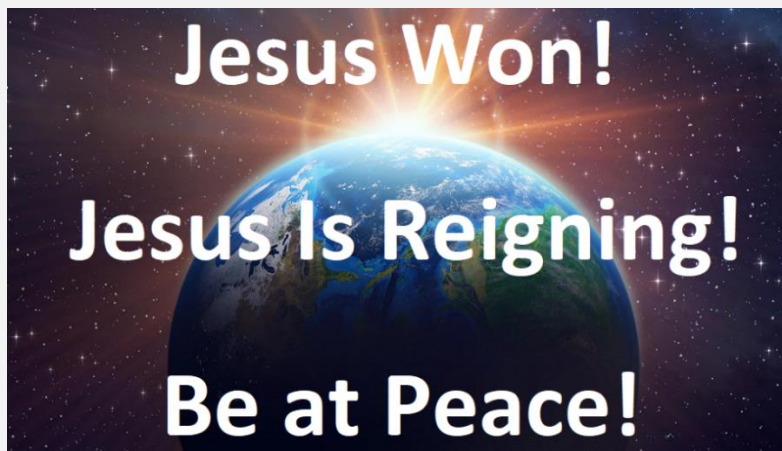


The Ascension of Our Lord – 2024

Thursday, 5/9 at 7:00



Text: Acts 1:4-11 and Other Passages NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Jesus' ascension into heaven is a significant Christian festival:

- *Recalling an important past event!*
- *Continuing to have great significance in our lives today!*

1. **The Day Jesus Ascended:** [Acts 1:4-11](#)

- Wait to Receive the Holy Spirit: ⁴ **Gathering [His apostles'] together, [Jesus] commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."** // Jesus was referring to 10 days later – *when God would pour out the Holy Spirit on Jesus' followers.*
- Concern about the Nation of Israel: ⁶ **So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to**

Israel?" [In other words, are you going to free us from the Romans?]⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times [periods of time] or epochs [seasons] which the Father has fixed by His own authority;⁸ but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." // Jesus basically said, **Don't** be concerned about *when things are going to happen*. **Instead**, very soon, you are going to receive power from the Holy Spirit and, when you do, focus on being my witnesses to EVERYONE EVERYWHERE!

- c. Jesus Ascended into Heaven:⁹ **And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. //** Those were probably angels, looking like clouds, who ushered Jesus into heaven (Dan. 7:13; Ps. 104:3; Heb. 1:7).
- d. Stop Standing Around:¹⁰ **And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men [that is, two angels] in white clothing stood beside them.**¹¹ **They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."** // Jesus left, and He will return, but, **for now**, focus on your mission to be His witnesses!

- 2. **Some Good Reasons to be at Peace:** Even though there are **✦**corrupt governments, **✦**raging wars, and **✦**false churches, let us understand **➡**where Jesus is now and **➡**what He is doing; then, **let us be at peace!**

- a. A passage pointing ahead to Jesus' ascension: Psalm 68:18 You have ascended on high, You have led captive *Your captives...* // Dr. Kretzmann wrote: "...the Champion of His Church, having overcome all His enemies, now gives visible evidence of His victory by ascending in triumph to heaven..."
- b. Part of Jesus' work in heaven: John 14:2 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you." // *Jesus is preparing a place for you and me!*
- c. Passages pointing to Jesus' authority over all things:
- i. **Matthew 28:18** "...Jesus came up and spoke to [His disciples], saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.'" // God the Father gave Jesus unrestricted exercise of freedom to act. *He is exercising that freedom NOW!*
 - ii. **Ephesians 1:20, 22** "...[God the Father] raised [Christ] from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*... And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body..."
 1. **Many Evangelicals** believe Jesus will come and reign on earth for a literal 1,000 years.¹
 2. **We believe** the Bible teaches that Jesus is reigning now from heaven (we are "amillennial" – believing the 1,000-year reference in *Rev. 20* refers to a nonliteral time between Jesus completing His work and returning for judgment)!

¹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/thousand-year-reign-Christ.html>

- iii. The writer of Hebrews (*quoting from Psalm 8:5-6*), described what the Father would do to the Christ when He ascended: “...**YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND HAVE APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS; YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET.**” [*Then the inspired writer explained:*] For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him” (**Hebrews 2:7-8**). // Right now, we don't see it. However, when Jesus returns, then “**EVERY KNEE WILL BOW... and... every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father**” (**Phil. 2:10-11**).
- iv. **1 Peter 3:21-22** “...Jesus Christ, ...is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.” // **Thanks be to God!**
- v. The apostle John told us who Jesus is: “...the **faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth**” (**Rev. 1:5**).

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus, *our victorious and reigning Savior and Lord*, even though the world is filled with trouble, help us to know You are ➤ruling and ➤giving special attention to those who trust in You. **Now**, help us to witness to others that ➡the Bible is true and ➡You are the only way to heaven!

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