



## Overlooking the Ascension

Lesson 1 • Acts 1:9-11

*Have you wondered about the following or been asked these questions by others?*

*"He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty."*

The Apostles Creed

*How does Jesus going up to heaven impact what is going down on earth?*

### What Is the Ascension?

The Ascension of Christ is the resurrected Jesus **GOING UP** from earth into heaven to be exalted in glory over all!

*The resurrection is His **powerful triumph** from death to life, but the ascension is His **glorious TRANSITION** from earth into heaven.*

*The ascension is the **HINGE** from the lowest point of His **earthly humiliation** to the highest point of His **heavenly exaltation**.*

*Luke, 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-11*

Look **UP** to the ascended Christ and be empowered to live **OUT** His message and mission by His Spirit according to His Father's will.

### Why Is the Ascension So Overlooked?

#### 1. The Bible Seems to Say **LITTLE** About It.

- The narrative covers only **7** verses.
- Raises all sorts of **QUESTIONS**, doesn't it?
- But the Ascension is **FORESHADOWED** in the OT and **FULFILLED** in the NT!

#### 2. The Ascension Seems Like a **BAD** Plan.

- The ascension begs the question begs the question: **"WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO LEAVE?"**
- Wouldn't it be better for Jesus to remain here on earth with us?

**Premise 1** *Being with Jesus bodily in the New Creation is the best end goal.*

**Premise 2** *Jesus is no longer with us bodily on earth.*

**Conclusion:** *It would have been better if Jesus had not left!*

### 3. The Ascension's IMPLICATIONS Are Unclear.

#### Why Did Jesus Have to Leave?

- "You rose, so let's hold on to this moment forever!" *John 20:16-17*
- "You rose, so let's get 'er done!" *Acts 1:6-9*
- "What difference is You leaving us going make?" *John 14:1-5, 18*

### 4. The Ascension Is an UNUSUAL Event.

### 5. The Ascension Is Often ASSUMED in the Bible!

#### How Does the Ascension Fit into the Gospel?

- Big Picture for the Promised Messiah is revealed in TWO STAGES. *Isaiah 52:13–53:12; Philippians 2:5-11*
  - Humiliation: *From Incarnation to Crucifixion.*
  - Exaltation: *From Resurrection to the Revelation = Consummation!*

*The Ascension Is the **BRIDGE** Between His Humiliation on Earth and His Exaltation in Heaven  
Preparing for His Revelation on Earth at the Second Coming!*

Eternal Triune God	Eternal Son of God		Philippians 2:6
<b>HUMILIATION of the Suffering Servant</b>	1. INCARNATION	Virgin Conception	Philippians 2:7-8  Isaiah 52:13-53:11
	2. IDENTIFICATION	Baptism/Earthly Ministry	
	3. CRUCIFIXION	Death/Burial/Descent?	
<b>EXALTATION of the Sovereign Savior</b>	4. RESURRECTION	Powerful Victory	Philippians 2:9  Isaiah 53:12  Isaiah 54:1-8 65:13-24
	5. ASCENSION	HISTORICAL HINGE & TRIUMPHANT TRANSITION	
	6. GLORIFICATION	The <b>LAST ADAM</b> in the Presence of the Father in Heaven	
	7. SESSION	The <b>LION KING</b> Seated at the Right Hand of the Father's Throne	
	8. PROVISION	The <b>LAVISH GIVER</b> of the Father's Promise: Indwelling Holy Spirit	
	9. INTERCESSION	The <b>HIGH PRIEST</b> as Both Eternal Priest and Perfect Sacrifice	
	10. REVELATION	The <b>WARRIOR JUDGE</b> is Revealed on Earth in Glory	
Eternal Triune God	Eternal God-Man: <i>Son of God &amp; Son of Man</i>		Philippians 2:10

*"Resurrection, ascension and heavenly session together constitute the declaration or manifestation of the lordship of Jesus Christ." – John Webster*

*"The resurrection requires an ascension to be completed." – Gerrit Dawson*

*"The biblical authors viewed Christ's act of rising as incomplete until Christ sat on his glorious throne." – Patrick Schreiner*

*We typically "treat the ascension as little more than a dazzling exclamation point for the resurrection rather than a new event in its own right." – Michael Horton*

*"Though the ascension might seem like another affirmation of God's victory, the ascension represents progress—a new stage—in Christ's exaltation, where he exercises his threefold office (prophet, priest, king) in a climactic way."*

*– Patrick Schreiner*

*"Faith has in its foundation four great cornerstones on which the building rests—the Divinity of Christ, the Incarnation, the Atonement on the Cross, the Ascension to the Throne. The last is the most wonderful, the crown of all the rest, the perfect revelation of what God has made Christ for us. And so in the Christian life it is the most important, the glorious fruit of all that goes before." – Andrew Murray*

**Let's LOOK UP to LIVE OUT!**