

# The Ascension of Jesus

(5/17/26)

Please turn to *Acts 1:6-11*.

2000 years ago and 40 days after He rose from the dead, Jesus stood on the summit of the Mount of Olives and gave final instructions to His 11 remaining Apostles. Then this gravity defying thing happens:

**[Act 1:6-11 ESV]** 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." 9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, **he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.** 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

**What does this mean and how is it significant?** Here's the breakdown:

- Jesus death on the Cross beat sin.
- Jesus Resurrection defeated death.
- Jesus Ascension overcame the devil.

**The devil needs to be defeated** and when I say that, I mean utterly and completely. IDK about you, but corrupt leaders (politicians) frustrate me b/c they seem immune to the same justice that applies to you and I. We so much as go a few miles over the speed limit or have an inspection that's run out, we're getting pulled over. Senator so-and-so gets bribed by a major corporation to vote in their favor and nothing. Congressman so-and-so starts out with a net worth of a few hundred thousand dollars and 5 years later, they're worth 30 million. Why? They happen to be really really really good stock traders!

Even the Apostle Paul *calls the devil "the god of this world" which means ruler*. In his effort to tempt Jesus, Satan declared that all the kingdoms of the world belonged to him (and Jesus didn't argue). The dragon and his fallen angelic host are the real politicians ruling over the nations and doing their best to corrupt and oppress all of us. Which is why Paul said we wrestle against THEM.

Let's understand, then, **why the Ascension of Jesus struck a major blow to the devil** and his angelic kings that rule over this planet.

**Before Jesus came, He was Spirit, residing in Heaven, ruling with His Father over all.** He chose not to stay there b/c Satan went to earth and threw a monkey wrench into everything here. Not only did he deceive Eve into eating the FF, but got himself directly and heavily involved in the lives of humanity: *he took AUTHORITY over the earth.*

Imagine a corrupt politician suddenly **taking power and passing all manner of laws and policies** that systematically begin to destroy and unravel everything that's good. Not just morality, but economics, foreign policy, and more.

As a result of the same, **the country descends into poverty, chaos, violence**, accusation, and civil war. And us citizens feel helpless to stop it. This is what's happened since the Dragon took over and Jesus warned us it would get worse the closer we draw to His return.

Jesus couldn't just stay in heaven and **He couldn't just manifest here in Godlike form** to take the earth and humanity back from the dragon. Why not? *Sin and death had affected humanity right down to our spirits*, and there is no forgiveness of sin w/o the shedding of blood.

That meant Jesus needed to do the seemingly impossible: **become human, yet remain God.**

- Human so that He would be flesh and blood and be able to go to the Cross, giving His life to redeem ours.
- God so that He would remain holy and righteous despite the overwhelming corruptions of this world and temptations & desires of His human body, heart, and mind.

Let's add the biggest of them all: **Jesus would be born Jewish which meant He was under the Law**, the Old Covenant, with its impossible standards. In order to save humankind AND prove Himself worthy to ascend back to heaven and reassume His throne, *He would need to completely fulfill the Law*. Not just for Himself, for all of humanity.

**For Himself, He needed to never commit a sin** and to “do” all the “pay it forward” actions the Law demanded. He could never have a bad day where He slipped up and sinned like we do. He could never have a “looking out for me” moment where He didn’t feel like helping others. He had to obey all of the law, all of the time, both the commands of restraint and action. **ONLY GOD COULD DO THIS!!!**

**Why were the standards so high?** For one to sit on the throne that rules over everything and everyone forever, the standards need to be high to the point where only one Man can accomplish it: Messiah Jesus, the Son of God!

The great news is that **He succeeded completely.**

- Because He remained holy, He was the perfect blood sacrifice for the sins of humanity, accepted by Father God.
- Because He endured all the temptations of the devil, the world, and His own body...He rose from the dead on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day into a whole new body that sin, death, and the devil would never have any dominion over.

**His old body, the one just like ours, was subject to the above,** though Jesus successfully resisted. As I said earlier, He didn’t come here then to kick the devil off his throne and take over. He was tempted by sin, yet didn’t give in. He died on the Cross.

His new body, made from the stuff of divinity, wasn’t just subject to sin and death...**but it wasn’t subject to Satan.** He was now in His God-form: one of a Ruler, a King, and a Lord.

**Imagine a human being ascending to a earthly throne to become a king.**

They’re wearing nice but normal clothes as they walk down the red carpet toward the throne. Then servants come and clothe him with a royal robe of a king, place a gold crown on his head, and give him a bejeweled scepter of authority. The he takes his seat on the actual throne, the trumpets sounds, and everyone bends the knee and confesses him as Lord.

**When Jesus Ascended to heaven,** the royal robes were draped around him, many crowns placed on His head, and a rod of iron authority in His hand...symbolically speaking. There’s little doubt in my mind that Satan was watching the whole thing:

**[Rev 12:1-5 ESV]** 1 And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. 2 She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. 3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. 4 His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast

them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. 5 ***She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne,***

These verses make Satan, at the least, **an observer**. He tried to work through Herod to “devour” Jesus and failed, only to see the Lord Jesus rise from the dead and then ascend back to His throne. Remember something: Satan is a Cherub and before His fall, **He ministered DIRECTLY to God and Jesus in heaven**. Some say he was God’s #1 angel.

So now imagine **the devil watching Jesus rise from the dead in a divine body no longer subject to him**, then ascend to heaven not only to make intercession for man, but to be seated back on His Kingly throne.

***[Heb 1:3-4 ESV]*** 3 He [CHRIST] is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much **superior to angels** as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

***[Eph 1:20-22 ESV]*** 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 ***far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.*** 22 ***And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,***

***[1Pe 3:21-22 ESV]*** 21 ... through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 **who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.**

When Jesus came here 2000 years ago, ***He allowed Himself to be tempted by sin and the devil and He subjected Himself to death.***

When He ascended and took His throne, however, **everything and everyone submitted to Him.**

I believe the Bible shows us that **Satan knows his fate**, along with other end times prophecies.

- Demons begged Jesus not to “torment them/send them to the Abyss ahead of the appointed time.”

Keep in mind that—at the end—*Satan has both 1) heavenly angelic forces and 2) earthly forces in the form of the Antichrist and his followers.* Jesus is coming back and He will trounce them all, then take complete possession of both the heavens and the earth.

**There is more than 1 “heaven”** and Paul made reference to “the third heaven.” The first heaven is earth’s atmosphere, the 2<sup>nd</sup> heaven is where Satan is still allowed to dwell, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven is where God is.

When King Jesus comes back, **he first kicks Satan and his angels out of the 2<sup>nd</sup> heaven and takes it back:**

*[Rev 12:7-9 ESV]* 7 Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, 8 **but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.** 9 And the great dragon **was thrown down**, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world-- he was **thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.**

The devil and his angels are thrown to earth, because the prophecy over them is that they will *“die like mortal men.”*

**Jesus then lands on earth with His mighty army to assume control.** He will fulfill the prophecy of Psalms and Revelation: that He is the rod of iron that will break the nations like potter’s vessels. He will pummel the armies of the Antichrist and destroy him once and for all. He will then throw Satan into prison.

**Ascension Day is Jesus being coronated as King and Lord.**

It’s Him receiving His crown.

**It’s Him preparing for the day to mount up and ride back to earth!**

*[Pro 30:4 ESV]* 4 Who has ascended to heaven and come down? Who has gathered the wind in his fists? Who has wrapped up the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? **What is his name, and what is his son's name? Surely you know!**