

# “THERE’S A MAN IN THE GLORY”: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ASCENSION OF JESUS

BY RON KANGAS

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God” (Col. 3:16).

According to this verse, hymns can be used in and for teaching the rich contents of the divine revelation in the Scriptures. Two outstanding hymns convey profound truths regarding the ascension of Christ. The first, composed by Witness Lee, is a marvelous portrayal of Jesus in His exaltation. The first two stanzas declare,

Lo! in heaven Jesus sitting, / Christ the Lord is there enthroned; / As the man by God exalted, / With God’s glory He is crowned.

He hath put on human nature, / Died according to God’s plan, / Resurrected with a body, / And ascended as a man. (*Hymns*, #132)

The man Jesus has been exalted by God to the highest position in the universe, where, crowned with God’s glory, He sits enthroned as Christ. This One, who put on human nature, did not set it aside after His redemptive death and victorious resurrection. On the contrary, in and with His resurrected body, He “ascended as a man.” This view of Jesus in His ascension is unveiled more fully in the last stanza: “Lo! a man is now in heaven / As the Lord of all enthroned; / This is Jesus Christ our Savior, With God’s glory ever crowned!” (ibid).

A man—Jesus the Nazarene (Acts 22:8; 26:9)—has been enthroned as Lord of the entire universe, including every person, matter, thing, and situation. In relation to those who believe in Him and who are one with Him, He is “Jesus Christ our Savior.” This God-exalted man will be crowned with God’s glory eternally, indicating that the humanity that the Son of God put on through incarnation and that was glorified in His resurrection will forever be a part of His person as the firstborn Son.

The other hymn that praises the ascended Lord Jesus was written by Mary E. McDonough, the author of the classic book *God’s Plan of Redemption*. As the uplifted utterance reveals, this hymn impresses upon us the fact that there is a glorified man whose life as the first God-man is for us to experience and enjoy:

There’s a Man in the glory / Whose Life is for me. / He’s pure and He’s holy, / Triumphant and free. / He’s wise and He’s loving, / How tender is He! / His Life in the glory, / My life must be; / His Life in the glory, / My life must be.

There’s a Man in the glory / Whose Life is for me. / He overcame Satan; / From bondage