

ASCENSION AND BEYOND

The Event and Subsequent Ministries



Statements about

- Ps 68:18 You have ascended on high, You have led captive *Your* captives; You have received gifts among men
- Ps 110:1 The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand until I make *Your* enemies a footstool for *Your* feet.”
- Lk 9:51 When the days were approaching for His ascension, He was determined to go to Jerusalem

Statements about

- Eph 4:10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.
- 1Tim 3:16 By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, was vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.
- Heb 4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.
- 1Pet 3:22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

Description of

- Acts 1:6-12 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; 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.” 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. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. 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.” Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away.



Significance of Ascension

- Marks the end of the period of Christ's humiliation and His entrance into the state of exaltation!

Post-Ascension Ministries – Now

- Head of His Body
 - Forms – 1Cor 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Post-Ascension Ministries – Now

- Cares for – Eph 5:26-29 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church, because we are members of His body.

Post-Ascension Ministries – Now

- gives gifts to – Eph 4:7-13 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it says, "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN." (Now this *expression*, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.) And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Post-Ascension Ministries – Now

- empowers the body – John 15:1-10

Post-Ascension Ministries – Now

- Priest for His people
 - Hebrews 2:18; 4:14-16
 - Hebrews 6:19-20
 - Hebrews 7:25

Post-Ascension Ministries – Now

- Preparer of a place for us
 - John 14:1-3 Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 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. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also.

Post-Ascension Ministries — Yet To Come

- Raise the Dead
 - John 5:22-29 For not even the Father judges anyone, but ^aHe has given all judgment to the Son, so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him...and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is *the* Son of Man. Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil *deeds* to a resurrection of judgment.

Post-Ascension Ministries — Yet To Come

- Reward His people
 - 1Cor 3:11-15 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.
 - 1Cor 4:5 Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, *but wait* until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of *men's* hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.

Post-Ascension Ministries — Yet To Come

- Rule this world
 - Rev 19:15,16 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

Ascension Implications Today

- Jesus remains active and engaged in our world and in our lives
- Jesus calls us to live boldly and strategically as servants who will be rewarded
- Jesus calls us not to lose heart in doing good in the midst of struggles (for good reason!)
- Jesus calls us to anticipate a glorious future