

Christology: The Person and Work of Christ

Lesson 10: The Work of Christ – Ascension and Session

Statement of Belief: Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Second Person of the Trinity, ascended into heaven where he sits at the right hand of the Father, ever living to intercede on our behalf.

The biblical witness—Acts 1:6-11

Question #1: Did Jesus ascend to a physical place?

Christ ascended to a place, Heaven, not just a state of mind

- The ascension narrative teaches that Jesus went to a place
 - **Luke 24:51**
 - **Acts 1:9**
- Stephen's death
 - **Acts 7:54-56**
- Jesus preparing a place for us
 - **John 14:2-3**

“These texts lead us to conclude that heaven is even now a place—though one whose location is now unknown to us and whose existence is now unable to be perceived by our natural senses. It is this place of God's dwelling that will be somehow made new at the time of the final judgment and will be joined to a renewed earth.” – Wayne Grudem

Question #2: Did anything change for Jesus when He ascended?

When Jesus ascended into heaven he received glory, honor, and authority that had never been his before as one who was both God and man.

- **John 17:5**
- **Acts 2:33**
- **Philippians 2:9**
- **1 Timothy 3:16** (cf. **Heb. 1:4**)
- **Revelation 5:12**

Question #3: What are the results of the ascension?

- Commissioning the Disciples
 - **Matt. 28:18-20**
- Holy Spirit and His Gifts
 - **John 14:16**
 - **John 16:7**
 - **Acts 1:8**
 - **Ephesians 4:7-8**

Question #4: What is the doctrinal significance of the ascension?

- Christ's going into heaven foreshadows our future ascension into heaven with him
 - **John 14:3**
 - **1 Thess. 4:17**
- Jesus' ascension gives us assurance that our final home will be in heaven with him
 - **John 14:2-3**
- We are able to share now (in part) in Christ's authority over the universe, and we will later share in it more fully
 - **Ephesians 2:6**

Question #5: What is Jesus doing now?

The time that Jesus will spend in heaven until his second coming is known as the "session." While Jesus has finished his saving work on the cross, he is not done with us. He is actively working for us even now.

- Jesus as Intercessor
 - **Romans 8:34**
 - **Hebrews 4:14-16**
 - **Hebrews 7:25**
- Jesus as Advocate
 - **1 John 2:1**