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AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD!

The Bible makes it abundantly clear that Jesus is at the "right hand of God in heaven." 1st Peter 3:22 says the following: ***"Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto Him."*** According to Acts 2:29-36 Jesus is now seated upon David's throne in heaven. Psalms 132:11 is a prophecy of one of David's descendants being ***"raised up to sit on his throne."*** Peter's says that prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus was raised from the dead and returned to heaven. According to Ephesians 1:19-23 Jesus again is ***"at the right hand of God"*** and has authority above all things and is ***"head over all things to the church."*** Furthermore if you read Hebrews 8:1, you will see that is Jesus is both a ***"king and a priest"*** at the same time once again ***"at the right hand of God."*** Daniel 7:13-14 is a prophecy of the return of Christ to heaven. It says that when Jesus returned to heaven He received ***"...dominion, and glory, and a kingdom."*** All of this is in keeping with the parable that Jesus told in Luke 19:11-27. Verse 15 speaks of the return of Jesus in judgment and it says the following: ***"And it came to pass, that when He was returned, having received the kingdom..."*** He is not coming back to earth to set up a kingdom, but He went to heaven to be seated ***"at the right hand of God upon the throne of David"*** to rule and reign until the end of the world. This is in fulfillment of the prophecy of Psalms 110:1, which fulfillment is spoken of by Peter in Acts 2:34 and is also spoken of at Hebrews 10:12-13. According to Hebrews 9:24 Jesus went heaven not only to rule as King, but also to ***"appear in the presence of God for us."*** What a wonderful blessing it is to have Jesus as our King and High Priest ***"at the right hand of God in heaven!"***

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S BIBLE QUESTIONS:

The name of the woman who was expelled as queen in Persia is Vashti. The woman who took her place was a Jewish woman by the name of Esther. (The Book of Esther)

The name of the high priest at the time of Jesus' death was Caiaphas. (John 18:24)

QUESTIONS FOR THIS MONTH:

What is the name of the father of Isaac's wife Rachel?

How many children did King Rehoboam have? (How many boys and how many girls did he have? And how many wives and concubines did he have also?)

WHAT IS SIN?

In 1st John 3:4 we read the answer to this question. John says: ***"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth the law: for sin is transgression of the law."*** And so when a person transgresses the law of God, he or she becomes guilty of sin. Sin should not be taken lightly; it is spiritually fatal. Paul said in Romans 6:23 that the ***"wages of sin is death."*** This is the same thing that James 1:13-15 says as well. Romans 3:23 tells us the following: ***"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."*** The only person who never sinned was Jesus. (2nd Corinthians 5:21) Does the Bible make a distinction in the seriousness of sin such as the Catholic Church does with ***"venial & mortal sins?"*** The answer is ***"No."*** Any and all sins when not repented of can put a person's soul in danger. Sin ***"separates a person from fellowship with God"*** according to Isaiah 59:1-2. But the ***"blood of Jesus shed upon the cross of Calvary"*** makes it possible for us to be ***"forgiven of our sins and reconciled to God."*** (Ephesians 1:7/Revelations 1:5/Romans 5:6-11) Our sins are initially ***"washed away by the blood of Jesus when we are baptized into His death."*** (Romans 6:3-4/Acts 22:16) And after we have become Christians, our sins are still ***"cleansed by the blood of Jesus."*** (1st John 1:7-9) One important point about sin; it is ***"not inherited from our parents"*** as many religions teach today (Ezekial 18:20), nor are we ***"born guilty of sin."*** (Romans 9:11/Matthew 19:14) As we said earlier, a person becomes guilty of sin when they ***"violate the law of God."*** Until a little baby or a small child can knowingly violate the law of God, they cannot become guilty of sin! (Deuteronomy 1:39) One other important point about sin; it is not ***"automatically forgiven us"*** who are Christians; it must be ***"repented of and confessed in prayer"*** in order to be forgiven. (Acts 8:22-25/1st John 1:7-9) Thank God for the ***"Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world."*** (John 1:29)

IS INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC IN WORSHIP IN THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH A SIN?

The answer to this question is **"Yes!"** And for the very reason we stated in the previous article; because it is a **"transgression of the law of God."** (1st John 3:4) But someone quickly responds, **"instruments of music were used by the Jews in the Old Testament."** The fact that people go back to the Old Testament to find authority for instrumental music in worship tells me they can't find that authority in the New Testament, which is the law of God for all mankind today. (Romans 1:16/Mark 16:15-16) Colossians 3:17 says the following: **"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."** The authority of Christ is expressed in the New Testament according to such scriptures as the one we just mentioned as well as 1st Timothy 6:3-5 and 2nd John 9-11. Furthermore in Matthew 17:1-5 we read of the transfiguration of Jesus. There appeared with Jesus at this time both Moses and Elijah, yet the Father from heaven spoke on this occasion and said the following: **"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased; hear ye Him."** When people go back to the Old Testament to justify instrumental music in New Testament worship, they are guilty of **"listening to Moses rather than Jesus."** There are several passages of scripture in the New Testament that clearly tell us what kind of music God desires in worship today. (Ephesians 5:19/Colossians 3:16/Hebrews 2:12/Romans 15:9/James 5:13) All of these passages mention **"singing"** and say nothing at all about **"playing instruments of music."** No doubt the Jews used instrumental music in **"praising God"** in the Old Testament. (Psalms 149-150) But listen to this interesting scripture in the New Testament that speaks of **"praising God."** Hebrews 13:15 says this: **"By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name."** We are to **"praise God in New Testament worship"** just like the Jews **"praised God in Old Testament worship."** Only instead of instruments of music being used we are to **"use our lips."** Furthermore we learn from secular religious history that instrumental music was not used in the church for over 600 years from the time the church was first established. Why would the Jews who were so used to using instrumental music in praising God all of a sudden stop using the instruments in worship when they became Christians? The answer is under the guidance of the Apostles, who were Jews themselves and guided by the Holy Spirit, Christians were instructed to **"sing and make melody in their hearts to God."** (Ephesians 5:19) If there is **"no commandment of God to use instrumental music in the church"**, then it must be a **"commandment of men."** (Acts 15:24) According to Jesus in Matthew 15:1-9, those persons who worship God according to the commandments of men are **"worshipping God in vain."** Please keep an open mind as you read this article; it is the only way you will be able to see the truth of what has been taught herein. The Apostle Paul said we are to **"Prove all things; hold fast to that which is good."** (1st Thessalonians 5:21) Get your Bible out and check these things out for yourself. (Acts 17:10-12)