

= Session of Christ =

The Christian doctrine of the Session of Christ or heavenly session says that Jesus Christ is seated at the right hand of God the Father in Heaven ? the word " session " is an archaic noun meaning " sitting . " Although the word formerly meant " the act of sitting down , " its meaning is somewhat broader in current English usage , and is used to refer to a sitting for various reasons , such as a teaching session , or a court or council being in session . The New Testament also depicts Jesus as standing and walking in Heaven , but the Session of Christ has special theological significance because of its connection to the role of Christ as King . The Session of Christ is one of the doctrines specifically mentioned in the Apostles ' Creed , where " sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty " immediately follows the statement of the Ascension .

= Biblical references =

According to the Book of Acts , Acts 2 : 33 , after Jesus ' resurrection and ascension , he was " exalted to the right hand of God . " Preaching on the Day of Pentecost , Peter saw Jesus ' exaltation as a fulfilment of Psalm 110 : 1 , The LORD says to my Lord : " Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet . " In the Bible , the " right hand " is the special place of honour .

The idea of Christ 's heavenly session appears a second time in the account of Peter 's preaching in the Book of Acts . In Acts 5 : 31 , Peter says that God exalted Jesus , " to his own right hand " (NIV) , though Louis Berkhof notes that the dative ?? ????? may have to be taken in the instrumental sense (" by his own right hand ") rather than a local sense (" at his own right hand ") .

The heavenly session was important to other writers of the New Testament . In the Epistle to the Hebrews , Hebrews 10 : 12 , it says that Jesus " sat down at the right hand of God , " after he had " offered for all time one sacrifice for sins . " As in Acts 2 , the language of Psalm 110 is used , the next verse saying that Jesus is waiting " for his enemies to be made his footstool . " Other New Testament passages that speak of Christ as being at God 's right hand are Ephesians 1 : 20 (God seated Christ " at his right hand in the heavenly realms ") and 1Peter 3 : 22 (Jesus has " gone into heaven and is at God 's right hand ") .

In Matthew Matthew 26 : 64 and Mark 14 : 62 , Jesus says to Caiaphas , " you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power " . This is a reference to Daniel 7 : 13 , in which Daniel sees a vision of " one like a son of man " coming to the Ancient of Days .

= Posture =

The word " session " is an archaic noun meaning sitting . Wayne Grudem notes that the word formerly meant " the act of sitting down , " but that it no longer has that sole meaning in ordinary English usage today . This language is used in Psalm 110 : 1 and Hebrews 10 : 12 . In Acts 7 : 55 , however , Stephen sees Jesus standing at the right hand of God . This may represent Jesus " rising momentarily from the throne of glory to greet his proto @-@ martyr , " standing as a witness to vindicate Stephen 's testimony , or preparing to return .

In the Book of Revelation , Revelation 2 : 1 , on the other hand , Jesus is referred to as walking among the seven golden lampstands . Robert Mounce suggests that since these lampstands represent seven churches , Jesus ' motion indicates that he is " present in their midst and aware of their activities . "

= In the creeds =

The Apostles ' Creed says of Jesus that " He ascended into heaven , and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty " (1662 Book of Common Prayer) . The words " and sitteth on the right hand of the Father , " do not appear in the Nicene Creed of 325 , but are present in the Niceno @-@ Constantinopolitan Creed of 381 , and are retained in all English versions of the Nicene Creed .

= = Theological significance = =

In the Bible , to be at the right side " is to be identified as being in the special place of honor , " and thus " the full participation of the risen Christ in God 's honor and glory is emphasized by his being at God 's right hand . "

The heavenly session is often connected to the enthronement of Christ as King . The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that " being seated at the Father 's right hand signifies the inauguration of the Messiah 's kingdom . " Louis Berkhof notes that , in his session , Christ is " publicly inaugurated as God @-@ man , and as such receives the government of the Church and of heaven and earth , and enters solemnly upon the actual administration of the power committed to Him . "

In Hebrews 10 : 12 , however , it is Jesus ' priestly office that is in view . The session refers to the completed nature of the work , in the same way that " a human being will sit down at the completion of a large work to enjoy the satisfaction of having accomplished it . " F. F. Bruce argues that

The presence of Messiah at God 's right hand means that for His people there was now a way of access to God more immediate and heart @-@ satisfying than the obsolete temple ritual had ever been able to provide .

Karl Barth says that the session of Christ is " the first and the last thing that matters for our existence in time , " and that

Whatever prosperity or defeat may occur in our space , whatever may become and pass away , there is one constant , one thing that remains and continues , this sitting of His at the right hand of God the Father .

= = Use in hymnody = =

The heavenly session is referred to in many hymns , such as Charles Wesley 's hymn Rejoice , the Lord is King :

The Christmas carol Once in Royal David 's City contrasts Christ 's humble birth with his heavenly session ; the last verse begins :