

The Ascension of Our Lord – 2022

Thursday, 5/26 at 7 pm

Jesus' Ascension Completes the Circle



Text: NAS 1995

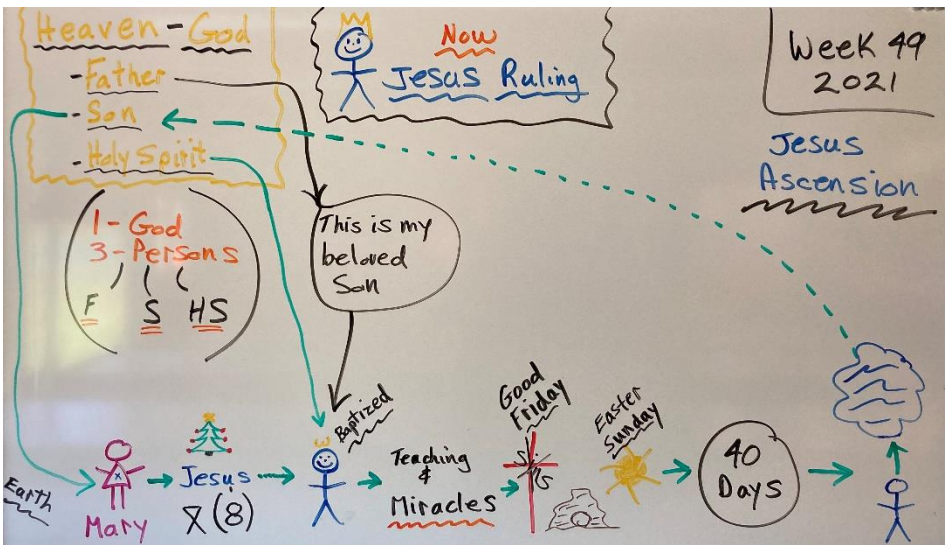
Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Think about how you feel with ▶ a good boss versus a bad boss, or ▶ a good president versus a bad president. When we believe someone good is in charge, then we have 😊 more peace, 😊 more happiness, and 😊 more confidence!

Why should Jesus' Ascension be very important for us?

Because, *though our world is in quite a mess due to sin*, Jesus ▶ has ascended, ▶ has been given all authority in heaven and on earth, and ▶ is ruling for the good of all who trust in Him.

In this sermon I'm going to explain an image that I drew for the children in our childcare center last year to try to help them understand Jesus' Ascension.

1. **The Holy Trinity:** Think about God – He is ONE God, yet THREE distinct Persons: ▶ God the Father, ▶ God the Son, and ▶ God the Holy Spirit. They worked together to ▶ create the world and ▶ save us from our sins!



2. **The Fulness of Time – The Annunciation:** That is when God the Father sent His Son into the world (Gal. 4:4-5):
 - ▶ Gabriel spoke to Mary, ▶ she said “Yes” (Luke 1:26-38), and ▶ immediately the Son of God put on flesh in her womb by the Holy Spirit.

3. **The Birth of God’s Son – Christmas:** He was born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) and laid in a manger (Luke 2:7). Then, *when He was eight days old*, He was circumcised and given the name Jesus (Luke 2:21).

4. **Jesus Was Baptized:** We know Jesus grew up in Nazareth and we are aware of Him being found in the temple when He was 12 years old, *but the Bible quickly moves us from His birth to His baptism:*
 - a. **John the Baptizer:** ▶ His ministry was prophesied through Isaiah (40:1-5), ▶ he was six months older than Jesus (Luke 1:36), and ▶ he baptized at the Jordan River (Matt. 3:6).

- b. **Divine Clarification:** Jesus was baptized by John; then God the Father anointed Him with the Holy Spirit; and then God the Father spoke from heaven: *“This is My beloved Son”* (Matt. 3:17).
5. **Jesus’ Ministry:** He did *much teaching* and performed *many miracles*. Everyone should have understood that Jesus is the Promised Messiah, *but sadly many did not*. On one hand more followed Jesus, but on the other hand the Jewish leaders grew in their hatred for Jesus and their desire to put Him to death.
6. **Good Friday:** In perfect obedience to God the Father, Jesus received all sins and all of God’s eternal wrath for those sins (Matt. 26:39; 1 John 2:2). Then, *when His saving work was finished*, He laid down His life (Luke 23:46)!
7. **Holy Saturday:** As God created in six days – *Sunday through Friday*, and rested on Saturday, so the body of Jesus was placed in a new tomb late on Friday and rested there during all of Saturday.
8. **Easter Sunday:** Just as Jesus had promised, God the Father raised Him to life on the third day (Matt. 16:21); therefore, let us be sure ▶ His payment was accepted, ▶ His teachings are true, and ▶ we will be raised when He returns!
9. **40 days:** That’s the period when Jesus appeared to many of His followers to show them that He is alive. Then, *on the 40th day*, Jesus ascended into heaven. The Bible tells us that *“a cloud received Him out of their sight”* (Acts 1:9).
10. **Welcome Home:** This vision shown to Daniel helps us to understand what happened when Jesus ascended into

heaven: "...behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed (Dan. 7:13-14).

Conclusion: Look at the image: Can you see how Jesus' Ascension completes the circle?

- **Truth** – The Son of God came and finished His work!
- **Relevance** – Jesus did His work for our eternal benefit!
- **Inspiration** – Jesus is now reigning over all things for the benefit of all who are trusting in Him!

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus, even though we are knee deep in the evil and corruption of this fallen world, we have peace because of ✦Your victory over the forces of evil, ✦Your current reign over all things, and ✦Your promise of eternal life!

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