

Name: Sharna Forbes

Class: TH601 NA/NOS Systematic Theology II: Christ and the Church

QUESTIONS

1. How does Bird describe the ascension?
2. What is the session of Jesus Bird talked about in this chapter?
3. Bird writes about the significance of Jesus' ascension. List two of them.
1. Provide two New Testament texts that clearly state Jesus' preexistence.
4. Outline the mnemonic catechetical approach used by Robert Bowman and Ed Komoszewski to demonstrate the deity of Jesus in the New Testament.

ANSWERS

1. Bird describes the ascension as a bit of a puzzle, a mixture of visual marvel, strange metaphor, and utter mystery, but clear in the minds of the observers that He was taken up into heaven where God is. It marks the end of the resurrection appearances and the beginning of Jesus' session.
2. The session is what Jesus is doing now as He sits at God's right hand in glory until the day of His return to earth.
3. Two significances of Jesus' ascension discussed by Bird are:
 - a) Jesus ascended so He could send His Holy Spirit to His followers.
 - b) It demonstrates that God has placed a human being as vice-regent of the universe.
4. Two New Testament texts that clearly states Jesus' pre-existence are:
 - a) John 1:1— In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
 - b) John 17:5— And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.
5. The mnemonic catechetical approach used by Robert Bowman and Ed Komoszewski to demonstrate the deity of Jesus in the New Testament is the acronym HANDS:
 - Jesus shares in the **honors** of God
 - The **attributes** of God
 - The **names** of God
 - The **deeds** of God
 - The **seat** of God's throne

TERMS

Hypostatic Union: the combination of the divine and human natures in the one Person of Christ.

Nestorianism: stopping Jesus' humanity from being swallowed up by His divinity through a partition of His divine and human natures.

Eutychianism: preserving the unity of Jesus' person by compressing the two natures together.

SUMMARY

In this section, Bird discusses Jesus' preexistence, His incarnation, and the significance/meaning of Jesus' ascension and session. Bird also looks at theologians of lesser Son, where he writes about the many debates about Christ's deity and humanity. He then delves deeper into Jesus' humanity, highlighting its manifold consequences of theological significance. Finally, he also looked at the hypostatic union and Christological heresies— for example, Monophysites, Nestorianism, and Apollinarianism.