

Occasional Update #22

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EXALTING JESUS

Jesus said, "... I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself."

In English, there are only 3 words (and their derivatives) that begin with the letters **HEAV...** These words are HEAVE, HEAVY, HEAVEN. They all mean "lifted up", usually implying that something, or some effort, is required.

"Lift Jesus higher; lift Jesus higher; lift Him up for the world to see.
He said, "If I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto Me."

Jesus said,

- "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up ... " (John 3:12-15)
- "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I am He, and that I do nothing on my own, but I speak these things as the Father instructed me." (John 8:28)
- "I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ...
The crowd answered Him, "We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" (John 12:32, 34)
- When Jesus had said this, as they were watching, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. (Acts 1:9)

The word "exalt" has a very similar meaning to "lift up" – honour, worship, bow down to, obey willingly, declare "He is King of kings, and Lord of lords"; and so on.

Recently I have been looking at a series of 21 brief videos on various aspects of "Exalting Jesus" [*See the end of this Update to find out how you can see these videos online*]

Jesus came into this world as both Son of Man, and Son of God. His name is Jesus – our Saviour. He is our Teacher and example – He teaches us and shows us how we should live.

It is easier for us to understand what God is like when we see Him revealed as a person, as the Son of Man; as we hear what He said, and did, and taught. So, in exalting Jesus, we can easily picture Him as One who is to be exalted in different ways – many of which are mentioned and explained in the video series.

- We hear of the voices of angels exalting at Jesus' **birth**. (Luke 2:8-15)
- We see Jesus 'lifted up' as He came up from the water after His **baptism**, and the Spirit of God came upon Him like a dove, and a voice from Heaven said, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:13-17)
- We see Him 'lifted up' at His **transfiguration** on the mountain. (Matthew 17:1-8)
- The people's worship at His **triumphal entry** into Jerusalem on a donkey. (Matthew 21:6-11; John 12:12-16)
- We see Him 'lifted up' on the **cross**; 'raised up' from the **grave**; 'lifted up' in His **ascension** to Heaven.
- We see Him exalted, sitting on the **throne at the right hand of God** (Revelation 5:1-14)

How do we exalt Jesus?

We exalt Jesus ...

By confessing that He is Lord. By our obedience. By our worship and praise. By serving Him. By our lives and witness. By our looking up to Him, honouring Him, loving Him, allowing our lives to be led by Him, ... and in many other ways!

“He is Lord! He is Lord! He is risen from the dead and He is Lord.
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord.”

PSALM 24

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;
for He has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in His holy place?

Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.

They will receive blessing from the LORD, and vindication from the God of their salvation.
Such is the company of those who seek Him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

Who is the King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory!

“Exalting Jesus” (21 online videos)

- Each video looks at a different aspect of Exalting Jesus, and could be used for daily devotions.
- Apart from the Introduction, each video is less than 13 minutes.
- At the end of each video there are suggestions for meditation, prayer, discussion, questions, etc., so they can be used either individually or in groups, and would take, say, about 15-20 minutes.

www.exaltjesus.life/watch/ Includes links to 21 messages.

Day 0 is an introduction to the messages.

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