

THE COSMIC DIMENSIONS OF CHRISTMAS

Heb 1:6

Jelšava, 25 December 2017

Heb 1:6 ὅταν δὲ πάλιν εἰσαγάγῃ τὸν πρωτότοκον εἰς τὴν οἰκουμένην, λέγει· καὶ προσκυνησάτωσαν αὐτῷ πάντες ἄγγελοι θεοῦ	Heb 1:6 And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."
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Dt 32:43 εὐφράνθητε οὐρανοὶ ἅμα αὐτῷ καὶ προσκυνησάτωσαν αὐτῷ πάντες υἱοὶ θεοῦ εὐφράνθητε ἔθνη μετὰ τοῦ λαοῦ αὐτοῦ καὶ ἐνισχυσάτωσαν αὐτῷ πάντες ἄγγελοι θεοῦ ὅτι τὸ αἷμα τῶν υἱῶν αὐτοῦ ἐκδικᾶται καὶ ἐκδικήσει καὶ ἀνταποδώσει δίκην τοῖς ἐχθροῖς καὶ τοῖς μισοῦσιν ἀνταποδώσει καὶ ἐκκαθαριεῖ κύριος τὴν γῆν τοῦ λαοῦ αὐτοῦ

OUTLINE

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- 1.3 DECIDING TO BE BORN

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- 2.1 WHAT "THE FIRSTBORN" DOES NOT MEAN
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- 3.3 GRATITUDE OF THE ARMY OF GOD

4. TO REMEMBER

0. INTRODUCTION

- Star Trek, Star Trek popularity... search for extraterrestrials ... UFO craze...

0.1 CHRISTMAS → TRANS-COSMIC EVENT

- In the heavenlies the night was anything but "silent" → great glory and furious resistance among the demonic forces...
- Incarnation → The Son of God walking on Earth is more important than man walking on the Moon (Col. James Irwin, Apollo 15)

0.2 TEXT

like close. The sacred writer is here apparently quoting a not properly canonical portion of the Scriptures of the Old Testament. Some have sought to justify him, by assuming that he is not really quoting the passage from Deuteronomy, but from the Psalm (xcvii. 7), or at least makes his citation of it with its canonical position there in his mind. The *fact* however is, that the interpolater (whoever he was) of Deut. xxxii. 43 took the second line of his passage from the Psalm, and that our author now adopts it from him, with retention even of the *καί* with which he had introduced it. If, therefore, he require justification, such must be sought in a different way from that proposed above. The evasion that no citation is made at all, but that our author clothes a truth made known to him in some other way in words borrowed from the LXX., is based on self-deception. It is a real *bona fide* citation. At the same time,

0.3 ADMIRATION → WORSHIP

- the absolutely overwhelming greatness of the event
- the beginning of power takeover → the last days...

1. CROSSING THE BOUNDARY

- εισαγάγη εἰς τὴν οἰκουμένην

1.1 UNCREATED ↔ CREATED DIFFERENCE

- man: tries to move upward (to become like God); God: moving downward (became [not only like] man!) → we all are trying to be YUPPIES
- **2Chr 6:18** "But will God indeed dwell with man on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this house that I have built!
- **Acts 7:48** Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands, as the prophet says, ⁴⁹ "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest?"

1.2 THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE KINGDOM OF THE WORLD

- **Lk 4:5** And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world (πάσας τὰς βασιλείας τῆς οἰκουμένης) in a moment of time,
- **John 18:36** "My kingdom is not of this world (ἡ βασιλεία ἣ ἐμὴ οὐκ ἔστιν ἐκ τοῦ κόσμου τούτου). If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."
- The essehtial differences: (1) truth / lies (2) love / violence (3) getting / giving (4) flesh / spirit (5) pride / humility

1.3 DECIDING TO BE BORN

- **Job 3:1-3** Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. ² And Job said: ³ "Let the day perish on which I was born, and the night that said, 'A man is conceived.'
- **Ecc 4:2-3** And I thought the dead who are already dead more fortunate than the living who are still alive. ³ But better than both is he who has not yet been (אִשְׁרֵי-עֶדְן לֹא הָיָה) and has not seen the evil deeds that are done under the sun.
- Jesus *decided* to be born → to suffer → to be crucified
- *In Christ* we can *backward* relive our decision to be born with him into this world of suffering out of love for God... (Rom 6...)

2. THE FIRSTBORN → A POWER TAKE-OVER

- ὁ πρωτότοκος

2.1 WHAT "THE FIRSTBORN" DOES NOT MEAN

- against Arianism; the Son of God is co-equal with God the Father

2.2 THE FIRSTBORN → THE HEIR

- **Col 1:16** For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities- all things were created through him and for him.
- **Mt 21:38-39** But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' ³⁹ And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.
- **Dt 32:43** "Rejoice with him, O heavens; bow down to him, all gods, for he avenges the blood of his children (כִּי רַם-עֲבָדָיו יִקְוֶם) and takes vengeance on his adversaries. He repays those who hate him and cleanses his people's land."
- → Herod's problem → killing babies **Mt 2:2** "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

3. WORSHIP OF GODS/ANGELS

- προσκυνησάτωσαν & ἐνισχυσάτωσαν

3.1 PERSONS WITH POWER

- angels – not your child-like chubby creatures
- tempting to worship (John in Revelation)

3.2 COMMANDED: THE SUBMISSION OF ALL AUTHORITIES

- LXX (προσκυνησάτωσαν) →
- “gods” → Pd 82
- obeisance of all lower powers
- The song of Mary (→ prayer of Hannah):
 - **Lk 1:51-53** He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away.
 - **1Sa 2:4-5** The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble bind on strength. ⁵ Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn.

3.3 GRATITUDE OF THE ARMY OF GOD

- LXX (ἐνισχυσάτωσαν) → ἐνισχύω *grow strong, regain one's strength* Ac 9:19; 19:20 v.l *strengthen* Lk 22:43
- angels – **Heb 1:14** Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?
- **2 Kings 6:17** Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see." So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

4. TO REMEMBER

- Foster the attitude of wonder to be able to worship the God in the child.
- Realize you have been created for the King whose birth we celebrate.
- Worshipping Jesus is to transfer of the power to the rightful King. There is still time...