

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
**I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.***

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

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The Seven-Fold Glory of the Son

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Seven is a number that refers to the completion of that which is in view, and Hebrews 1 presents a complete, full view of God's Son—past, present and future, what could be described as the full panorama of the glory of Christ. So, let us look at what is called the seven-fold glory of the Son of God, and, as we do, please take note of the similarity between Hebrews and Paul's epistles.

The Heir: Whom He appointed heir of all things (Hebrews 1:2a). Before creation was called forth, it was established that the heir of all things is the Son. In fact, the earth was brought forth for the Son as His inheritance. **"Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Thine inheritance, and the {very} ends of the earth as Thy possession"** (Psalm 2:8). The inheritance of the Son will be shared with the many sons who will come unto glory with Him. To the Ephesians, Paul wrote of the riches of the glory of His [the Father of Glory (Ephesians 1:17)] inheritance in the saints (Ephesians 1:18). To the Colossians, he wrote of the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light (Colossians 1:12), and of the Lord from whom we will receive the reward of the inheritance (Colossians 3:24). This is the riches of the glory of His inheritance. It is God's inheritance, and it is discovered in the person of His Son.

The Creator: Through whom also He made the world (Hebrews 1:2b). Is there any doubt that all things were made through the Son who is before all things (Colossians 1:17a)? John wrote: **All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being** (John 1:3). Absolutely nothing that we see with our eyes came into being apart from Him; however, what we see is only a very minute fraction of what He has brought forth. **For by Him all things were created, {both} in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created by Him and for Him** (Colossians 1:16). Oh, the glory of the Son!

The Radiant One: He is the radiance of His glory (Hebrews 1:3a). He is a perfect reflection of the glory of God the Father. He is the shining star of God in all of creation. All light emanates from Him, for He came to this earth as the Light of the world (John 8:12). As He was on the mountain with three of His disciples, **Jesus was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light** (Matthew 17:2). He stood on the mountain as a representation of the coming of the Son of Man in the glory of His Father (Matthew 16:27). Out of a bright cloud, the Majestic Glory declared: **"This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"** (Matthew 17:5; 2 Peter 1:17). The Father was fully satisfied with His Son. At that moment, Christ was glorified; today, He is the Man in glory (Acts 7:55-56); and when He comes a second time, He will come as the King of Glory.

The God Incarnate: The exact representation of His nature (Hebrews 1:3a). The Son is an exact representation of God in every sense of the word, with nothing lacking. He is God in the flesh. Again, Paul captured the glory of the Son. **And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation** (Colossians 1:15). **For it was the {Father's} good pleasure for all the fulness to dwell in Him (Col. 1.19). For in Him all the fulness of Deity dwells in bodily form** (Colossians 2:9). Let the doubters and the philosophers say what they will, but God has the last word. The One we name as our Lord and Savior is the Son of God. No man can look upon God and live. The Lord told Moses: **"You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!"** (Exodus 33:20). But today we look off unto Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith (Hebrews 12:2), the One who declares the Father. **No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained {Him}** (John 1:18). We look to Him with unveiled face, and we see Him in all His glory. Of course, today this is a spiritual reality; but one day very soon, we will

behold Him face to face. How can this be? Won't we be consumed? If we were to remain as we are, we would be; but the good news is that a great change is coming. We will be transformed from these lowly bodies and conformed to His glorious body (Philippians 3:21). We don't know what we shall be like, but we do know that we will be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is (1 John 3:2). We shall gaze into the face of God who dwells in bodily form. Today, we see Him dimly; but in that Day, we will see Him in all His glory, and He will be glorified in His saints (2 Thessalonians 1:10). Hallelujah!

The Upholder: Upholds all things by the word of His power (Hebrews 1:3b). Oh, the glory that is attached to these words is so tremendous. The Son holds all of creation together. As Paul wrote: **And in Him all things hold together** (Colossians 1:17b). **There is {but} one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we} exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we {exist} through Him** (1 Corinthians 8:6). The carnal man thinks that the universe is evolving without having any thought of a Divine hand upon it. But, there is a God who holds all things together, and we exist through Him. If He were not upholding it, then all of creation would disintegrate. When the Son was on the cross and the earth grew dark and the earth quaked (Matthew 27:51, 54; Luke 23:44-45), it was as if the whole of creation was held in the balance. Would it disintegrate? Would the One who was dying on the cross, who upholds all things, perish on that dreadful day? If it were possible for Him to be annihilated, then all of creation would have ceased as well. Thank God for the One, the Word of God, who upholds all things by the word of His power. His word stands; and by His word, He not only upholds but He maintains, guides, and propels the universe (Hebrews 1:3b), for His kingdom will have no end (Luke 1:33).

The Purifier: When He had made purification of sins (Hebrews 1.3c). **For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven** (Colossians 1:19-20). The Father reconciled all things that had fallen in sin back to Himself. The Lamb of God took away the sin of the world (John 1:29). We who were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, have been reconciled in His fleshly body through death, in order to be presented before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach (Colossians 1:21-22). In Him you have been made complete [full to overflowing] (Colossians 2:10). Thank God for the precious blood of the Lamb which allows us to have boldness to enter the Holiest of all (Hebrews 10:19). **So Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without {reference to} sin, to those who eagerly await Him** (Hebrews 9:28). How can we not eagerly wait for the Purifier of our sins? Oh, it is our day of emancipation from these bodies of death!

The King: He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high; having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they (Hebrews 1.3c-4). God's King has been enthroned. He is the head over all rule and authority (Colossians 2:10b). He has disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public display of them, having triumphed over them (Colossians 2:15). The Son is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him (1 Peter 3:22). [The Father] **raised [the Son] from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet** (Ephesians 1:20-22a). Because our Lord is in glory today, we have been delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred to the kingdom of His beloved Son (Colossians 1:13). We do not see the full reality of this fact, but the day is coming soon when we will see it. God's Son is the heir of all things. Even the angels who were created to rule among the celestials have not been given the right of inheritance. Christ has a more excellent name than the ruling angels. He is the first-born Son. Although angels are sons of God, God has never spoken in this way about them. Christ is the first-born Son because He is the first true Son to rise from the dead who is qualified to rule over this earth. The angels rule under God today, but a day is coming when man will rule because God's Son is the firstborn of many brethren who will assume positions of power and authority in the kingdom of God's Son.

Oh dear brethren, we do not see all of this in this day because He has not come yet; however, as far as the Father is concerned, it is done. Thy kingdom come! And so it shall!