

Lesson # 9 -- The Greatness of the Ascension of the Lord Jesus

Introduction

- A. In these lessons we seek to understand the greatness of the Lord Jesus through a study of His work. As our character and ability are rather easily seen in our actions -- so it is with the Savior.
  - B. In the Ascension there are at least two ways in which we can gain Biblical insight into the greatness of the Lord Jesus.
    - 1. Understand how the Savior is described in the Ascension.
    - 2. Learn about the provision He has made for us in His Ascension.
  - C. We have a tendency to overlook the importance of the Ascension in our description of redemption. The Bible places great emphasis upon this event.
- I. In the Ascension We See the Lord Jesus Returning Home as the Victorious Captain.

A. The Biblical position stated.

From the Scripture we understand that Jesus Christ came into the world to glorify the Father and do His will. A part of what that meant was to provide a redemption for those all those whom the Father had chosen and to set them free from all that bound them.

In particular this meant defeating Satan and taking away from him all who would believe. This great task the Lord Jesus fully accomplished. The redemption was finished. Death and Hell were conquered. Satan was defeated along with all his demons. The Lord Jesus triumphed gloriously. The Resurrection and in particular the Ascension -- are the victorious events which demonstrate His triumph.

B. The Biblical position explained.

- 1. The Ascension was and is a declaration that the work of redemption was sufficient and completed.

Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?  
Rom. 8:34,35

2. The Ascension was and is an affirmation that in Jesus Christ the believer has a Forerunner Who has entered Heaven as his Representative. This serves as a spiritual anchor for our soul.

Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil. Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. Heb. 6:19,20

3. The Ascension was and is a testimony that Jesus Christ has entered into His intercessory work as the believer's High Priest.

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them . . . We have such a high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens. Heb. 7:25; 8:1

4. The Ascension was and is a proclamation of a provision for the salvation and sanctification of His people.

But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God . . . For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. Heb. 10:12,14

5. The Ascension was and is a witness to and a pattern for the return of Jesus Christ for His people as well as for that time when God will require all men and angels to acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Which (the angels) 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. Acts 1:11

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow . . . and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Phil. 2:9-11

## II. In the Ascension We See the Lord Jesus Entering Into His Priestly Work To Make Intercession for His Own.

### A. The explanation of His office.

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Heb. 4:14,15

1. The superiority of His office: "Great High Priest."
2. The superiority of His location: "Passed into the Heavens."
3. The superiority of His person: "Jesus, the Son of God."
4. The superiority of His character:
  - a. A sympathetic High Priest: "Touched with our infirmities."
  - b. A holy High Priest: "Without Sin."

B. The explanation of His work.

And they (the O.T. priests) were not suffered to continue by reason of death, but this man (the Lord Jesus), because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens. Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's; for this he did once, when he offered up himself. For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity, but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore. Heb. 7:23-28

1. He has an unchangeable priesthood, Vs 23,24.
2. He has a powerful priesthood, V25.
3. He has a holy priesthood, V26.
4. He has an authoritative priesthood, V26.
5. He has a vicarious priesthood, V27.
6. He has a perfected priesthood, V28.

III. In the Ascension We See the Lord Jesus Taking His Place of Triumph Over Sin and Satan.

A. In regard to salvation the message of the Ascension is assurance.

And having an high priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith ... Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, for he is faithful that promised. Heb. 10:21-23

B. In regard to prayer the message of the Ascension is invitation.

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God ... Let us come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Heb. 4:14-16

C. In regard to fruitfulness the message of the Ascension is enablement.

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he said, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

D. In regard to holiness the message of the Ascension is provision.

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God... Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Col. 1:1-5 (NIV)

E. In regard to Satan the message of the Ascension is authority.

And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come, and hath put all things under his feet and gave him to be the head over all things to the church ... And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Eph. 1:19-22; 2:6

Comment: All of these benefits belong to every believer one hundred percent. They are legally ours because we are in Christ. It is possible, however, to possess them and yet not have the experience of assurance, or joy, or power.

It is necessary for us to understand and reject any error we may have in these areas, believe the truth, and then practice the truth by making practical decisions of faith. When we do so we will begin to experience the benefits we possess.