

Why Do You Stand Looking Into the Sky?

Jon Hazell, Pastor

Community Christian Church, Durant OK

Acts 1:1-11

Introduction

¹ The first account I ^[a]composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when He was taken up *to heaven*, after He had ^[b]by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. ³ To ^[c]these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over *a period of forty days* and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. ⁴ ^[d]Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for ^[e]what the Father had promised, “Which,” *He said*, “you heard of from Me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized ^[f]with the Holy Spirit ^[g]not many days from now.”

⁶ So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; ⁸ but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

The Ascension

⁹ And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And as they were gazing intently into ^[h]the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. ¹¹ They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into ^[i]the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”

Footnotes:

- a. Acts 1:1 Lit *made*
- b. Acts 1:2 Or *through*
- c. Acts 1:3 Lit *whom*
- d. Acts 1:4 Or *eating with; or lodging with*
- e. Acts 1:4 Lit *the promise of the Father*
- f. Acts 1:5 Or *in*
- g. Acts 1:5 Lit *not long after these many days*
- h. Acts 1:10 Or *heaven*
- i. Acts 1:11 Or *heaven*

Luke 24:50-53

The Ascension

⁵⁰ And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they, after worshiping Him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple ^[a]praising God.

Footnotes:

- a. Luke 24:53 Lit *blessing*

Acts 17:1-9

Paul at Thessalonica

¹Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ²And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³^[a]explaining and ^[b]giving evidence that the ^[c]Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and *saying*, "This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the ^[d]Christ." ⁴And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, ^[e]along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and ^[f]a number of the leading women. ⁵But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the market place, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar; and attacking the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring them out to the people. ⁶When they did not find them, they *began* dragging Jason and some brethren before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have upset ^[g]the world have come here also; ⁷^[h]and Jason has welcomed them, and they all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus." ⁸They stirred up the crowd and the city authorities who heard these things. ⁹And when they had received a ^[i]pledge from Jason and the others, they released them.

Footnotes:

1. Acts 17:3 Lit *opening*
2. Acts 17:3 Lit *placing before*
3. Acts 17:3 I.e. Messiah
4. Acts 17:3 I.e. Messiah
5. Acts 17:4 Lit *and a large*
6. Acts 17:4 Lit *not a few*
7. Acts 17:6 Lit *the inhabited earth*
8. Acts 17:7 Lit *whom Jason has welcomed*
9. Acts 17:9 Or *bond*

Mark 9:1-8

The Transfiguration

¹And Jesus was saying to them, "Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power."
²Six days later, Jesus *took with Him Peter and ^[a]James and John, and *brought them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; ³and His garments became radiant and exceedingly white, as no launderer on earth can whiten them. ⁴Elijah appeared to them along with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵Peter *said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three ^[b]tabernacles, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶For he did not know what to answer; for they became terrified. ⁷Then a cloud ^[c]formed, overshadowing them, and a voice ^[d]came out of the cloud, "This is My beloved Son, ^[e]listen to Him!" ⁸All at once they looked around and saw no one with them anymore, except Jesus alone.

Footnotes:

1. Mark 9:2 Or *Jacob*
2. Mark 9:5 Or *sacred tents*
3. Mark 9:7 Or *occurred*
4. Mark 9:7 Or *occurred*
5. Mark 9:7 Or *give constant heed*

John 14

Jesus Comforts His Disciples

¹"Do not let your heart be troubled; ^[a]believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for

you. ³ If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas *said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus *said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

Oneness with the Father

⁷ If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.”

⁸ Philip *said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹ Jesus *said to him, “Have I been so long with you, and *yet* you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how *can* you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. ¹¹ Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do; because I go to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do *it*. ¹⁵ “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

Role of the Spirit

¹⁶ I will ask the Father, and He will give you another ^[b]Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷ *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

¹⁸ “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ ^[c]After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you *will* see Me; because I live, you will live also. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. ²¹ He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.” ²² Judas (not Iscariot) *said to Him, “Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?” ²³ Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. ²⁴ He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father’s who sent Me.

²⁵ “These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. ²⁸ You heard that I said to you, ‘I go away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe. ³⁰ I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; ³¹ but so that the world may know that I love the Father, ^[d]I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here.

Footnotes:

- a. John 14:1 Or *you believe in God*
- b. John 14:16 Gr *Paracletos*, one called alongside to help; or *Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor*
- c. John 14:19 Lit *Yet a little and the world*
- d. John 14:31 Lit *and as the Father...so I do*

Daniel 3:19-30

Daniel's Friends Protected

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with wrath, and his facial expression was altered toward Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. He answered ^[a]by giving orders to heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. ²⁰ He commanded certain valiant warriors who *were* in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego in order to cast *them* into the furnace of blazing fire. ²¹ Then these men were tied up in their ^[b]trousers, their ^[c]coats, their caps and their *other* clothes, and were cast into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire. ²² For this reason, because the king's ^[d]command *was* ^[e]urgent and the furnace had been made extremely hot, the flame of the fire slew those men who carried up Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. ²³ But these three men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, fell into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire *still* tied up.

²⁴ Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astounded and stood up in haste; he said to his high officials, "Was it not three men we cast bound into the midst of the fire?" They replied to the king, "Certainly, O king." ²⁵ He said, "Look! I see four men loosed *and* walking *about* in the midst of the fire ^[f]without harm, and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of *the* gods!" ²⁶ Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the furnace of blazing fire; he responded and said, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, come out, you servants of the Most High God, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego came out of the midst of the fire. ²⁷ The satraps, the prefects, the governors and the king's high officials gathered around *and* saw in regard to these men that the fire had no ^[g]effect on ^[h]the bodies of these men nor was the hair of their head singed, nor were their ^[i]trousers ^[j]damaged, nor had the smell of fire *even* come upon them.

²⁸ Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who put their trust in Him, ^[k]violating the king's command, and yielded up their bodies so as not to serve or worship any god except their own God. ²⁹ Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation or tongue that speaks anything offensive against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego shall be torn limb from limb and their houses reduced to a rubbish heap, inasmuch as there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way." ³⁰ Then the king caused Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego to prosper in the province of Babylon.

Footnotes:

- a. Daniel 3:19 Lit *and ordered to*
- b. Daniel 3:21 Or *leggings*
- c. Daniel 3:21 Or *cloaks*
- d. Daniel 3:22 Lit *word*
- e. Daniel 3:22 Or *harsh*
- f. Daniel 3:25 Lit *there is no injury in them*
- g. Daniel 3:27 Lit *power over*
- h. Daniel 3:27 Lit *their*
- i. Daniel 3:27 Or *cloaks*
- j. Daniel 3:27 Lit *changed*
- k. Daniel 3:28 Lit *and changed the king's word*

Daniel 6:16-28

Daniel in the Lions' Den

¹⁶ Then the king gave orders, and Daniel was brought in and cast into the lions' den. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "^[a]Your God whom you constantly serve will Himself deliver you." ¹⁷ A stone was brought and laid over the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his nobles, so that nothing would be changed in regard to Daniel.

¹⁸ Then the king went off to his palace and spent the night fasting, and no entertainment was brought before him; and his sleep fled from him.

¹⁹ Then the king arose at dawn, at the break of day, and went in haste to the lions' den. ²⁰ When he had come near the den to Daniel, he cried out with a troubled voice. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you constantly serve, been able to deliver you from the lions?" ²¹ Then Daniel spoke ^[b] to the king, "O king, live forever! ²² My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as ^[c] I was found innocent before Him; and also ^[d] toward you, O king, I have committed no crime." ²³ Then the king was very pleased and gave orders for Daniel to be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den and no injury whatever was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. ²⁴ The king then gave orders, and they brought those men who had ^[e] maliciously accused Daniel, and they cast them, their children and their wives into the lions' den; and they had not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

²⁵ Then Darius the king wrote to all the peoples, nations and *men of every* ^[f] language who were living in all the land: "May your ^[g] peace abound! ²⁶ ^[h] I make a decree that in all the dominion of my kingdom men are to fear and tremble before the God of Daniel;

For He is the living God and enduring forever,
And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed,
And His dominion *will be* ^[i] forever.

²⁷ "He delivers and rescues and performs signs and wonders
In heaven and on earth,
Who has *also* delivered Daniel from the ^[j] power of the lions."

²⁸ So this Daniel enjoyed success in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Footnotes:

- a. Daniel 6:16 Or *May your God...Himself deliver you*
- b. Daniel 6:21 Lit *with*
- c. Daniel 6:22 Lit *innocence was found for me*
- d. Daniel 6:22 Lit *before*
- e. Daniel 6:24 Lit *eaten the pieces of Daniel*
- f. Daniel 6:25 Lit *tongue*
- g. Daniel 6:25 Or *welfare* or *prosperity*
- h. Daniel 6:26 Lit *From me a decree is made*
- i. Daniel 6:26 Lit *to the end*
- j. Daniel 6:27 Lit *hand*

John 14:27

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

New American Standard Bible (NASB) Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation