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Christ - World - Authority

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"Then spake Solomon, The Lord said that he would dwell in the thick darkness. I have surely built thee an house to dwell in, a settled place for thee to abide in forever. And the king turned his face about, and blessed all the congregation of Israel: (and all the congregation of Israel stood). And he said, Blessed be the God of Israel, who spoke with his mouth unto David my father, and hath with his hand fulfilled it...." I Kings 8:12-15.

"And Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven. And he said, Lord God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart; who hast kept with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him: thou speakest also with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled it with thine hand, as it is this day." (I Kings 8:22-24.)

But the greatest promise of all to David was that one day ONE greater than David would sit on his throne. This son of David would be even greater and wiser and more beneficial to Israel than Solomon. And when he would come, He would amaze the world.

"I STAND AMAZED" #107 All verses.

Joseph Ernest Renan has said, "Jesus was the greatest religious genius that ever lived. His beauty is eternal, and his reign shall never end. Jesus is in every respect unique, and nothing can be compared with him." And at a later time he said, "All history is incomprehensible without Christ."

One of the great characteristics of Jesus on earth was His persistent practice of thanksgiving to God. Some have asked if He had not always lived with the Father in Heaven. And the answer is yes. And, was He not to be on earth only a short time, relatively speaking. Again, the answer is yes. Then why was He so persistent in giving thanks all the time?

The answer is simple: He came to live like the Father wants all of us to live. There is no true Christian where there is not persistent and consistent thanksgiving.
I. JESUS' identity, purpose and power WERE CHALLENGED EVEN AFTER ALL HE SAID AND DID AS GOD'S SON.

1. Born of Supernatural-Virgin birth. 
2. Protected providentially by holy angels. 
4. Tempted of Satan in wilderness 40 days. Untarnished. 
5. Transfigured by the Father in presence of some Apostles. 
6. Taught unparalleled Sermon on the Mount. World's supreme & sublime code of conduct. 
7. Taught 3-dozen famous and truth-packed Parables about the Kingdom of Heaven. 
8. Performed MIracles in number and kind beyond humanity's grasp & understanding.

1. TRUE HEALING. 
- Leper, palsy, diseased, tormented, devil-possessed, deaf, dumb, insane, blind, lame, maimed and crippled. SEEN BY WITNESSES!

2. PERSONAL FEATS. 
- Walked on water, walked through doors, read the hearts of men and women, told them secrets no other human knew about them. 
- Fed 5,000 hungry men on 5 loaves of bread and 2 fishes, fed 4,000 more on 7 loaves and a few little fishes, turned water into wine, stilled a storm and lived a life above reproach in Word, Thought and Deed. SEEN BY MANY WITNESSES!

3. CONQUERED DEATH. 
- Raised Lazarus from the dead at Bethany; the Widow's son from the dead at Nain; and the Ruler's daughter from the dead at Capernaum. SEEN BY MANY MANY WITNESSES!

4. TAUGHT SUPER-HUMAN MESSAGE. 
- Love God, neighbors, family, friends & enemies. 
- Be: kind, good, compassionate, merciful, unselfish and a servant to all. 
- Do: Turn other cheek, go 2nd mile, purify thoughts as well as deeds. Give rather than loan. Suffer wrong. Forgive rather than hate.

CONCLUSION: Great Demonstrations, Events, and Messages were proof enough of Jesus' Power and Authority. YET . . . the haughty Chief Priests and Elders ASKED: "By what authority do you TEACH such, and LEAD these Jewish people away from us?" NICODEMUS knew! John 3:20-31.
DR. MILTON S. EISENHOWER, commissioner, NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE CAUSES AND PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE.

Commission recommended: Fewer risky public appearances by presidents and candidates for president.
Greater use of TV for presidential campaigns, free under Federal law.
Also, $5 billion for administration of justice and prevention of crime.

"Modest price to pay for "establish justice" and "insure domestic tranquility."

II. CHALLENGING OF AUTHORITY IS NOT NEW.

A. Authority defined: Power to rule or govern. Power to judge or enforce the Law. Right to exercise power.

B. EVERY AUTHORITY KNOWN TO MAN IS BEING CHALLENGED TODAY IN OUR WORLD.

1. POPE: Being defied by millions on birth-control controversy. Clamor for "cabinet" which could over-rule Pontif. (Infallible?)

2. WORLD despising American power and authority. (World opinion)
   Capturing our ships (Pueblo) in international waters. Peru, Mexico. Demonstrating against visits of President and Vice Presidents, in Japan, South America, Australia, New Zealand, England, France etc. Desecrating and ridiculing the American Flag. (Swasticas on them.) Mistreating American citizens at will: China, Russia, Peru, Mexico, ... Panama, Viet Nam, etc. denying

3. Many Americans turning "secular" and/divine authority of God, Bible, church. With this regression goes denial of all that is Authoritative and Just.
   a. POLICE. held in derision. SDS, BLACK PANTHERS etc. attacking officers and advocating overthrow of U. S. Govt.
   c. SCHOOLS. More faculty members being physically attacked than ever known. Discipline at all-time low in many places. Boycotts-sit-ins.
   d. GOVERNMENT.
      * Public political servants serve in jeopardy of their lives. 1970 candidates urged to campaign by TV to avoid plots to harass and assassinate political candidates.


III. JESUS WAS RECOGNIZED AS A MAN OF GREAT AUTHORITY.

C. Authority to Judge mankind. John 5:22-29. Vs. 27.
E. Only authority standing at the END. 1 Cor. 15:24-26.
IV. JESUS’ CLAIMS THRILLED AND INSPIRED HIS SINCERE LISTENERS.
   A. John 14:6. Way, truth and Life. Anyone wish to challenge this? "In me ye believe not because ye saw me." John 8:31-32. MY WORDS.
   B. John 11:25-26. "I AM." If he wasn't and isn't, who is? "ME!"
   D. John 18:37. "I" brought the Truth and Am the truth of God! Challenge?

THOSE WHO ADMIT CHRIST’S TRUE IDENTITY AND POWER ASSUME GREAT RESPONSIBILITIES.
   A. To BECOME and Beckon others. Mark 16:15-16. Gathered in to gather in.

VI. THOSE WHO SUBMIT TO HIS AUTHORITY, WORSHIP GOD WITH INTENT AND PURPOSE.
   A. Assemble as if their lives depended on it. Does! Acts 2:42. Hev. 10:24-27.
   C. Achieve liberality with GOD’S goods. 2:42. I Cor. 16:2.
   F. Activate the privilege of Prayer. 2:42. I Tim. 2:8.

INV. IF THE LORD HAD HIS WAY:


2. Not a single erring-brother leave this gathering still carrying the GUILT of his sins of neglect and unfaithfulness. James 5:16.

3. Not a single individual who needs a CHURCH HOME would go wandering aimlessly on and on and on. Identify with the faithful and make life full and meaningful.