

Colossians 1:17-18

17-18 And **He is BEFORE all things, and in Him ALL THINGS CONSIST.** And He is the **HEAD of the BODY, the CHURCH,** who is the beginning, the **FIRSTBORN from the DEAD,** that in all things He may have the **PREMINENCE.**

• **John 1:28-31** “These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing. The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and he said, “Behold! The _____ of _____ who takes away the sin of the world! This is _____ of whom I said, ‘After me comes a _____ who is _____ me, for He was _____ me. I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, I came baptizing with water”

• **Colossians 1:24** “I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of _____, for the sake of His _____, which is the _____.”

• **Revelation 1:5** “And from _____, the faithful witness, the _____ from the _____, and the _____ over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.”

Definition: “In Him ALL THINGS CONSIST” – “All things consist” is another way of saying “**all things hold together**”, so **Jesus is the one who holds everything in the universe together. HE is the ONE WHO is IN CONTROL of everything.** He keeps the planets in their orbits and keeps them from flying off into space. Also, scientists don’t really know what holds atoms together, as the positive and negative parts should actually cause them to fly apart, so it is really Jesus who holds every atom together in your body, or on the earth, or in everything in the whole universe. Some Scripture verses also use the words “**upholds all things**”, which means Jesus holds things together, and also holds them up and keeps them safe. If Jesus can uphold the entire universe, He is surely capable of **UPHOLDING your LIFE** and helping you, too.

• **Hebrews 1:1-3** “_____, who at various times and in different ways spoke in times past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us _____ His _____, whom He has appointed heir of all things, _____ whom also He made the _____; who being the brightness of His _____ and the express _____ of His person, and _____ all things by the _____ of His _____, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

• **Revelation 3:7** “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things says _____ who is holy, He who is true, _____ who has the _____ of David, _____ who _____ and no one shuts, and _____ and no one opens.’”

• **Isaiah 41:10** “_____ not, for I am _____ you; be not dismayed, for I am your _____. I will _____ you, yes, I will _____ you, yes, I will _____ you with My righteous _____.”

Definition: “That in ALL THINGS HE may have the PREMINENCE” – **PREMINENCE means having paramount or HIGHEST rank, dignity and importance. It means SUPREME - Jesus is SUPREME, He is Number One.** It is the same as what John the Baptist said when he said, “He is PREFERRED before me.” The literal meaning is “He ranks higher than I.” Jesus is to have the **PREMINENCE** (having paramount or HIGHEST rank, dignity and importance) **ABOVE ANYONE and EVERYTHING.** He is NOT just a good man or another prophet. Not only does **Jesus have the greatest IMPORTANCE,** but **He also EXISTED BEFORE any other human being,** as He is God who

became Man.

• **Micah 5:2** “But you, _____ Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet _____ of _____ shall come forth the _____ to be _____ in Israel, whose goings forth (existence) have been from _____, from _____.”

• **John 1:15** “John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, “This was _____ of whom I said, ‘He who comes _____ me is _____ before me.’”

• **John 8:53-54 & 58** “Are You _____ than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. _____ do You make Yourself out to _____? Jesus answered, ‘If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who _____ Me, of whom you say that He is your God.’ (Verse 58) “Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, _____ Abraham _____, I _____.’”

• **John 1:26-27** “John answered them, saying, “I baptize with water, but there stands _____ among you whom you do not know. It is _____ who, coming _____ me, is _____ before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose.”

Definition: “BEFORE Abraham was, I AM” — “I AM” was the name of God given to those under the Old Covenant (Old Testament). It simply means **He has no beginning or end, but has ALWAYS EXISTED.** When God appeared to Moses in the burning bush (Exodus 3:14) He said, “Tell them ‘I AM’ has sent you.” When the Jews heard Jesus use this term for Himself, THEY KNEW EXACTLY WHAT HE MEANT BY IT, and they picked up stones to stone Him to death, because He was saying He was God! In trying to translate into English, this name is sometimes referred to as “Jehovah” or “Yahweh.” We don’t really know how it was spoken by the Hebrews, because they thought God’s name was too holy to speak or write, but **IT IS NOT NECESSARY for us to know it.** The **name that is GIVEN TO US** is the **NAME OF JESUS** (see Acts 4:12), and Jesus revealed God to us in the New Covenant (New Testament) as **“the Father.”**

• **John 17:4-5** “I have glorified _____ on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, _____ together with Yourself, with the _____ which _____ had with _____ before the _____ was.”

Definition: “The GLORY which I HAD WITH YOU BEFORE the WORLD WAS” – Jesus existed with God the Father and the Holy Spirit from all eternity. There is not a time when Jesus came into being, except that He came down from heaven to be born as a man, and in that case, **His HUMAN existence has a beginning.** Jesus, as the “Word” of God and the Second Person of the Godhead (Trinity), created everything that is in existence, and **He shared the glory of the Father** “before the world was.” Obviously, if He created the world, He had to be here “BEFORE the world was.”

Definition: “FIRSTBORN from the DEAD” – This is a title for Jesus that means **He was the first one to be RESURRECTED from the DEAD.** In some Scriptures, He is called the “firstfruits” from the dead, which has the same meaning, only is a reference to farmers offering the first part of their harvest to God. Yes, Jesus raised some people from the dead during His earthly ministry, but they had the same physical bodies that continued to grow old, and they eventually died. **Jesus is the FIRST ONE to be RESURRECTED in a perfect, ageless, resurrection body that will never grow old and die, and that cannot be affected by sickness, pain and death.** Because He has been raised from the dead and given a perfect body, **we are promised that we also will be raised from the dead and given this same kind of indestructible body as Jesus** (Philippians 3:20-21).

• **Acts 13:33-34** “God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has _____ up _____. As it is also written in the second Psalm: ‘You are My _____, today have I _____ You.’ And that He _____ Him from the _____, no more to return to _____, He has spoken thus: ‘I will give You the sure mercies of

David.”

• **Psalm 2:7** “I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to _____, ‘You are My _____, today I have _____ You.’”

• **I Corinthians 15:3-4 & 20** “For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that _____ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that _____ was _____, and that He _____ the third day according to the Scriptures.” (Verse 20) “But now _____ is _____ from the _____, and has become the _____ of those who have fallen asleep.”

• **Philippians 3:20-21** “For our citizenship is in _____, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will _____ our lowly _____ that it may be _____ to His _____, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”

• **Acts 26:23** “That the _____ would suffer, that he would be the _____ to _____ from the _____, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.”

• **John 6:39-40 & 44** “This is the will of the _____ who _____ Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should _____ it up at the _____ day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the _____ and _____ in Him, may have _____ life; and I will _____ him up at the _____ day.” (Verse 44) “No one can come to _____ unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will _____ him _____ at the last _____.”

• **John 11:24-25** “Martha said to Him, ‘I know that he will _____ again in the _____ at the _____ day. Jesus said to her, ‘_____ am the _____ and the _____. He who believes in _____, though he may die, he shall live.’”

Definition: “RAISE him up at the LAST DAY” — This is a PROMISE of the RESURRECTION of the BODY, and a PROMISE of our ETERNAL SECURITY in Jesus. **Jesus has the ability to KEEP US SAFE until the VERY END.** We have the PROMISE of having NEW, PERFECT resurrection bodies, just like Jesus’ resurrection body, for all eternity.

• **I John 3:2** “Beloved, now we are the _____ of God, and it has not yet been revealed what _____ shall _____ (in the future), but we know that when _____ is _____, we shall be _____ Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

• **I Corinthians 15:22-23** “For as in Adam all die, even so in _____ all shall be made _____. But each one in his own order: Christ the _____, afterward _____ who are _____ at His _____.”

• **II Timothy 1:12** “For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know _____ I have _____ and am persuaded that He is able to _____ what I have committed to Him _____ that _____.”

Definition: “You are My SON, today I have BEGOTTEN You” – This is the same as “firstborn from the dead.” God the Father is speaking to His Only Begotten Son, **Jesus Christ, but NOT at the time of his birth as a baby in Bethlehem.** Jesus was NOT “begotten” or “born” at that time, except for His human body. **Jesus has always existed with the Father and the Holy Spirit in heaven, but he was “BEGOTTEN from the DEAD” when God raised Him up by the power of the Holy Spirit.** Some cults use verses such as this to “prove” that Jesus was not God, but just a created being. This word for “begotten” does not mean created, but is speaking of **the raising of Jesus from the dead**, as though that was a “birth” from a corruptible body to an eternal incorruptible body.

• **I Corinthians 15:50-53** “Now this I say, brethren, that _____ and _____”

cannot inherit the _____ of _____; nor does _____ inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep (die), but we shall _____ be _____ - in a _____, in the twinkling of an eye, , at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the _____ will be _____ incorruptible, and we shall be _____. For this _____ must put on _____, and this _____ must put on _____.”

• **Hebrews 1:5-6** “For to which of the angels did He ever say: ‘You are My _____, today I have _____ You’? And again, ‘I will be to _____ a _____, and He shall be to Me a _____’? But when He again brings the _____ into the world, He says: ‘Let all the _____ of God _____ Him.’”

Definition: “FLESH and BLOOD CANNOT inherit the KINGDOM of GOD” - This means that the human bodies (“flesh and blood”) that we have now **CANNOT live in heaven with God, and MUST be changed before we can live there.** It is the same as where it says “this CORRUPTIBLE must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.” **Corruptible means it can ROT, DECOMPOSE, become corrupted, and “MORTAL” means it can DIE.** Our bodies that we have now can DIE, and as soon as they die, they begin to ROT, decompose and become corrupted. Our resurrection bodies will be physical bodies, but like Adam and Eve’s bodies in the beginning, **they will no longer be subject to death.**

• **II Corinthians 5:1-4** “For we know that if our _____ house, this tent (our PHYSICAL BODY), is destroyed, we have a building (a NEW BODY) from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we _____, earnestly desiring to be _____ with our _____ which is from _____, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent _____, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that _____ may be swallowed up by _____.”

Definition: “HEAD of the BODY, the CHURCH” - The church is called “The body of Christ” and Jesus Himself is the HEAD of the BODY. Head means LEADER, but also has the idea of being the most important part of the body. Just as with our own bodies, we couldn’t do anything without our BRAIN, which is in the head, and we couldn’t SEE anything without our EYES which are in the head. We also eat with our MOUTH, which is in the head, and smell with our nose, which is in the head. So, calling **Jesus the HEAD of the BODY indicates His supreme importance in everything the church does, as well as being the LEADER of the church.**

• **Ephesians 1:22-23** “And has put all things under _____ feet, and gave _____ to be the _____ over all things to the _____, which is His _____, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

• **Ephesians 5:27** “That He might _____ it to _____ a glorious _____, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be _____ and without blemish.”

• **I Corinthians 12:11-14 & 18** “But one and the same _____ works all these things, distributing to each one individually as _____ wills. For as the body is _____ and has many members, but _____ the _____ of that one _____, being many, are _____ body, so also is _____. For by one _____ we were all _____ into _____ - whether _____ or _____, whether slaves or free - and have all been made to drink (participate) into one _____. For in fact the _____ is not one member but many.”

(Verse 18) “But now _____ has set the members, _____ of them, in the _____, just as _____ pleased.”