
 - Matt 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens.
- a. The purpose of the heavenly ruling is to complete God's elect so that Christ may be preeminent, that He may be the first—the centrality—and everything—the universality—Dan. 2:35; Col. 1:18; 3:4, 10-11.
 - Dan 2:35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.
 - Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
 - Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
 - Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

- b. We all need to learn that this universe is under God's administration and that God's intention in His administration is to make Christ preeminent, to cause Him to have the first place in everything—1:18.

Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;