

Texts—chronological order of their writing »

Colossians 1.15-20

Philippians 2.6-11

First Timothy 3.16b-c

Hebrews 1.1-4

John 1.1-5, 14

Introduction / Context

¹³⁻¹⁴ For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

^{16a} By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness:

Cosmic Significance

Lord of the Cosmos

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Fully God, fully man;
Exalted by the Father

⁶⁻⁷ ...who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. ...

⁹⁻¹¹ For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Incarnated;
Vindicated by God;
Ministered to by angels

^{16b} He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Seen by angels,

As Creator, heir of all things;
As sovereign, Lord over all things;
Exalted

^{2b-3a} whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. ...

^{3c-4} He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

Eternal with the Father;
Creator of all

¹⁻² In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

Church Significance

Lord of the Church

^{18a} He is also head of the body, the church;
¹⁹⁻²⁰ and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

Humble servant;
Obedient to death

⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ...

Proclaimed;
Believed;
Ascended

^{16c} Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.

As the Son of God, reveals God;
Redeemer

^{1-2a} God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, ...

^{3b} When He had made purification of sins, ...

Revealer of life;
Light shining in the darkness

⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

⁵ The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. ...

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Prescripts of the New Testament

	Epistle	Author (<i>superscriptio</i>)	Recipient (<i>adscriptio</i>)	Greeting (<i>salutatio</i>)
Paul's Travel Epistles	Galatians 1.1-3	<i>Paul, an apostle [. . .] and all the brethren who are with me, . . .</i>	<i>to the churches of Galatia: . . .</i>	<i>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ [. . .].</i>
	1 Thessalonians 1.1	<i>Paul and Silvanus and Timothy, . . .</i>	<i>to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: . . .</i>	<i>Grace to you and peace.</i>
	2 Thessalonians 1.1-2	<i>Paul and Silvanus and Timothy, . . .</i>	<i>to the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: . . .</i>	<i>Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.</i>
	1 Corinthians 1.1-3	<i>Paul, called as an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, . . .</i>	<i>to the church of God which is at Corinth [. . .]: . . .</i>	<i>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.</i>
	2 Corinthians 1.1-2	<i>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, . . .</i>	<i>to the church of God which is at Corinth with all the saints who are throughout Achaia: . . .</i>	<i>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.</i>
	Romans 1.1-7	<i>Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, [vv. 2-6] . . .</i>	<i>to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: . . .</i>	<i>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.</i>
Paul's Prison Epistles	Philemon 1-3	<i>Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, . . .</i>	<i>to Philemon our beloved brother and fellow worker and to Apphia our sister, and to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: . . .</i>	<i>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.</i>
	Colossians 1.1-2	<i>Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, . . .</i>	<i>to the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae: . . .</i>	<i>Grace to you and peace from God our Father.</i>
	Ephesians 1.1-2	<i>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, . . .</i>	<i>to the saints who are at Ephesus and who are faithful in Christ Jesus: . . .</i>	<i>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.</i>
	Philippians 1.1-2	<i>Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, . . .</i>	<i>to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons: . . .</i>	<i>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.</i>
Paul's Pastoral Epistles	1 Timothy 1.1-2	<i>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, who is our hope, . . .</i>	<i>to Timothy, my true child in the faith: . . .</i>	<i>Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.</i>
	Titus 1.1-4	<i>Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, [vv. 1b-3] . . .</i>	<i>to Titus, my true child in a common faith: . . .</i>	<i>Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.</i>
	2 Timothy 1.1-2	<i>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life in Christ Jesus, . . .</i>	<i>to Timothy, my beloved son: . . .</i>	<i>Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.</i>
General Epistles	Hebrews	—	—	—
	James 1.1	<i>James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, . . .</i>	<i>to the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: . . .</i>	<i>Greetings.</i>
	1 Peter 1.1-2	<i>Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, . . .</i>	<i>to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, [v. 2a]: . . .</i>	<i>May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.</i>
	2 Peter 1.1-2	<i>Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, . . .</i>	<i>to those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, [. . .]: . . .</i>	<i>Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; . . .</i>
	1 John	—	—	—
	2 John 1-3	<i>The elder . . .</i>	<i>to the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in truth [vv. 1b-2]: . . .</i>	<i>Grace, mercy and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.</i>
	3 John 1	<i>The elder . . .</i>	<i>to the beloved of Gaius, whom I love in truth.</i>	—
	Jude 1-2	<i>Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, . . .</i>	<i>to those who are called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ: . . .</i>	<i>May mercy and peace and love be multiplied to you.</i>

Doxologies of the New Testament

...within the letter	...at the end, greetings follow	...at the end, greetings precede	...at the end, no greetings
Romans 11.36 <i>To Him be the glory forever. Amen.</i>		Romans 16.25-27 <i>Now to Him who is able to establish you . . . to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.</i>	
Galatians 1.5 <i>. . . to whom be the glory forevermore. Amen.</i>			
Ephesians 3.20-21 <i>Now to Him who is able . . . to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.</i>	Philippians 4.20 <i>Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen.</i>		
I Timothy 1.17 <i>To the King eternal . . . the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.</i>	I Timothy 6.16 <i>. . . who alone possesses immortality. . . . To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.</i>		
	II Timothy 4.18 <i>. . . will rescue me . . . to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.</i>		
	Hebrews 13.21 <i>. . . Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen</i>		
I Peter 4.11 <i>. . . so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.</i>	I Peter 5.11 <i>To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.</i>	II Peter 3.18 <i>To Him be the glory, both now and in the day of eternity. Amen.</i>	Jude 24-25 <i>Now to Him who is able . . . to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.</i>
Rev. 1.5-6 <i>To Him who loves us and redeemed us. . . to Him be the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.</i>			
Rev. 5.13 <i>"To Him . . . , and to the Lamb, . . . be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."</i>			
Rev. 7.12 <i>"Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen."</i>			