



Pastor-Teacher | Chris Regas | 4.30.2023

Beginning His Ministry in Heaven

Lesson 2 • Luke 24:49-53

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!

Luke 24:49-53; Acts 1:9-11

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

"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

*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.*

Jesus Begins His Ministry in Heaven – Luke 24:49-53

1. The Ascension Is a NECESSARY Stage in the Fulfillment of God's Big Story.

"And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."
Luke 24:50

- There's no **INDWELLING** of the Spirit without the ascension. (vv. 49)
- There's no **INGATHERING** of the Gentiles without the ascension. (vv. 45-48)

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

2. The Ascension Is Where the Resurrected Lord LEADS Us.

"And He led them out as far as Bethany," Luke 24:50

- The resurrection should always lead us to REFLECT on the ascension.

*Don't **settle** for merely following the incarnate Jesus on earth – just the Gospels!*

*Don't **revert** to merely following the incarnate Jesus on earth!*



3. The Ascension Is a Continual BLESSING from the Our Triune God.

"and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. While He was blessing them, He parted from them " Luke 24:50-51

- The ascending Jesus blesses His people as their PROPHET, PRIEST, and KING.
 1. The **prophet** Moses blessed God's people. *Deuteronomy 33; Luke 6:20-23*
 2. The **priest** Aaron blessed God's people. *Leviticus 9:22; Numbers 6:22-24*
 3. The **kings** David & Solomon blessed God's people. *2 Samuel 6:18; 1 Kings 8:54-61*
- The ascending Jesus CONTINUES to bless His people as He enters heaven.

4. The Ascension Is the SEPARATING Hinge in Redemptive History.

"He parted from them" Luke 24:51

- The ascension ENDS Jesus' bodily ministry on earth and BEGINS His bodily ministry in heaven.
- Two ENCOUNTERS: *Paul's apostolic "voice" and John's prophetic "vision."* *Acts 9:1-9; Revelation 1:9-20*

5. The Ascension BEGINS Jesus' Ministry in Heaven.

"and was carried up into heaven." Luke 24:51

Jesus Is Taken Up Bodily to Begin His Ministry in Heaven

- Our King ascends to RULE from heaven in glory.
- Our Prophet ascends to SPEAK from heaven in glory.
- Our Priest ascends to glory to INTERCEDE from heaven in glory.

LOOK UP to LIVE OUT!

"And they, after worshiping Him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising God." Luke 24:52-53

The Disciples Looked Up to Live Out in Four Radical Ways:

- WORSHIP the ascended Christ.
- OBEY the ascended Christ.
- REJOICE in the ascended Christ.
- PERSEVERE with the ascended Christ.

Let's LIVE OUT This Hope in Our Ascended Prophet, Priest, and King!