

Christ

Renewed Thoughts on The Ascension - Part 3

Introduction

It has pleased God to give us in the scripture of truth a modest description of the Lord's ascension into Heaven. There has already been a consideration of the words used to describe His ascension, so in this paper there will be consideration of the journey itself.

His Ascension

- 1) The ascension of the Lord was forty days after his resurrection:
 - a) "To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God" (Acts 1:3)
- 2) His ascension was from the Mount of Olives / Bethany:
 - a) At first there seems to be a contradiction, for one passage indicates He blessed them at Bethany (Lk. 24:50) and the other, He ascended from the Mount of Olives (Acts 1:12). What is more seemingly contradictory is that Dr. Luke wrote both accounts, so how can this be explained? Bethany is on the eastern slope of the mount of Olives, so it was in the vicinity of Bethany on the mount that He ascended back to Heaven.
 - b) "And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them" (Lk. 24:50). "Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey" (Acts 1:12).
- 3) The ascension of Christ Described:
 - a) We are informed that a cloud received Him out of their sight. What that cloud was we cannot say for sure but I would think it was a cloud of angelic attendants. The reason being, His return in glory will be as His departure (see note (6)).
 - b) "He shall come with clouds", it is not the fluffy white things, but angelic armies (Rev. 1:7; 19:14; Jude 1:14-15). "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9).
- 4) He passed into the heavens:
 - a) "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens" (Heb. 4:14). He passed, that is, He traversed, pierced, walked through, not just into the heaven, but every step of that journey vertically and positional was precious to God.
- 5) He went into Heaven:
 - a) "So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God" (Mk. 16:19; Acts 1:11; Heb. 9:24; 1 Pet. 3:22).
- 6) He is in Heaven:
 - a) "Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11; 7:55; Rom. 10:6).
- 7) His place in Heaven:
 - a) Hebrews speaks of the place the Lord has at the right hand of God in four ways:
 - i) Right hand of God:
 1. "So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God" (Mk. 16:19; Acts 2:33; 7:55-56; Rom. 8:34; Col. 3:1; Heb. 10:12).

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- ii) Right hand of the Throne of the Majesty in the heavens:
 - 1. "Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such a high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens" (Heb. 8:1).
 - iii) Right hand of the Majesty on high:
 - 1. "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 on the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Heb. 1:3).
 - iv) Right hand of the Throne of God:
 - 1. "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Heb. 12:2).
- 8) Relative to the celestial governments of Heaven:
 - a) "Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come" (Eph. 1:21; 1 Pet. 3:22).
- 9) Relative to all persons:
 - a) "At the name of Jesus every knee should bow . . . and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord" (Phil. 2:10, 11).
- 10) The ascension of Christ when He had obtained eternal redemption:
 - a) "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us" (Heb. 9:12; Heb. 10:12).
- 11) The ascension of Christ was triumphant:
 - a) "Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men" (Psa. 68:18).
- 12) The ascension of Christ was to supreme power and dignity:
 - a) "Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?" (Lk. 24:26; Eph. 1:20-21; 1 Pet. 3:22).
- 13) The ascension of Christ as the forerunner of his people:
 - a) "Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec" (Heb. 6:20).
- 14) Christ ascended to intercede:
 - a) "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us" (Rom. 8:34).
- 15) Christ ascended to send the Holy Spirit:
 - a) "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you" (Jn. 16:7).
- 16) Christ ascended to receive gifts for men:
 - a) "Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men" (Psa. 68:18; Eph. 4:8; 11).
- 17) Christ ascended to prepare a place for His people:
 - a) "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you" (Jn. 14:2).

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18) His second coming shall be in like manner as His ascension:

- a) “And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into Heaven” (Acts 1:10-11).

19) The ascension of Christ typified:

- a) “Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat” (Lev. 16:15)

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

Rowan Jennings, Abbotsford, British Columbia