

# The Corona Chronicle.

Being Church in Partial lockdown.

Sunday May 16th

West Worthing Evangelical Church. Rugby Road



## The Ascension

Luke 24:50-51 and Acts 1:9-11.

Forty days after the resurrection, Jesus and His disciples went to Mount Olivet, near Jerusalem where Jesus was sharing His last words with them before He left this earth.

**Even now they misunderstood His ministry and the nature of His believing now that there would be a messianic kingdom that would release them from the Roman occupation. All that happened, His crucifixion and the clear evidence of His resurrection you would have thought they would have understood but they would not understand who Jesus really is unless the Holy Spirit quickens you and that is why Jesus told them to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit when they would be baptised with the Holy Spirit**

One day he will reign but not the type of Kingdom they expect but a future Kingdom when He returns.

Then Jesus blessed them, and as He gave the blessing, He began to ascend into heaven.

**It is plain from Scripture that Jesus' ascension was a literal, bodily return to heaven.** He rose from the ground gradually and visibly, observed by many intent onlookers. It was very unexpected, there was no lasting goodbye. Though Jesus had often told them that it was expedient, for Him to go away His words had **no power** in their hearts for them to except his departure.

As the disciples strained to catch a last glimpse of Jesus, a cloud hid Him from their view, and two angels appeared and promised Christ's return "in just the same way that you have watched Him go" (Acts 1:11).

**The Ascension of Jesus Christ is meaningful for several reasons:**

### **1) It signalled the end of His earthly ministry.**

God the Father had lovingly sent His Son into the world at Bethlehem, and the Word, the logos became flesh. and now the Son was returning to the Father in the resurrected body.

The period of human limitation was at an end. Jesus was limited by geography. Now they were to wait for the Holy Spirit to descend upon the believers. To fill them, to Baptise them in the Holy Spirit.

### **2) It signified success in His earthly work. All that He had come to do, He had accomplished.**

His earthly work was to preach the 'Good news'. Miracles, Signs and Wonders were secondary to the preaching of the gospel. Preaching the truth about the kingdom of God and how one may receive it by trusting only in Christ was His main message, and this message of faith and repentance.

#### **Yet this message cannot be separated from His work of atonement.**

The Atoning work on the cross.

Jesus "came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:1–10), and this salvation comes through the pouring out of His blood "for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matt. 26:26–29). In coming to preach the gospel of God, Jesus came to preach Himself. He came as both the messenger and the message—without the atonement, there is no good news to proclaim pushing back the Kingdom of darkness and often resulting devils fearing and fleeing.

### **3) It marked the return of His heavenly glory.**

Coming as a babe in His incarnation 'born of Mary the Virgin. 'He humbled Himself and became obedient at the point of death, even to the point of death even death on cross. Phil 2v8. **Jesus' glory had been veiled during His time on earth**, with one brief exception at the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9).

**But Jesus is in heaven where He is given the highest honour that is due to Him alone. Here Below**, He was despised and rejected of men Isaiah 53 v 3. Even when Jesus rose from the dead. He showed himself only to those who were believers. He sits at the right hand of God the father, which shows His divine authority.

Jesus now is supreme head of the Church, the ultimate authority over the world.

As Christians we can be confident that Christ has one the final victory. We need not fear any dictator, death, or Satan Himself. No pandemic or plague. Nothing can separate us from the Love of God. The One with whom the Father is well pleased (Matthew 17:5) was received up in honour and given a name above all names (Philippians 2:9).

### **4) It allowed Him to prepare a place for us (John 14:2).**

The NKJ versions speaks about Mansions rather than rooms as in for example the NIV. 'In my Father's house are many mansions. The Greek word is *Monai* which means **a staying, abiding, dwelling, abode**:

How does Jesus prepare a place for us? Well later in John 14 Jesus promises as we love Him and keep his Word, He will abide in him. The Lord by the power of the Holy Spirit exerts a most blessed influence on the souls of the believers. John 14:23; It means that Christ makes His home in us while preparing a place for us.

### **5) It indicated the beginning of His new work as High Priest (Hebrews 4:14-16)**

Jesus, the son of God Is our great high priest, He has gone to heaven itself to help us. Therefore, let us never stop trusting him. He Understands our weaknesses. Since he had the same temptations, we do. Though he never once gave away to them and sinned.

So let us go boldly to the very throne of God. And stay there to receive his mercy. And to find Grace to help us in our times of need.

### **6) It set the pattern for His return.**

When Jesus comes to set up the Kingdom, He will return just as He left-literally, bodily, and visibly in the clouds (Acts 1:11; Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 24:30; Revelation 1:7).

# Bible Pathway Adventures

## BIBLE QUIZ

# THE ASCENSION

Read Matthew 28: 16-20, Mark 16: 19-20, John 21 and Acts 1: 1-12.

Match the question with the answer on the right.

### Questions

\_\_\_ After Yeshua rose from the grave, how long did He stay on earth before He rose to Heaven?

\_\_\_ After Yeshua appeared to His disciples in Jerusalem, where did they next meet Him?

\_\_\_ Who dove into the water and swam towards Yeshua?

\_\_\_ What did Yeshua ask Peter three times?

\_\_\_ What did Yeshua promise His disciples before He rose to Heaven?

\_\_\_ Where did Yeshua say His disciples would go and tell people about Him?

\_\_\_ On what mount did Yeshua ascend to Heaven?

\_\_\_ As He ascended, what hid Yeshua from the eyes of those watching?

\_\_\_ Who appeared to the disciples after Yeshua rose to Heaven?

\_\_\_ What did these men tell the disciples?

### Answers

1. Forty days
2. Two men dressed in white
3. Peter
4. A cloud
5. Judea, Samaria and to many other countries
6. The Holy Spirit (Ruach HaKodesh)
7. Mount of Olives
8. Do you love Me?
9. Sea of Galilee
10. Yeshua will return to you the same way He left



# Hymns ,Prayers and Bible Readings

especially for those unable to get to Church

Hymn

1 Rejoice, the Lord is King! your Lord and King adore;  
mortals give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore;  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

2 Jesus, the saviour, reigns, the God of truth and love;  
when he had purged our stains he took his seat above;  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

3 His kingdom cannot fail, he rules both earth and heaven,  
the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given;  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

4 He sits at God's right hand till all his foes submit,  
and bow to his command, and fall beneath his feet:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

5 Rejoice in glorious hope! Jesus the Judge shall come,  
and take his servants up to their eternal home.  
We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;  
God's trumpet call shall sound, rejoice!

words: Charles Wesley

Bible Reading Acts 1

1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,<sup>2</sup> Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:<sup>3</sup> To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:<sup>4</sup> And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.<sup>5</sup> For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.<sup>6</sup> When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

<sup>7</sup> And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.<sup>8</sup> But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.<sup>9</sup> And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.<sup>10</sup> And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;<sup>11</sup> Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

<sup>12</sup> Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.

**GIVING THANKS TO GOD** *Ascension*  
*From Revelation 1*

Jesus Christ, faithful witness, firstborn from the dead, ruler of the powers of this world, we thank you that you love us and by your sacrificial death have freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom of priests to serve our God and Father:

**all glory and power be to you, Lord Jesus,  
for ever and ever! Amen.**

**AFFIRMING OUR FAITH** - *Ascension*  
*From 1 Peter 3*

Let us confess our faith in Christ:

**Christ died for sins  
once for all,  
the just for the unjust,  
to bring us to God:  
he was put to death in the body,  
but made alive by the Spirit;  
he has gone up on high,  
and is at God's right hand,  
ruling over angels and the powers of heaven. Amen.**

O Jesus Christ,  
almighty Son of God,  
you are no longer in humiliation here on earth,  
but sit at the right hand of your Father  
as Lord over all things.  
Send us your Holy Spirit.  
Give your Church pious pastors.  
Preserve your Word.  
Control and restrain the devil  
and all who would oppress us.  
Mightily uphold your kingdom  
until all your enemies have been put under your feet,  
that we may hold the victory  
over sin, death and the devil;  
through you,  
who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one true God, now and forever.

Source: [Veit Dietrich](#), d. 1549, Ascension