

THE ASCENSION OF JESUS

WHAT WAS THIS
ALL ABOUT?

DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NV • APRIL 7, 2024

All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Chair Bible Page 91 (NT Section)
In some places, God's Word is underlined with dots with Pastor Joe's commentary in the bracketed, lighter faced text.

What was the **Ascension** of Jesus all about?
It marks the exalted Christ' rightful place as the supreme authority over everyone and everything.

Jesus appeared to His disciples and others, strengthening their faith and preparing them for the work that lay ahead. It was also a time when Jesus gave His final words of instruction before ascending into heaven.

A. Between the Resurrection and the Ascension

1. At the tomb, Christ appeared to the women and His disciples.
2. He then appeared to more than 500 people—*that we know of*.
3. He gave THE GREAT COMMISSION to the church.
4. He gave the promise of His physical return to the earth.
5. He gave the promise that the Holy Spirit would soon come upon the church.

NOTE: Luke wrote a two-part history of the origins of Christianity. Volume one (Luke) is the gospel that bears his name. Volume two is the book of Acts. And the ascension was so important for Luke, that he ended volume one with it (Luke 24:50-51), begins volume two by reporting it again (Acts 1:9-11), and then refers back to it several times in the book of Acts.

B. The Ascension of Jesus

Acts 1:6–11, NLT -⁶ So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?”⁷ He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know.”⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”⁹ After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him.¹⁰ As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them.¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”

1. The Question from the Disciples

Acts 1:6–11, NLT -⁶ ...“Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?”

2. The Answer to the Disciples

Acts 1:7, NLT -⁷ He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know.”

3. The Charge to the Disciples

A. The Power for the Work

⁸ ...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.

B. The Nature of the Work

⁸ And you will be my witnesses...

C. The Place of the Work

⁸ “You [will be]...telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

4. The Inspiration for the Disciples

Acts 1:9-11, NLT -⁹ After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him.¹⁰ As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them.¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”

A. The Certainty of His coming again ...someday He will return...

B. The Manner of His coming again ...in the same way...

C. The Time of His coming again ...it's not for you to know...