**POST-RESURRECTION APPEARANCES OF JESUS WEEK SIX**

**Monday 9th & Thursday 12th June 2025**

**Luke 24:50-53 His Ascension**

We don’t preach much on the ascension.  Or perhaps “I don’t preach much on the ascension’

These notes might help us ….

**FIVE ASPECTS OF JESUS HEAVENLY MININISTRY**

**A. JESUS’ ASCENSION RESUMED HIS GLORIFICATION WITH HIS FATHER.**

In John 17:5, just prior to the crucifixion, Jesus prayed, “Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.” Jesus thereby claimed to be pre-existent with God and one in glory with God, thus possessing the very essence of God Himself. Jesus’ prayer was fulfilled by His death, resurrection, and ascension. Peter, James, and John had gotten a brief glimpse of Jesus’ glory on the Mount of Transfiguration. But now Jesus is through the time of His humiliation, restored to the unapproachable glory that belongs to God alone.

The apostle John got another glimpse of Jesus in glory in Revelation 1:12-16. His response was not to say, “Hi, Jesus! Good to see you, again!” Rather, he fell at His feet like a dead man. The saints in heaven are gathered around God’s throne where they say, “To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever” (Rev. 5:13). Jesus is ascended on high where He shares the glory of the Father.

The fact that Jesus is now ascended to the right hand of the Father, and that He has resumed His preincarnate glory, but now in a human body, gives us hope that He will take us to be with Him. In our resurrected bodies, one day we will share His glory. Jesus is the first man in glory, and thus we have the assurance that He will transform our bodies and take us to heaven to be with Him.

**B. JESUS’ ASCENSION BEGAN HIS INTERCESSORY MINISTRY FOR HIS PEOPLE.**

Jesus is now at the right hand of God where He intercedes for us (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25). This intercession involves not only presenting our petitions and needs before the Father. Also, He presents His blood in the very presence of the Father as the propitiation for our sins (Heb. 9:24; 1 John 2:1, 2). Therefore we have continual access to God through Jesus our Advocate.

Have you ever needed to get something done through a high government official? If so, you know that having a connection can greatly speed the process. If you know someone who has access to the top official you need to see, you can gain a hearing. The ascended Lord Jesus Christ is our connection in the very presence of God! Through Him we have access in the Spirit to the Father (Eph. 2:18). Jesus’ ascension to the Father should cause us to worship Him and rejoice because He is there interceding for us.

**C. JESUS’ ASCENSION BEGAN HIS PREPARATION OF A PLACE FOR HIS PEOPLE.**

He told His disciples that He went to prepare a place for them and that He would come again and receive them unto Himself, that where He is, there they may be also (John 14:1-3). I don’t know why the Lord of creation, who spoke the universe into existence, needs to *prepare* a place for us. Couldn’t He just speak the word and it is done? Probably, Jesus was using figurative language so that the disciples could understand. Like a carpenter working on a house, so the Lord is carefully preparing a place in heaven for us to be there with Him throughout eternity. The language pictures the Lord’s individual care for us.

The Lord not only said that He would go, a reference to His ascension, but also that He would come again for us. So Jesus’ ascension should fill us with great joy, because our future with Him in glory is as secure as His word. He would be a liar if it were not true that He is coming again and that we will be with Him in heaven.

**D. JESUS’ ASCENSION BEGAN HIS PRESENT AND FUTURE DOMINION OVER HEAVEN AND EARTH.**

Peter tells us that Jesus is now “at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him” (1 Pet. 3:22). Paul says that Jesus is seated at God’s “right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet” (Eph. 1:20b-22a). And, yet there is a sense in which all things are not yet subject to Him (1 Cor. 15:27-28; Ps. 110:1; Heb. 10:13). His kingdom is both present and yet future. Presently His enemies are not all yet subject to Him. But when He comes again in power and glory, He will conquer every foe and reign forever and ever.

**E. JESUS’ ASCENSION RESULTED IN THE POURING OUT OF HIS HOLY SPIRIT ON HIS PEOPLE.**

He told the disciples, “It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you” (John 16:7). Through the Holy Spirit, the disciples were empowered to carry on the work of Jesus, extending the good news of salvation to the ends of the earth. As Paul also teaches in Ephesians 4:8, “When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men.” Thus the Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to the church for the building up of the body of Christ (Eph. 4:11-16). The disciples could rejoice at Jesus’ ascension because of His present heavenly ministry, which included the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on His people.

Thus Jesus’ ascension should cause us to worship Him and rejoice because it signified the completion of His earthly ministry and the commencement of His heavenly ministry.

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