

## DAY 2 - THE ASCENSION OF JESUS

6 The apostles were gathered with Jesus and asked Him, "Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?" 7 Jesus replied, "Only the Father has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. 8 But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will receive power. You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." 9 After saying this, Jesus was taken up into heaven while they were watching, and a cloud hid Him from their sight. 10 As they were still staring into the sky, two men dressed in white appeared beside them 11 and said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing here staring into heaven? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will return in the same way you saw Him go."

## Acts 1:6-12 (PDT)

After Jesus rose from the dead, He "presented Himself alive" (Acts 1:3) to the women near the tomb (Matthew 28:9-10), to His disciples (Luke 24:36-43), and to more than 500 others (1 Corinthians 15:6). In the days following His resurrection, Jesus taught His disciples about the Kingdom of God

### Acts 1:3

Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus and His disciples went to the Mount of Olives near Jerusalem. There, Jesus promised His followers they would soon receive the Holy Spirit, and He instructed them to remain in Jerusalem until the Spirit came. Then, Jesus blessed them, and as He was blessing them, He began to ascend into heaven. The account of Jesus' ascension is found in Luke 24:50-51 and Acts 1:9-11.

#### THE ASCENSION OF JESUS CHRIST IS SIGNIFICANT FOR MANY REASONS:

- 1. It marked the end of His earthly ministry. God the Father had lovingly sent His Son into the world at Bethlehem, and now the Son was returning to the Father. It signified the successful completion of His earthly mission. He had fulfilled everything He was sent to do.
- 2. It marked His return to heavenly glory. Jesus' glory had been veiled during His time on earth, with a brief exception during the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9).
- 3. It symbolized His exaltation by the Father (Ephesians 1:20–23). The One with whom the Father was well pleased (Matthew 17:5) was received into heaven with honor, given a name above every name (Philippians 2:9).
- 4. It allowed Him to go prepare a place for us (John 14:2) and marked the beginning of His new ministry as our High Priest (Hebrews 4:14–16) and Mediator of the New Covenant (Hebrews 9:15).
- 5. It set the pattern for His return. When Jesus returns to establish His Kingdom, He will come in the same way He ascended—literally, physically, and visibly in the clouds (Acts 1:11; Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 24:30; Revelation 1:7).

Today, the Lord Jesus is in Heaven. The Scriptures often describe Him at the right hand of the Father, a position of honor and authority (Psalm 110:1; Ephesians 1:20; Hebrews 8:1). Christ is the Head of the Church (Colossians 1:18), the giver of spiritual gifts (Ephesians 4:7-8), and the One who fills all in all (Ephesians 4:9-10).

8 DE JUNIO, 6PM

# **REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

Why is it important for us that Jesus ascended into heaven?

