

Jesus Is Greater

Q. How is Christ exalted?

A. Christ is exalted by His rising from the dead on the third day, His going up into heaven, His sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and His coming to judge the world at the last day.

(Westminster Shorter Catechism Q&A #28)

“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

(Philippians 2:9-11)

Recently the reverend Franklin Graham (*son of the well-known pastor and evangelist Billy Graham*), when writing on some of the various false religions in our world today, posted on social media these words, “*Mohammed is dead and buried in Medina...Jesus Christ is alive and He is sitting at the right hand of God the Father in Heaven...Who do you want to follow, the dead or the living?*”. In this one short sentence, reverend Graham highlights a truth that is of utmost importance in a world that is flooded with over 4,000 religions and religious leaders. And the truth is this: Jesus is greater. If you were to place every religious leader (*past and present*) alongside Jesus Christ you would soon realize that when put under scrutiny, Jesus is greater. Why? What sets Jesus apart from the likes of Mohammed, the Buddha, Krishna or Confucius? The writers of the Westminster Shorter Catechism asked a similar question when they wrote, “*How is Christ exalted?*”. In essence they were asking, “*What is it that makes Jesus Christ superior to all other people in the entire world? What makes Jesus transcend all other religious leaders throughout human history?*”.

First we see that Jesus is greater because of “*...His rising from the dead on the third day...*”. You see, Gautama Buddha, the founder of Buddhism in the fifth century, is dead and buried in the grave. As Franklin Graham wrote, “*Mohammed [the founder of Islam] is dead and buried in Medina*”. Joseph Smith, the founder of the cult of Mormonism died and was buried in the year 1844. And L. Ron Hubbard, creator of the religion of Scientology, died of a stroke in 1986. Each and every one of the founders of the world religions that exist today are dead and buried. But not Jesus. You see, Jesus was dead, He was crucified on a cross by Roman soldiers in 33A.D. He was buried in a tomb and wrapped in burial cloths. But...three days later He rose bodily from the dead. On the first day of the week when the women came to see the tomb where Jesus had been laid an angel of the Lord descended from Heaven, rolling back the great stone of the tomb and said to the

women, *“Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.”* (Matthew 28:5-6). As the Apostle Paul writes, *“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures”* (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). No other religious leader has ever or will ever compare to Jesus Christ. Why? Because Jesus is the only One who has been risen from the dead. Jesus is greater.

Our catechism goes on to say that Jesus’ exaltation also consists of *“His going up into heaven, His sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and His coming to judge the world at the last day”*. Not only is Jesus greater because of His resurrection, He is greater because He is, right now, ruling and reigning on the throne of Heaven as Lord and King. There is no other God but Him (Isaiah 45:5). Salvation is found in no one else but Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12). And Jesus is coming again to judge the world (Matthew 25:31-46). As we read in Philippians 2:9-11, *“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*. May we go into this dark and sinful world today remembering this great truth: that Jesus is greater!

Dig Even Deeper into God’s Word!

Acts 1:11

Hebrews 1:3

Acts 17:31