

Jesus is Holding you & everything Together at this very Instant

Colossians 1:17

(NIV) He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.¹

(NKJV) And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.²

(KJV) and he is before all *things*, and by him all *things* consist.³

(HCSB) He is before all things, and by Him all things hold together.⁴

(NLT) He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.⁵

In him all things hold together. The whole of creation is established permanently in him alone. He is the sustainer of the universe and the unifying principle of its life. Apart from his *continuous* sustaining activity (indicated by the tense of the Greek verb) all would fall apart (cf. Heb. 1:2–3). Although there are similarities with the language of Stoicism here, Paul’s statement is different from the all-embracing world-soul of the Stoics. All men and women, whether they recognize it or not, are totally indebted to the Lord Jesus as Creator and Sustainer. For not only has he made every person who enters the world; he also sustains their lives daily, giving life and breath to each one. Those who are ‘in Christ’, and therefore know him in a personal way, should express their gratitude to him as Creator and Sustainer by living godly lives. Those who have not honoured him or given him thanks (Rom. 1:21) are urged to repent and turn to him in faith.⁶

17. And he is before all things. Christ existed prior to all creation. He is the great “I am” (Jn 8:58). The Jehovah of the Old Testament is the Jesus of the New Testament. **And by him all things consist.** Through Christ all things hold together, cohere, are sustained, and united. Christ is the personal sustainer and preserver. He maintains harmony and order. All things are created by Him and are controlled by Him. Apart from Christ all things would disintegrate: He holds the stars in their courses, He directs the planets in their orbits, and He controls the laws of the universe. We have a cosmos, not a chaos.⁷

63.6 συνίστημι^c or συνιστάνω: to bring together or hold together something in its proper or appropriate place or relationship—‘to hold together.’ τὰ πάντα ἐν αὐτῷ συνέστηκεν ‘in him all things hold together’ Col 1:17. In Col 1:17 it may not be easy to indicate clearly the relationship of the phrase ‘in him’ to the rest of the expression, namely, ‘all things hold together.’ Some translations have expanded the expression ‘in him’ to ‘in union with him’ or ‘in view of the fact that we are joined together with him.’ It is also possible to understand ἐν αὐτῷ as indicating agent, so that this expression in Col 1:17 may mean ‘by means of him all things hold together.’⁸

¹ *The Holy Bible : New International Version*, electronic ed. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996).

² *The New King James Version*. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982).

³ *The Cambridge Paragraph Bible: Of the Authorized English Version*, cxix (Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 2006).

⁴ *The Holy Bible : Holman Christian Standard Version*. (Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003).

⁵ Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*, 2nd ed. (Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers, 2004).

⁶ D. A. Carson, *New Bible Commentary : 21st Century Edition*, 4th ed. (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, Ill., USA: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994).

⁷ *KJV Bible Commentary*, 2457 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997).

⁸ Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament : Based on Semantic Domains*, electronic ed. of the 2nd edition. (New York: United Bible societies, 1996).

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Hebrews 1:3

- (NIV) The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.⁹
- (NKJV) who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power,¹⁰
- (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,¹¹
- (HCSB) He is the radiance of His glory, the exact expression of His nature, and He sustains all things by His powerful word.¹²
- (NLT) The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command.¹³

As the one who was with God from the beginning, he was the one through whom God made *the universe* (Gk. *aiōnas*, 'ages' or 'worlds', is similarly used for the whole universe of space and time in 11:3). Moreover, the Son has been appointed to possess and rule over all that he was originally instrumental in making: he is *heir of all things* (2, cf. Ps. 2:7–8). Though many deny his authority and continue to reject him, he must ultimately triumph. As the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, the Son reveals in his person, not merely in his words, what God is really like (3). He continues to sustain the creation and order the events of history by the same powerful word that brought everything into existence in the first place (3).¹⁴

He is also creator, both as the "creative Word" (CGT, p. 31) and as Sustainer - the one bearing them up (AV, upholding all things). Creation and preservation are by God in Jesus Christ, and the word of his power. The word of the Son is the power to preserve and sustain, but this creative power resolves itself into the greater ministry of redemption. In making purification, or purging of our sins, Christ purged the great mass of the world's accumulated sins and uncleanness, which God sees. In Christ the penalty for sin is fully discharged and cleansing is provided. The idea is found in the words of Cowper's hymn: "There is a fountain filled with blood Drawn from Immanuel's veins; And sinners plunged beneath that flood, Lose all their guilty stains."¹⁵

⁹ *The Holy Bible : New International Version*, electronic ed. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996).

¹⁰ *The New King James Version*. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982).

¹¹ *The Cambridge Paragraph Bible: Of the Authorized English Version*, cxix (Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 2006).

¹² *The Holy Bible : Holman Christian Standard Version*. (Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003).

¹³ Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible : New Living Translation.*, 2nd ed. (Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers, 2004).

¹⁴ D. A. Carson, *New Bible Commentary : 21st Century Edition*, 4th ed. (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, Ill., USA: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994).

¹⁵ Charles F. Pfeiffer and Everett Falconer Harrison, *The Wycliffe Bible Commentary : New Testament* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1962).

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Revelation 4:11

- (NIV) “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”¹⁶
- (NKJV) “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”¹⁷
- (KJV) 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.¹⁸
- (HCSB) Our Lord and God, You are worthy to receive glory and honor and power, because You have created all things, and because of Your will they exist and were created.¹⁹
- (NLT) “You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things, and they exist because you created what you pleased.”²⁰

A creation hymn (Rev. 4:11). God created the universe and sustains it for our benefit (Gen. 1:1–31). Four creatures sing, “You are worthy, O Lord.”²¹

4:9-11. The worship by the four **living creatures** is attended by **the 24 elders** also worshipping the One **on the throne** and attributing to God **glory and honor and power** (cf. 5:12-13) and acknowledging that He is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe (cf. John 1:3; Eph. 3:9; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 1:2-3; Rev. 10:6; 14:7). **They lay their crowns before the throne** in ascribing all glory to Him as the Sovereign.²²

¹⁶ *The Holy Bible : New International Version*, electronic ed. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996).

¹⁷ *The New King James Version*. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982).

¹⁸ *The Cambridge Paragraph Bible: Of the Authorized English Version*, cxix (Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 2006).

¹⁹ *The Holy Bible : Holman Christian Standard Version*. (Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003).

²⁰ Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*, 2nd ed. (Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers, 2004).

²¹ *Word in Life Study Bible* ., electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997).

²² John F. Walvoord, Roy B. Zuck and Dallas Theological Seminary, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary : An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1983-).