

I. **The Christ revealed in Acts is in resurrection**—Acts 1:3; 2:32; 3:15; 4:33:

- A. Through death Christ entered into another realm, the realm of resurrection:
 - Because Christ is the living One with an indestructible life, death is not able to hold Him—Heb. 7:16; Acts 2:24.
 - He delivered Himself to death, but death had no way to retain Him; rather, death was defeated by Him, and He rose up from it.
- B. We need to know Christ in the power, sphere, and element of His resurrection—Phil. 3:10-11.
- C. Christ's resurrection was the focus of the apostles' testimony—Acts 1:22; 2:32; 3:13, 15, 26; 4:33; 10:39-40; 13:33; 17:3, 18:
 - God glorified His Servant Jesus through His resurrection and in His ascension—Luke 24:26; Acts 3:13, 15, 26; 4:10, 33; 5:30-31.
 - The resurrection of the Lord Jesus points back to His incarnation, humanity, human living, and God-ordained death and points forward to His ascension, ministry and administration in heaven, and coming back—Acts 2:23; 1:9-11.

II. **The Christ revealed in Acts is in ascension**—Acts 1:9-11; 2:32-36; 5:31:

- A. Whereas resurrection is a matter of life, Christ's ascension is a matter of position, and position is a matter of authority.
- B. The Lord's ascension was His initiation into His living and ministry in the heavens; this initiation brought Him into a new realm, that is, into the heavens where He now has His living and is ministering there.
- C. The Lord's ascension brought Him into a new stage—the stage of a resurrected man living in the heavens as the center of God's administration—Rev. 5:6:
 - This resurrected One is now sitting in the heavens to execute God's administration—Heb. 12:2.
 - The resurrected Christ ascended to the heavens to be exalted by God and to be given the kingship, the lordship, and the headship over all things—Phil. 2:9-11; Eph. 1:22.
- D. The ascended Christ has also obtained the throne, the glory, and all the authority in the universe—Rev. 5:6; Heb. 1:3; 2:9; Matt. 28:18.
- E. The ascended Christ is the Lord of all to possess all—Acts 2:36:
 - The lordship of Christ is one of the most important aspects of what He has obtained in His ascension—Acts 10:36.
 - Since the lordship of Christ was fully established in His ascension, we—the members of His Body—need to realize this heavenly fact—Eph. 1:20-21.
- F. The ascended Christ is God's Anointed to carry out God's commission to work out the spreading of the gospel and the building up of the church—Acts 1:8.

- III. **The Christ revealed in Acts is the all-inclusive Christ**—Acts 3:14-15, 25-26; 5:30-32; 7:56; 10:36, 39-43; 16:31; 17:30-31; 20:28:
- A. **Christ is the Author of life**—Acts 3:14-15:
 - As indicated by the Greek word rendered “Author,” Christ is the origin or Originator of life; He is the Author, the Chief Leader, in life—Acts 3:15.
 - In Acts 3 we see the imparting of life into others, which is to propagate Christ; for such a propagation, we need the Lord as the Author of life, the source of life.
 - As the Author of life, Christ is the holy and righteous One—Acts 3:14.
 - B. **Christ is God’s Servant**—Acts 3:25-26:
 - As the seed of Abraham and the Servant of God, Christ is the One in whom all the families of the earth—all the races, colors, and nationalities—will be blessed—Acts 3:25-26.
 - God sent back the ascended Christ as a blessing by pouring out the Spirit on the day of Pentecost; hence, the Spirit whom God poured out was the Christ whom God raised and exalted to the heavens—Acts 2:33; 3:13-15, 25-26.
 - C. **Christ is the Leader and Savior**—Acts 5:30-32:
 - God exalted the man Jesus as the highest Leader, the Prince, the Ruler of the kings to rule over the world, and the Savior to save God’s chosen people—Rev. 1:5; 19:16; Acts 5:31.
 - *Leader* is related to His authority, and *Savior* is related to His salvation; He rules sovereignly over the earth with His authority so that the environment might be fit for God’s chosen people to receive His salvation—cf. Acts 17:26-27.
 - D. **Christ is the Son of Man**—Acts 7:56:
 - Acts 7:56 reveals that Christ is the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God to be the comfort, encouragement, and strength to the one martyred for Him.
 - Stephen saw the ascended Christ as the Son of Man; this indicates that the Christ who is in the heavens still has His humanity; He still possesses His human nature.
 - E. **Christ is God**—Acts 20:28:
 - Christ as our God is the Purchaser of the church, having obtained the church with His own blood—Acts 20:28.
 - God secured, purchased, and redeemed the church with “His own blood”, “the blood of Jesus His Son”—Acts 20:28; 1 John 1:7.
 - Christ died on the cross as the God-man, and the blood that He shed there for our redemption was not only the blood of the man Jesus but also the blood of the God-man.
 - The blood through which God obtained the church is God’s own blood.
 - F. **Christ is the Lord of all**—Acts 10:36:
 - All in Acts 10:36 refers to all peoples—1 Tim. 2:4.
 - The ascended Christ is the Lord of all the different races and peoples on earth; with Him, there is no respect of persons—Rev. 5:9.
 - G. **Christ is the Judge**—Acts 10:39-43:
 - Christ has been designated by God to be the Judge of the living and the dead—Acts 10:42.
 - Christ is a man to judge the world, designated by God in righteousness and proved by God’s raising Him from the dead—Acts 17:30-31.
 - H. **Christ is the Lord Jesus, the object of the believers’ faith**—Acts 16:31:
 - To believe in the gospel is mainly to believe in Jesus Christ—Acts 16:31.
 - To believe in the Lord Jesus is to stand on the person of Christ and all that He has accomplished, both of which constitute the belief, the faith, of God’s New Testament economy—1 Tim. 1:4.

I. The Christ revealed in Acts is in resurrection

- Though Christ, the living One with an indestructible life, delivered Himself to death, death is not able to hold Him, He rose up from death and entered into another realm, the realm of resurrection. God glorified His servant Jesus through His resurrection and in His ascension. The resurrection of the Lord Jesus points back to His incarnation, humanity, human living, and God-ordained death and points forward to His ascension, ministry and administration in heaven, and coming back. We need to know Christ in the power, sphere, and element of His resurrection as His resurrection was the focus of the apostles' testimony.

[Acts 2:32] This Jesus God has raised up, of which we all are witnesses.

[Acts 1:3] To whom also He presented Himself alive after His suffering by many irrefutable proofs, appearing to them through a period of forty days and speaking the things concerning the kingdom of God.

[Acts 2:24] Whom God has raised up, having loosed the pangs of death, since it was not possible for Him to be held by it.

II. The Christ revealed in Acts is in ascension

- Whereas resurrection is a matter of life, Christ's ascension is a matter of position, and position is a matter of authority. His ascension initiated and brought Him into a new realm, into the heavens where He now has His living and is ministering there. His ascension also brought Him into a new stage of a resurrected man living in the heavens as the center of God's administration. The resurrected Christ in His ascension is now sitting in the heavens to execute God's administration, be exalted by God and be given the kingship, the lordship, and the headship over all things. He has obtained the throne, the glory, and all the authority in the universe; He is the Lord of all to possess all and His lordship was fully established in His ascension, we—the members of His Body—need to realize this heavenly fact ; He is God's Anointed to carry out God's commission to work out the spreading of the gospel and the building up of the church.

[Acts 2:33] Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God...

[Rev 5:6] And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living

creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

[Acts 1:8] But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

III. The Christ revealed in Acts is the all-inclusive Christ

- The all-inclusive Christ is: ① the Author of life, the holy and righteous One, the Originator of life and the source of life, to impart life into others for propagating Christ; ② God's Servant, the seed of Abraham , in whom all the families of the earth—all the races, colors, and nationalities—will be blessed is the Christ whom God raised and exalted to the heavens and was poured as the Spirit on the day of Pentecost; ③ the Leader and Savior, the man Jesus was exalted by God as the highest Leader, the Ruler of the kings with authority to rule sovereignly over the world so that the environment might be fit for God's chosen people to receive Him as their Savior for their salvation; ④ the Son of Man as seen by Stephen in Acts 7, standing at the right hand of God in the heavens who still has His humanity and possesses His human nature; ⑤ God, who purchased, and redeemed the church with "His own blood", "the blood of Jesus His Son" who died on the cross and shed His blood for our redemption as the God-man; ⑥ the Lord of all the different races and peoples on earth without respect of persons; ⑦ the Judge designated by God in righteousness and proved by God's raising Him from the dead to judge the world, the living and the dead; ⑧ the Lord Jesus, the object of the believers' faith that in Jesus Christ we believe in the gospel, and in the Lord Jesus we stand on His person and all that He has accomplished, both of which constitute the belief, the faith, of God's New Testament economy.

[Acts 3:15] And the Author of life you killed, whom God has raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.

[Acts 2:33] Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God and having received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father, He has poured out this... [Acts 5:31] This One God has exalted to His right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

[Acts 7:56] ... Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.

[Acts 20:28] Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among whom the Holy Spirit has placed you as overseers to shepherd the church of God, which He obtained through His own blood.

[Acts 10:36] The word which He sent to the sons of Israel in announcing the gospel of peace through Jesus Christ (this One is Lord of all).

[Acts 17:31] Because He has set a day in which He is to judge the world in righteousness by the man whom He has designated, having furnished proof to all by raising Him from the dead. [Acts 16:31] ... Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household.

The Jews studied the Old Testament week by week, but they did not pay attention to Christ. They had some thought concerning the Messiah, but they did not have any understanding of Christ. When Paul went into the synagogues to preach and teach, he did not care for anything other than Christ.

When some hear that Paul preached Christ and Christ alone, they may say, “Did Paul not begin his preaching with an account of the history in the Old Testament? Did he not speak of God’s bringing His people out of Egypt, and about Saul and David?” Yes, Paul spoke about those things, but he did so in order to prepare the way to preach Christ. After beginning with the history until the time of David, Paul went on to point out that from David’s seed God brought forth a Savior, Jesus Christ. With Him there is salvation.

As Paul went on to speak concerning “the word of this salvation,” he emphasized Christ’s crucifixion.

Beginning with verse 30, Paul went on to speak of Christ’s resurrection. After incarnation, through resurrection, He was begotten by God in His humanity to be God’s firstborn Son.

As the only begotten Son of God, the Lord is the embodiment of the divine life. Through resurrection Christ became the firstborn Son of God as the life-dispenser for the propagation of life. First, He was the only begotten Son as the embodiment of life; now He is the firstborn Son for the propagation of life. Through His becoming the firstborn Son of God in resurrection, the divine life has been dispensed into all of His believers to bring forth the propagation of the very life which is embodied in Him. We all need to see this.

<Excerpts from “Life-study of Acts”, Message 37, “The Propagation in Asia Minor and Europe through the Ministry of Paul’s Company (3)”>

According to the New Testament, He is the Son of God in two aspects. First, He was God’s only begotten Son; second, He is now God’s firstborn Son. The words only begotten indicate that God has only one Son. [John 1:18](#) and 3:16 speak of the only begotten Son of God. Eternally speaking, Christ is the only begotten Son of God. This is His eternal status. But through resurrection He, as a man, was born to be the firstborn Son of God. The word firstborn indicates that God now has many sons ([Heb. 2:10](#)). Romans 8:29 and Hebrews 1:6 both speak of Christ as the Firstborn. We who believe in Christ are the many sons of God and the many brothers of the Lord, the many brothers of the firstborn Son of God ([Rom. 8:29](#)).

<Excerpts from “The Conclusion of the New Testament (Msgs. 276-294)”, Msg. 293, “Experiencing and enjoying Christ in the Gospels and in Acts (29)”>