

Seated at the Right Hand of the Majesty on High

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References: Hebrews 1-12, Hebrews 1:3; Hebrews 8:1-2; Hebrews 12:2; Psalm 110:1; 1 Corinthians 15:26; Psalm 110:4; Genesis 1:3

Introduction and Personal Testimony

Thank you so much, Brother Harold. I was also greatly encouraged by all the prayers I heard the past forty-five minutes, and we thank God for His abundant grace and His will that all of us in different lands and cultures can be saved.

So good evening, everyone else, dear brothers and sisters, both on Zoom and at the chapel. Basically, the short introduction is I'm a third-generation Chinese, grew up in Singapore, so English is our first language. Because we have four official races—Chinese, Malays, Indians, and Europeans in Singapore—English is our first language as a common language among all the races. As a third-generation Chinese, as a second language, I needed to learn from kindergarten Mandarin Chinese. If there's a Malay person, he will need to learn English and Malay also from young. So this is the way; it's a difficulty when we are at a young age, we need to learn two languages. But after we grow up and after we persevere, we find that it's very advantageous for us.

I was saved—basically, I went to Sunday school, brought by my parents and with my two older sisters since I was four or five years old. But only at ten years old, I realized that I was still a sinner, despite being a good student in Sunday school. At ten years old, I realized I had much anger, jealousy, and very inward sins in my life. So I turned to the Lord Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. Only He can save me from a lost eternity in hell and away from Him. So that was when I was ten years old.

Subsequently, I also had much challenges growing up as a young believer. Only after six years, I was baptized when I was sixteen. Since then, the Lord has brought me through many trials and temptations through life. We also have to do national service in Singapore for Singaporean guys, and also through my university in Singapore. It was a very difficult time to study after national service and time in the army, but the Lord brought me through.

Subsequently, after five years of working in the field of computer technology, I was called to full-time ministry. Subsequently, I went to many different countries for short-term mission trips, as Brother Harold mentioned a bit just now. Over the years, I'm very thankful to God that He has provided for all my trips and also my daily living in Singapore, which is becoming even more and more expensive to stay in—a highly developed country, very advanced, and a lot of conveniences. But even now, electricity and water bills are going up and the tax has increased; many people are struggling now also. But we thank God for many opportunities that I still have to share Christ, not only in Singapore, but also overseas.

Just last week, I was in Dallas, Texas, in the USA for the Emmaus global conference. Basically, there's very good and encouraging things happening in Emmaus, which I'll share more on Sunday. But basically, I'm now also the global Emmaus Chinese coordinator. What that basically means is I need to coordinate the translation of Emmaus courses into Chinese and upload them into the app. There's a free Emmaus app, which is multilingual, and both the app and the courses are all free. The past six months, from January to July of this year, there have been many students who have been studying the Chinese courses. About one in three of them will respond with what they learned and share after the course. It's been encouraging to hear their testimonies, even though I may not know them personally.

So with that, that's just a brief introduction. Basically, we also concluded the Emmaus conference yesterday, and it was a great time of encouragement of many testimonies around the world. Tonight, let's continue with this: basically, I'm going to share some brief thoughts and meditations on the whole book of Hebrews.

Even as we have prayed—in the local church in Singapore, we also have our prayer meeting on Tuesday nights, and we have a Bible reading at the end of the prayer meeting as well—so let's turn to Hebrews chapter 1, verse 3. Hebrews chapter 1, verse 3.

As we read these three short passages scattered throughout the book of Hebrews, we can note something which is related to what we sang just now also: the Lord Jesus is both Son of God and Son of Man. In Hebrews chapter 1, verse 3, here is the reading:

[Hebrews 1:3 NKJV] - who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

The Finished Work: Hebrews 1:3

If you would please mark down the last part of this verse 3: "He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."

Even as we have prayed for one another and also prayed for the salvation of precious souls, and even some of your church members and contacts who are going through various trials and difficulties, you can be encouraged and thank God really that the Person whom we are praying to is no ordinary person. Amen. That He, as a human, can be able to sit down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Hebrews chapter 1 is actually really an introduction to the human nature of Christ, even as the rest of the book shows that He is our great High Priest. It's important to recall that He is a resurrected person, the firstfruits of all those who believe in Him. After He was resurrected, He ascended into heaven, and then He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

We should also be familiar with this: that the high priest in the Old Testament, he never had a seat in the tabernacle, whether inside the tent or outside the tent. Especially, there's no seat in the Holiest of All. The seat is actually for God, the mercy seat. And yet we see that in Hebrews chapter 1, at the end of verse 3, Jesus, after He had finished the work of salvation and redemption on the cross and made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

So we can ask ourselves: where is He sitting down? In the earthly tabernacle, we have never seen a seat for man or a seat for the high priest—only for God. Imagine this: that God is the Creator, the Owner, the sovereign Ruler of all creation, and yet at God's right hand, there is a human person, in the person of our perfect Lord Jesus Christ. He is having the wounds in His hands, His feet, and His side, and the thorn marks on His brow, His forehead. And He has sat down victoriously.

Hebrews chapter 1 really has its focus on the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross, His resurrection and ascension, and His sitting down. Some of us would say this way: that He has worthily and successfully completed His work of salvation, and therefore He is able to sit down. And yet, again, if we turn to Acts, at the martyrdom of Stephen, the first martyr in the early church, the Lord Jesus was standing up.

For those of us who are more familiar with the book of Hebrews, we know that the whole focus of the book of Hebrews is Jesus as the great High Priest, and not so much as Jesus as the Lamb of God who was slain for us. The rest of Hebrews chapter 1 and all the way to chapter 7, we know that the Lord Jesus is portrayed as the Person who is far above, who is

supreme above even Moses, the greatest of the prophets; greater than Melchizedek, who did not have a beginning or end in the Bible, who did not have any human genealogy, and yet Jesus is greater than Melchizedek.

The Present Ministry: Hebrews 8:1-2

Now let's turn to the next passage, Hebrews chapter 8. Even as we may have traced the superiority, the supremacy of the Lord Jesus Christ over anything that the Israelites have received of God previously, in Hebrews 8 there is this emphasis, or the summary in some of the versions. In Hebrews 8:1:

[Hebrews 8:1 NKJV] - Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

Definitely it's referring to Hebrews 1 through 7. The main point or the summary of what has been said is this: we have such a High Priest who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens.

This is the second occurrence of this phrase: that a Man has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens. The emphasis is that this tabernacle, this place of ministry of this High Priest, is not an earthly tabernacle, but a heavenly one. A summary of this superior Person—superior to Moses, superior to Aaron, superior to Melchizedek—is definitely pointing to the fact that He is the great High Priest. Especially in Hebrews 6 and 7, they emphasize that He is an eternal High Priest who ever lives to intercede for us. He doesn't need any replacement; He doesn't need a successor because He's forever.

The emphasis is that His resurrection is not just for a while. Even as we've seen in the Gospels that people like Lazarus, Jairus' daughter, and the young man of Nain were resurrected by Jesus, according to the law of sin and death, they would go back to death and to the dust. Only Jesus Christ is the resurrected One who is forever. Because of this, all true believers have this eternal hope: that when Jesus comes again, the dead in Christ shall rise first, and we who are alive will be caught up with Him in the air.

What a hope we have, that we have such a perfect Savior! He's risen on high. His work is completely completed, satisfied God's holy requirements, and therefore He has taken His seat at the right hand of God.

Here in Hebrews chapter 8, we have such a High Priest that He ever lives to intercede for us. The focus here is on the present ministry of the resurrected Christ as our High Priest. Hebrews 8, verse 2 continues:

[Hebrews 8:2 NKJV] - a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

Again, we are emphasizing that the Lord Jesus is superior to Moses, because Moses, Aaron, and his descendants only ministered in an earthly tabernacle. In Hebrews 9, we know that the earthly tabernacle is only a foreshadow, only a miniature model of the real tabernacle in heaven. This is where our High Priest is ministering and interceding for us.

Yet this picture is also very interesting: that it seems as if the Lord Jesus is sitting down and ministering as a High Priest in Hebrews 8, verse 1. Whenever we pray, whenever we are distressed, whenever we are discouraged, or whenever we just need some direction in life, we can really be so assured that the High Priest who prays for us does not pray on the same level or the same plane as us on earth. He prays from a heavenly perspective. He prays from the greatest seat of power in the whole universe, and He prays with the wisdom and the knowledge of God, which is all-knowing, all-sufficient, and all-powerful.

What a change of perspective! We don't have a high priest who is the same as us—a sinner like us in those other beliefs where they only look to a human person who can die, who will die, and who is subject to sickness and weakness like us. Our High Priest is so much greater, really, that truly this is only possible through the grace of God.

When we pray, let us really be encouraged to hand over our human wisdom, our own thoughts and ideas of how to solve a problem, and trust the Lord Jesus. His perspective is really much higher; indeed, it is the highest of all perspectives from the throne of God in the heavens.

The Future Hope: Hebrews 12:2

As we progress on towards the end of the letter of Hebrews, let's turn to Hebrews chapter 12.

In a way, we have looked in the past in Hebrews chapter 1 at the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. We looked at the present in Hebrews chapter 8, where our High

Priest is ministering and praying for us from heaven itself at the right hand of God. When we come to Hebrews 12, it seems as if the focus and the perspective is forward-looking.

As we look at Hebrews 12:2, our focus, our attention, all our hope is on Jesus:

[Hebrews 12:2 NKJV] - looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Even as we have been encouraged in Hebrews 11 of all the Old Testament saints who have triumphed over disappointment, over depression even, together with them we have an even greater and future hope as we fix our eyes on Jesus. The Lord Jesus not only starts our salvation on the cross, so that all those who have put their trust in Him have this eternal life, but He is also the Perfecter of faith.

As we sing in some hymns, when faith shall give way to sight and we see the Lord Jesus Himself in a glorified spiritual body, that is something that we can't imagine. He is a spirit, and yet He is also flesh and blood, who could eat the fish and the honeycomb which was given to Him after He was resurrected. This is the Author and Perfecter of faith as we fix our eyes on Jesus.

Again, in Hebrews 12:2, we are reminded that He endured the cross. Just as He endured the cross, He was looking forward with joy to the end, when not only He Himself would go back in glory to the Father—having completed the work of salvation and gone back in victory over sin and death and hell—but He would also bring with Him all of us as trophies of His grace.

We thank the Lord Jesus that His resurrection is not just to give us a temporary respite. Even for the disciples, on the third day He arose and they were able to be reassured. Yet the Lord Jesus left the disciples to start the early church, in a way, by themselves as He ascended back to heaven in Acts 1. The Lord Jesus didn't stay with them to set up the early church, but He asked them to wait for the Spirit who would come from on high to give them power to be witnesses of His salvation work and His resurrection. Jesus has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God, even in this future hope.

The Guarantee of Psalm 110

I think we will do well also to look in Psalm 110, which actually is a key Psalm that ties this all together. Jesus is our Savior and Redeemer, He's our High Priest, and He's also the future

King who will reward His faithful servants and His subjects with the rewards that He has promised to them, when faith will give way to sight.

Let's look at Psalm 110, verse 1:

[Psalm 110:1 NKJV]

The LORD said to my Lord,

"Sit at My right hand,

Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

That is what we have read three times in such clear terms in the whole book of Hebrews: in Hebrews chapter 1, Hebrews chapter 8, and Hebrews chapter 12. That's why I said that Hebrews chapter 12 is like a forward and future perspective: that the Lord Jesus is sitting only until His enemies be made a footstool.

We know that:

[1 Corinthians 15:26 NKJV] - The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

In 1 Corinthians 15, that speaks of the complete eradication of death. The Lord Jesus had already triumphed over death when He rose from the dead and proved that He is the true Son of God. But in a future day, death will be fully abolished even in our lives. We are still looking forward to the future, where we will no longer need to mourn and weep at the passing of loved ones, even when they are Christians. We know that there is much sorrow in the separation when Christians pass on, but there will come a future day where even this sorrow will be completely taken away. Amen.

It's because of the efficacy of the Lord Jesus Christ. Even though He ascended to heaven about two thousand years ago, yet His work, His power, and His hope of eternal life are still applicable to us today. In that future day, all sorrow, weeping, sickness, and death will really be completely taken away and abolished, and made of no effect. Psalm 110 ties this picture together: that whether as a Prophet, a Priest, or a King, the Lord Jesus has sat down at the right hand of God.

Even when we pray in difficult times, in difficult circumstances—and as one brother prayed and reminded us just now—there are so many times we pray and we may not even know what to pray. We are groaning, and the Holy Spirit helps us in our groanings, and we can be

assured that the Lord Jesus is also interceding for us. Time does not really matter; the passing of time, whether it's the year 2026, whether it was the year 580, or whether it will be in the future, this assurance is guaranteed to us because of the reality that Jesus is the Son of God who ever lives to intercede for us.

In Psalm 110, we have this double assurance even, in verse 4:

[Psalm 110:4 NKJV]
The LORD has sworn
And will not relent,
"You are a priest forever
According to the order of Melchizedek."

We all know the power of God's word in creation, right?

[Genesis 1:3 NKJV] - Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

Yet in Psalm 110, not only does He ask His Lord—which is our Lord Jesus Christ—to sit at His right hand and wait till His enemies be made a footstool, but the Lord also swore. It's like a double and triple, even infinite assurance that God's word will never be broken.

Even though the apostles and the women like Mary had their hearts torn when they saw Jesus hanging on the cross, seemingly powerless, yet we see that the Lord has indeed triumphed. Men were doing their worst to His own Son, His beloved Son, and the Lord really has guaranteed and made it come to pass that because of the resurrection of Jesus, the Lord Jesus is really a Priest who is forever. He is now still waiting for His enemies to be made His footstool.

Truly, what an assurance again that the Lord not only has declared His word, but He has sworn that He will fulfill it to the end! So we are encouraged that really the Lord Jesus is why we pray, even when we don't feel like praying. The Lord Jesus is risen, overcoming all the rejection of man, the forsaking of His disciples, and the betrayal of Judas. Despite all these, Jesus endured the cross for the joy set before Him. What an example; what an encouragement!

Encouragement and Closing Prayer

I leave you with this: practically, we can really encourage more people to come regularly for the prayer meeting, even if they are facing difficulties, even if they are doubtful, even if they are discouraged. We can encourage more to come and pray. Even as we think of not only our own local situation, our own families, our own friends, but also the things which are happening globally, we can be encouraged to continue in prayer, especially for those who are suffering persecution.

Another practical part of this is, if you have not read the book of Hebrews before, please read the whole book of Hebrews. If you have read the book of Hebrews a few times, please continue to study the book of Hebrews. You'll really find such encouragement, power, and the reality of Jesus Christ risen from the dead. We cannot see Him yet; we don't see Him yet, but through faith, truly we can continue to pray and be assured that He, as our High Priest, is Himself interceding and praying for us. With all the wisdom of God, with all the mightiness of God, and with all the sovereignty of God, the Lord Jesus is praying for us, just as He Himself entrusted Himself to God the Father to go through the cross and despised the shame. What a victory He had over all that was against Him!

I leave you with this: that we can really be blessed and joyful in Him in the midst of trials. Thank you, brethren. I'll hand back over to Brother Harold.

Harold Summers:

Amen. Thank you, Brother Ken. We appreciate it, and we thank the Lord that He has finished His good work. We're not sitting here saying, "I wonder whether He won." He did win. He's sitting down, and we say, "Hallelujah! We get to go to heaven; we're going to sit down with Him as well."

Let's pray. And again, thank you; we'll see you on the weekend.

Lord, we want to thank You for the fact that our blessed Savior is victorious. We just rejoice in it. There were so many difficulties in the Old Testament, and many of the high priests were failures. But our blessed Savior was not a failure. We're thankful that He finished the work He was called to do, and so on the cross He could say, "It is finished." So when He got to heaven, He could sit down.

Lord, we're thankful. We pray, Lord, that You'll just encourage us. The fact is, Lord, our work is not yet finished. There's a victory that is sure, but in the meantime, we have a responsibility to tell others about the Savior. We pray that many will trust the Savior.

Thank You for the outreach that we have. We think of the many who will hear the gospel tomorrow, and we pray that You will bless each of the leaders, each of the teachers, and each of the students. May there be many who say, "Lord, I want to know more; I would like to seek the Savior." May the seekers find You. May we see much blessing in the months ahead.

So we give thanks. Now, Lord, just help us today and give us a profitable evening, and then, Lord, help us throughout the rest of the week to bring glory to Your name. We give thanks in Jesus' name. Amen.