

# Hebrews 1:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

## Analysis

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'Apaugasma' (brightness/radiance) and 'charakter' (exact representation) are technical terms indicating Christ's essential deity. He is not merely a reflection but the radiance itself, sharing the Father's divine essence. The three-fold work described—sustaining all things, purging sins, and enthronement—demonstrates Christ's cosmic authority, redemptive work, and exaltation, completing the argument for His supremacy.

## Historical Context

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The session at God's right hand fulfills Psalm 110:1, the most quoted OT passage in the NT. This enthronement imagery would resonate with Jewish readers familiar with messianic expectations and divine kingship.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does Christ's sustaining power uphold your life moment by moment?
2. What comfort do you find in knowing that the One who purged your sins now sits in the place of ultimate authority?

## Interlinear Text

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ὁς ὁν ἀπαύγασμα τῆς δόξης καὶ χαρακτὴρ τῆς  
Who being the brightness G3588 of his glory G1391 and the express image G3588  
G3739 G5607 G541 G2532 G5481 G3588

ὑποστάσεως αὐτοῦ φέρων τε τὰ πάντα τῷ ρήματι  
person of his upholding and G3588 all things G3588 by the word G4487  
G5287 G846 G5342 G5037 G3956 G4487

τῆς δυνάμεως αὐτοῦ δι' εαυτοῦ καθαρισμὸν  
power of his by himself G2512  
G3588 G1411 G846 G1223 G1438 G2512

ποιησάμενος τῶν ἀμαρτιῶν ημῶν, ἐκάθισεν ἐν  
purged G3588 sins G266 our G2257 sat down G2523 on G1722  
G4160 G188 G3172 G1722 G5308 G1722

δεξιὰ τῆς μεγαλωσύνης ἐν ὑψηλοῖς  
the right hand G3588 of the Majesty on high G5308  
G1188 G3172 G1722 G5308

## Additional Cross-References

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**Revelation 4:11** (Glory): Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

**John 1:14** (Glory): And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

**2 Corinthians 4:4** (Glory): In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

**Hebrews 12:2** (Sin): Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Hebrews 10:12** (Sin): But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

**John 1:4** (Parallel theme): In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

**Hebrews 9:26** (Sin): For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

**Jude 1:25** (Glory): To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

**Hebrews 4:14** (Parallel theme): Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

**1 John 1:7** (Sin): But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.