

5-3-1 Assignment 4 on Bird, Sec. 4.6-4.7.4

QUESTIONS

1. Which text – used for the Ascension and more – is the most cited OT text in the NT? ¹
2. What are seven of the Christological heresies mentioned by Bird?
3. What acronym does Bird use to help recall the exegetical evidence for identifying Jesus as God?
4. What wording does the Westminster Confession use to describe the natures of Christ?
5. Which view of Christ's natures was proposed by Emperor Zeno and Patriarch Acacius, and why?

Answers

1. Psalm 110. "The LORD says to my lord: 'sit at my right hand..."
2. gnosticism, docetism, modalism, subordinationism, Apollinarianism, Nestorianism, Eutychianism.
3. Worship, Identity, Seat, Deeds, Ontology, Mission.
4. "Two whole, perfect, and distinct natures" "inseparably joined together in one person"
5. The *Henotikon*, to compromise between Chalcedonian *hypostatic union*, and the Miaphysites.

TERMS

parresia: "confidence" in reference to what believers have, in Jesus, by way of the Ascension.²

prosagoge: "access", as above in reference to Ascension, cross reference with Ephesians 3:12.

parousia: Literally "presence after absence" or "arrival", as in, Jesus' return, post-Ascension.

SUMMARY

Two main topics were covered: the Ascension, and both the identity and the natures of Christ. Bird gives the Ascension only a brief treatment, but ensures that it is understood to be essential for the hope of the Church and the future eschatological parousia of Christ. Next Bird tackles the identity of Christ, given a plethora of exegetical evidence for the divinity of Jesus. This segues into the Christological debate over the human nature of Christ and the divine nature of Christ. It is somewhat of a repeat from Bird's section on the Trinity in 2.2, but it goes into more depth here, particularly with Nestorianism and Eutychianism

¹ Michael F. Bird, *Evangelical Theology, A Biblical and Systematic Introduction* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013), 509.

² Michael F. Bird, 514.