

Lesson #7—The Perspective of the Ascension

Introduction

- A. The believer was originally created and re-created in Jesus Christ to walk and talk with God! We will never understand ourselves unless we continually interpret life from this perspective.
- B. The Fall of Man and our own sin has almost destroyed the possibility of walking with God. Jesus Christ, however, has rescued us. In His work of reconciliation the believer has been reunited with God. Every provision has been made for a life of fellowship.
- C. These historical deeds whereby Jesus Christ has recued us, are all revelational transactions. We are taught by these deeds. In this lesson we ask, "What has God said to us in the Ascension of Jesus Christ?"

I. The Ascension: Jesus Christ returns home as the Victorious Captain—to give gifts to His own.

A. The Biblical position explained.

Psalm 68:18—

Acts 1:9-11—

Ephesians 2:4-6—

Ephesians 4:7-16—

B. The Biblical position applied.

Romans 12:3-8—

I Corinthians 12:1-31—

Ephesians 4:7-16—

I Peter 4:10, 11—

II. The Ascension: Jesus Christ enters into His priestly work—to make intercession for His own.

A. The Biblical position explained.

1. We have a Great High Priest.

Hebrews 2:14-18—

Hebrews 4:14-16—

Hebrews 9:1-14, 24-28—

2. We have a Great High Priest Who is our Forerunner, Hebrews 6:17-20.

3. We have a Great High Priest Who is our Surety, Hebrews 7:21-28.

4. We have a Great High Priest Who is our Mediator, Hebrews 8:1-6; 9:11-15.

B. The Biblical position applied.

Hebrews 4:14-16—

Hebrews 10:19-24—

III. The Ascension: Jesus Christ takes His place of triumph over His enemies—to give deliverance to His own.

A. The Biblical position explained.

1. In the Ascension we are reminded of our need of deliverance and freedom.

a. The basis of Satanic influence: The Fall of Man, Genesis 3:1-19.

In the Fall there was a passive response to the temptation of the Devil, the acceptance of doubt concerning the Word of God, the acceptance of insinuations concerning the goodness of God and the wisdom of God, and a deliberate choice to follow the suggestions of Satan and disobey the True and Living God.

The seriousness of this act cannot be overemphasized. This introduced the dimensions of sin, lust, depravity, slavery, ignorance, death and every form of evil into the human race. In summary it is correct to say that the race became alienated from God and enslaved to the Devil. The final effects of this enslavement will not be broken until the final judgment. The Fall of Man and the hold of the enemy is so profound that it took the death of Jesus Christ and His Resurrection to break that hold and to make it possible for man to be redeemed.

b. The description of Satanic influence.

1). The descriptive titles given to Satan indicate his activity. He is called Tempter (Matt. 4:3), Deceiver (Rev. 12:9), Accuser (Rev. 12:10), Adversary (I Peter 5:8), Murderer (John 8:44), Liar (John 8:44), the God of this World (II Cor. 4:4), and the Prince of the Power of the Air (Eph. 2:2).

2). The Bible indicates that the Christian can give a "place" (foothold) to the Devil (Eph. 4:27). Satan can fill the heart of the believer so that he will lie (Acts 5:3), he can be physically, spiritually and materially attacked by Satan (Job 1, 2; II Cor. 12:7), he can be hindered (I Thess. 2:18), deceived (Rev. 12:9, 10; II Cor. 11:3), tempted (I Cor. 7:5; I Thess. 3:5), ensnared (II Tim. 2:25, 26), devoured (I Peter 5:8, 9), "sifted as wheat" (Luke 22:31), made proud (I Tim. 3:6), brought into condemnation (I Timothy 3:6) and under reproach (I Timothy 3:7), corrupted in mind (II Cor. 11:3), accused (Rev. 12:10), pushed into hypocrisy (Acts 5:1-11) and religious fanaticism (II Cor. 2:1-11), and be made the object of "fiery darts" (Eph. 6:16).

The endeavor of Satan is to keep the believer from spiritual progress, from maturity in Christ and from the daily experience of the Fruit of the Spirit. The evidence of his success is all about us and also within the daily life of every believer. All Christians are under the attack of the enemy in some manner. The testimony of godly people to difficulty in prayer, in Bible study, in witnessing, in overcoming sins of omission and commission, in maintaining fellowship with God, etc., is a reminder of the subtle and powerful effect of Satanic influence. Satan can produce a degree of inner influence or control in the life of the believer.

2. In the Ascension we are shown the divine provision for deliverance and freedom.

a. In the Crucifixion and Resurrection Jesus Christ defeated Satan.

Colossians 2:15—

Hebrews 2:14, 15—

I John 3:8—

b. In the Ascension Jesus Christ was seated in triumph over Satan.

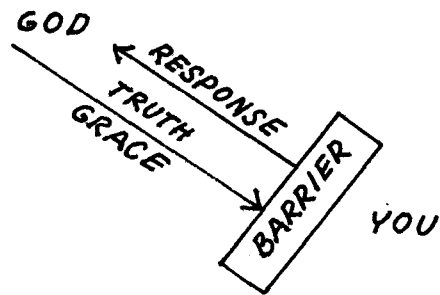
I Corinthians 15:24, 25—

Ephesians 1:18-23—

Ephesians 2:5, 6—

Hebrews 1:13—

- YOU ———
1. CREATED BY GOD - FELLOWSHIP
 2. DESTROYED
 3. SPOKEN TO
 4. REDEEMED
 - a. CRUCIFIXION - DEAD TO SIN
 - b. RESURRECTION - ALIVE TO GOD
 - c. ASCENSION - SEATED IN TRIUMPH



Hebrews 10:12, 13—

I Peter 3:22—

B. The Biblical position applied.

1. The Biblical instruction concerning the victory in Jesus Christ.

- a. We have been delivered from Satan's kingdom and power. He no longer owns us, Colossians 1:13.
- b. We are seated with Jesus Christ in the heavenlies. We share His victory over Satan, Ephesians 1:18-2:6.
- c. We have been given the use of the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Luke 10:17-20.
- d. We have been given an armor, Ephesians 6:11-18.
- e. We have been given a weapon of great power in the Word of God, Ephesians 6:17.

2. The Biblical instruction concerning the method of implementing this victory.

- a. There must be a complete and honest confession, repentance and renunciation of past and present sins, Eph. 4:27; I John 1:9.
- b. There must be a complete and honest practice of the truth in the obedience of faith and love, Ephesians 6:10-18.
- c. There must be a complete and honest aggressive resistance of the work of Satan, I Pete 5:8, 9.

When you are made to feel guilty but don't know what you have done—then reject it in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. When you are accused ("If you were a Christian you wouldn't be thinking a thought like that") refuse it. When your thoughts, emotions and bodily desires try to get out of hand—then take charge of them and bring them into subjection to Jesus Christ (II Cor. 10:4, 5). You have the authority and ability in the Name and Word of Jesus Christ. Use your weapons to break the control of the enemy.

- d. There must be a complete and honest acceptance of the armor of the Christian. Pray it on yourself every day, Ephesians 6:11-18.

Conclusion: Suggestions for memorization and application.

A. Memorize I Peter 5:8, 9.

B. Apply this lesson by making the following affirmation: In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ I take my place in the heavenlies, declare Jesus Christ is my victorious Lord and I cover myself with the Shield of Faith.