

# THE SUPREMACY OF CHRIST

GBC EQUIPPING HOUR | DECEMBER 13, 2020

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## **Axiom 1: The Universe Has a Center (Colossians 1:15-17)**

**PURPOSE:** To be ready for the start of a new year, 2021, with three Christocentric axioms to live by.

### **I. How Discoveries in the Cosmic Microwave Background Brought Us Back to the Despised *Copernican Principle***

#### **A. The Cosmological “Axis of Evil”**

- Astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus in 1543 developed the idea of *heliocentrism* –the Sun being perfectly stationary with Earth and whole Universe rotating about it. This was an improvement from *geocentrism*.
- Much later scientists verified the existence of galaxy clusters, our Milky Way (and Solar System) being part of *one of many of them*. Heliocentrism was debunked.
- By the 20<sup>th</sup> Century the Cosmic Microwave Background was detected –a speckled distribution of cold temperatures across our Universe’s edge. Going more into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, scientists were amazed to find the cooler temperatures north of the plane of our solar system and warmer ones on the southern half. This relationship was called the “Axis of Evil” because it puts us back in the center of the Universe (‘bad!’).

#### **B. Spiritual & Philosophical Parallels**

- Similarly, the direction of our lives, *not arbitrary*.
- Even ardent agnostics cannot escape the concept of “the Center.” Everyone bends the knee to something.

## II. The Universe in Two Parts

### A. The Physical Universe

- *Jesus Created It.*

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, **visible and invisible** (Colossians 1:15-16a).

Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **before Abraham was, I am.**” (John 8:58).

- *Jesus Dominions Over It.*

..whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and **for him** (Colossians 1:16b).

On a Sabbath, while he was going through the grain fields, his disciples plucked and ate some heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands. <sup>2</sup> But some of the Pharisees said, “Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?” <sup>3</sup> And Jesus answered them, “Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: <sup>4</sup> how he entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those with him?” <sup>5</sup> And he said to them, “The Son of Man **is lord of the Sabbath**” (Luke 6:1-5).

- *Jesus Holds It Together.*

And he is before all things, and in him **all things hold together.** (Colossians 1:17 –see also Matthew 8:27 And the men marveled, saying, “What sort of man is this, **that even winds and sea obey him?**”)

## B. The Metaphysical Universe

“Meta” means beyond. Scripture doesn’t only speak of the physical Universe but, as well, something radically transcendent above the normal human experience (cf. 2 Corinthians 12:2). Christ, being above the angels (Hebrews 1:4), takes a preeminent role here.

- *Jesus Created Them.*

Praise him, **all his angels**; praise him, all his hosts!  
<sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!  
<sup>4</sup> Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!  
<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD! **For he commanded and they were created.** (Psalms 148:2-5).

- *Jesus Dominions Over Them.*

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is **above every name**,<sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, **in heaven and on earth and under the earth**,<sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:9-11; see also Isaiah 6:1-5 with John 12:41 and Revelation 4:5-8, 5:13).

- *Jesus Holds Their Realm Together.*

And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear.<sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword.<sup>53</sup> **Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?”** (Matthew 26:51-53 –contrast with the fallen angels of Jude 5-6 and Matthew 8:28-34).

### III. **Also, the Practical Universe**

#### A. In the Visible Realm

Christ's incarnation in the First Advent proves that Heaven can, in fact, come down to Earth. Moreover, we are not left tending to our physical world just by ourselves –left alone like orphans in a big, dark Universe. Christ doesn't merely come to our side, he physically goes before us in a humble, yet valiant and noble leadership.

#### B. In the Invisible Realm

Christ's ascension proves that Earth can, in fact, rise and enter into Heaven. Being wonderfully held captive by our Messiah's salvation, by faith, we will do this. We will physically ascend to heaven and the gates of hell shall not prevail.

### **The Supremacy of Christ Course Outline:**

- December 6 - Introduction to Colossians 1:15-20
- December 13 - The Universe Has a Center / Col. 1:15-17
- December 20 - The Church Has a Head / Col. 1:18
- December 27 - Christ's Body Does it All / Col. 1:19-20