

## **THE ASCENDED CHRIST AND HIS CONTINUING MINISTRY**

### **INTRO:**

- I want us first to notice the new attitude of the disciples after Jesus' ascension and Christ's blessing: **Lk. 24:52-53.**
- The book of Acts is historical evidence of the resurrection, ascension, and continued reign and rule of Christ.
- It is the book of the acts of Jesus Christ, by the Holy Spirit working through His disciples.
- Before Jesus ascended, He tarried for 40 days after the resurrection:
  - Acts 1:3
- Then 50 days after the resurrection is Pentecost: (fiftieth) It fell on the same day as the giving of the law on Sinai.
- It also fell on the first day of the week, Sunday. 7 weeks plus one day after the last day of the feast of Passover.

### **HIS ASCENSION: MK. 16:19, Acts 1:9-12**

- Did you know that you will not ascend to heaven, neither will I.
- Our Lord Jesus Christ did not only rise from the dead, but also ascended into heaven and took His place at the right hand of God.
  - Eph. 4:10; He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things. (The God/Man.)
  - Jn. 16:28; I came forth from the Father and have come into the world..... Again, I leave the world and go to the Father."
- Jesus is referenced in His ascension in several ways,
  - 1) His going away that He may send the comforter.  
Jn. 16:7; Nevertheless, I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.
  - 2) As being exalted; Acts 2:33; Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.
  - 3) Being made higher than the heavens; Heb. 7:26, For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;
  - 4) Entering within the veil: Heb. 6:19, This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a *hope* both sure and reliable and one which enters within the veil,

### **HIS REIGNING:**

- This is shown to us by His being set at the right hand of God, highly exalted by the Father,
  - Phil. 2:9-10; Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of

- Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,
- Acts 2:36, Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.
  - The right hand means a place of divine honor and glory, on which God the Son, Who has eternally existed with the Father and the Spirit as God, sat down with and in His glorified body.
  - This statement of God's, "right hand", is to be taken figuratively, not literally as God does not have a left or a right hand, but an expression where God stoops to our understanding to help us grasp the idea of Christ's honor, power, authority rule and nearness.
    - Eph. 1:19-23
    - Heb. 1:3, 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 at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
  - This most high seating of Christ Jesus shows the Father's satisfaction in His Son and His labors.
  - Read Flavel. 1:514
  - There He remains to dispatch, discharge all that remains to be done regarding grace, gifts and support that is necessary to complete the sanctification and full salvation of His people as well as their mission until He rises to establish the New Heavens and Earth.
    - Acts 3:21

#### **HIS CONTINUING MINISTRY AS;**

- We must not mistake when on the cross Jesus cried out, "it is finished," JN. 19:30.
- We must realize that statement did not mean there was nothing for Him now to do.
- That He would be idle, or passive, or on vacation or that there was absolutely nothing more for Jesus to do now regarding our salvation.
- But there was and still is much that Jesus now does to shepherd us to glory.
- This is why Paul was able to say to us, "He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ;" He continues to work...
- Here are a few of His active titles or ministries in heaven.
- THE HOLY SPIRIT SENDER:
- THE PROPHET, PRIEST AND KING:
- THE MEDIATOR:
- THE ADVOCATE:
- THE INTERCESSOR:
- THE FORERUNNER:

## **THE HOLY SPIRIT SENDER:**

- Jesus went back to heaven for several reasons, but let me mention only 3.
  - 1) His work on earth was done. He had fulfilled all that the Father and the law required of Him as man's Substitute.
  - 2) He needed to send the Holy Spirit to empower His Church.
  - 3) He needed to return in order to continue His work for His people.
- It would seem that one of the first intercessory request of Jesus after His ascension and coronation would be that which He promised His disciples in **Jn. 14:16-17**.
  - Jn. 15:26, "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me
- And the Father sends the Spirit in Jesus's name:
  - Jn. 14:16, But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.
- Do we realize that the sending of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost is full proof of Jesus' resurrection and ascension and that all He said about Himself was true?
- See Acts 2:33, Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He (Jesus) poured out this which you now see and hear.
- As His followers, they and we needed and need the life of and the power of God the Spirit in their lives in order to live the Christian life.
- For this reason he instructed His disciples in Acts. 1:8, Lk. 24: 49 to wait, and they did, and the Holy Spirit of Christ they received; we have received the same Spirit.
- All that Jesus' life and death accomplished must be passed on to His people, His church. We must be made alive in Christ by the Holy Spirit.
- The reception of the Holy Spirit makes all the difference.
  - **Acts 4:7, 8, 13**
- The receiving of the Holy Spirit into our lives brings all that Jesus won for us and makes it real in our lives.
- Without the Spirit we cannot live the life of a Christian.
  - We cannot be His witnesses. (Acts 1:8)
  - 2 Tim. 3:5 denying the power.

**Close with Glory to the Lamb.**

**Rev. 5:8-14**