**Second Dimension – Christianity Experienced**

**Segment IV – *Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our Faith* Progressive Bible Concepts - # 35 “The Gravity of Jesus – His Preexistence and Prefiguration”**

**Segment IV – The Author and Perfecter of Our Faith (Concepts 25-33)**

* Concept 33 – “Fixing Our Eyes Upon Jesus”
* Concept 34 – “Eyes Upon the Lord”
* **Concept 35 – “The Gravity of Jesus” Part** I

**Primary Imperative**

*“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ our e\_\_\_\_\_\_ on J\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* Heb 12:1,2

**The Gravity of Jesus is rooted in the following aspects of His Personhood:**

1. His P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. His P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. His I\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. His V\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ B\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. His C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. His R\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. His A\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. His S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**A. Preexistence of Christ:**

* I AM what I was – G\_\_\_\_.
* I was not what I AM – M\_\_\_\_.
* I am now called both – G\_\_\_\_ and M\_\_\_\_.

Old Latin inscription, chiseled in marble

***Verses:***

* *“His name will be called E\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Father*…” Isa 9:6
* *“Glorify thou Me with Thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world w\_\_\_\_.”* John 17:5
* *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He w\_\_\_\_ in the b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with God.” John 1:1,2*
* *“He is b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all things…” Colossians 1:17*
* *“Before Abraham was, I a\_\_.”* John 8:58
* *“Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of d\_\_\_\_\_\_ nor end of l\_\_\_\_\_\_…”* Heb 7:3

1. Jesus has preeminence about all things because He not only preceded all things but he also generated all things. Jesus not only preceded all material and human existence, but was the creating agent of its existence.
   * “Yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from Whom are all things, and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Whom are all things, and we exist t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Him.” I Cor 8:6
2. Jesus was at work in the world He created long before He entered it.
   * “But as for you Bethlehem, from you will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are from l\_\_\_\_\_\_ ago, from the days of eternity…” Micah 5:2

**Quote:**

“It appears that in OT times, God came in the form of a man, whereas in the incarnation, he became a man. In both testaments it is the same Person of the Godhead, the eternal Son, through Whom the invisible God appeared to man. In the theophanies, God took human form only t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and for a limited purpose. But when Christ was born, he assumed our humanity in p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Today He is still the man Christ Jesus.” *The Incomparable Christ*, *pg 34.*

**Observation Summary**:

1. Jesus has preeminence above all things because He not only preceded but also generated all things.
2. Jesus was at work in the world he created long before He entered it.

**Insight:**

* We tend to associate longevity of life and experience with earned s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This elevation to a place of honor comes as a result of the accumulation of wisdom and knowledge of life gained through the years.

**Question:**

* What level of honor is then due to the One who preceded, created, and was at work within before actually entering into and became a part of the natural order of His created world?
* “Now Father, g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Me together with Yourself, with the g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ which I had with You before the world was.” John 17:5

**B. Prefiguration of Christ**

* **Typology**
  + a method of biblical interpretation whereby an element found in the OT is seen to prefigure one found in the NT. The initial one is the *t\_\_\_\_\_\_* and the fulfillment is designated the *a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.* Typological interpretation is specifically the interpretation of the OT based on the fundamental theological unity of the two testaments whereby something in the OT shadows, prefigures, adumbrates something in the NT. This is most clearly seen as the authors of the NT books use the OT as a source of pictures pointing forward to Jesus.
* **Biblical reference:**
* *“Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of Adam’s offense, who is a t\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Him who was to come.”*Rom 5:14
* The word ‘type’ means a ‘visible m\_\_\_\_\_\_ left by some object’, in other words to ‘make an i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’. Other words with the similar meaning are s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Heb 9:9) and s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Heb 8:5).

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**Type OT figures that symbolize Christ**

**Prefiguration of Christ – Examples:**

* Adam – the first man became a life giving s\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Jesus – the second Adam became a life giving s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I Cor 15:45,46
* Moses – deliverer of Israel from captivity in Egypt – gave the l\_\_\_\_
  + Jesus – deliverer of spiritual Israel from the captivity of sin – brought g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – John 1:17
* Joshua – led into the abundant l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_– Joshua means ‘savior’
  + Jesus – led into the abundant l\_\_\_\_\_\_ – John 10:10
* David – powerful King/ruler/conqueror of God’s e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ kingdom
  + Jesus – mighty King/ruler/conqueror of God’s h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ kingdom - Luke 1:32
* Solomon – the wisest king who brought e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and prosperity to God’s people (Solomon (shalom) means peace)
  + Jesus – the Wonderful Counselor, Prince of P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ brought h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ peace to God’s people – Isa 9:6

**Insight**

**The foreshadowing of the Christ figure throughout OT history through a wide variety of significant figures substantiates:**

* The s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God’s hand in human history
* The supernatural o\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Messiah
* The preordained d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Messiah and His ministry
* The supernatural design of the overarching t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of multiple leaders who m\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Messiah
* The superiority of the Messiah to all previous leaders in that all of their great leadership qualities and roles were c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and u\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ together in His single personhood

**The Gravity of Jesus is Rooted in the Following:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Jesus’ Nature/Experience** | **Attribute** | **Name** | **Benefit** |
| His Preexistence | Eternal | Everlasting Father |  |
| His Prefiguration | Sovereign | Forerunner |  |

**Summary Concept 35 -** The Preexistence of Jesus refers to His eternal nature as the ultimate being and His Prefiguration points to His absolute sovereignty in the hearts and affairs of men.

**Next Week: Concept 36**

* The Gravity of Jesus – Part II – The Incarnation and Virgin Birth