

God's Redemptive Grace		
<u>The Event</u>	<u>The Provision</u>	<u>The Command</u>
Crucifixion	Daily Cleansing	Put Off (Eph 4:22)
Resurrection	Daily Enablement	Put On (Eph 4:24)
Ascension	Daily Freedom	Resist (Eph 4:27)
Pentecost	Daily Anointing	Be Filled (Eph 5:18)

- The Four Redemptive Events**
- o They are Personal
 - o They are Historical
 - o They are Redemptive
 - o They are Dynamic
 - o They are Representative
 - o They are Covenantal
 - o They are Demanding

The Ascension of the Lord Jesus

A Celebration
The Victory of the Lord Jesus

A Triumph
Satan is Defeated

An Authority
All Believers Empowered

A Bestowment of Gifts
Spiritual Enablement

An Instruction
The Priestly Lordship of Our Saviour

A Reminder
The Priority of the Spiritual

Introduction

- A. As we approach this subject there are two facets that we must keep in mind. The first has to do with understanding what the Ascension meant to the Lord Jesus, and second, how it was a part of His redemptive work in which we are identified.
 - B. While we tend to neglect the value of the Ascension, in the Bible this third aspect of the redeeming work of the Lord Jesus is described as highly important.
- I. In the Ascension the Lord Jesus Returned Home as the Victorious Lord.**

A. The Scripture

This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men." Eph 4:8 (See Psalm 68)

And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. Col 2:15 (See Gen 3:15)

B. The Explanation

The Lord Jesus was born into the world to defeat His enemies. They were and are, Satan and his demons, as well as the devastation caused by His enemies: error, sin, sickness, death, and Hell. (See I Cor 15:23-26, 55-58; Rev 21:4)

23 But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. 24 Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to

The Ascension of Jesus Christ

Our Lord and Christ
Acts 2:35,36

Our Great High Priest
Heb 4:14

Jesus, Son of God
Heb 4:14

Our Anchor
Heb 6:19,20

Our Guarantee
Heb 7:22

Author and Finisher of Our Faith
Heb 12:2

Our Advocate

Our Saviour's Priesthood

Compassionate Understanding
Heb 2:17,18; :1-6

Vicarious Relationship
Eph 2:4-6

Redemptive Power
Eph 1:18-22

Practical Provision
Heb 7:22-28; 10:19-23

the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

- 4 *He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." NIV*

As the Scripture declares (Col 2:15; I John 3:8) the Lord Jesus **defeated** His enemies in the Crucifixion, **demonstrated** that victory in His Resurrection, and **displayed** that victory in His Ascension.

- 15 *And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*

- 8 *He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.
NIV*

The picture of the Lord Jesus returning home in triumph (Psalm 68 and Eph 4:8) was based on a well know and rather common event when the Bible was being written. It was the celebration that occurred when a king went against his enemies and won the battle. As the king would return to his home (a fortress/castle city), he would lead a processional of his men. He would be riding in his royal chariot with his enemies chained to the chariot and walking alongside (**he led captives in his train**). His men would have wagons filled with the plunder they had taken in battle. As they proceeded into the city the king would be proclaimed as victorious and the soldiers would throw out of the wagons the spoils of their victory (gave gifts to men) to the people lining the streets.

- 1 *For the director of music. Of David. A psalm. A song. May God arise, may his enemies be scattered; may his foes flee before him.*
- 2 *As smoke is blown away by the wind, may you blow them away; as wax melts before the fire, may the wicked perish before God.*
- 3 *But may the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; may they be happy and joyful.*
- 4 *Sing to God, sing praise to his name, extol him who rides on the clouds— his name is the LORD—*

The Believer's Victory

Satan has been defeated
1 John 3:8

We are now in God's kingdom
Col 1:13

We are seated in triumph over Satan
eph 1:19-23; 2:5,6

We have authority and power
Luke 9:12; 10:17-20

We have armor and weapons
Eph 6:10-18

We are commanded to fight
1 Pet 5:8,9

- and rejoice before him.*
- 5 *A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,
is God in his holy dwelling.*
 - 6 *God sets the lonely in families,
he leads forth the prisoners with singing;
but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.*
 - 7 *When you went out before your people, O God,
when you marched through the wasteland, Selah*
 - 8 *the earth shook,
the heavens poured down rain,
before God, the One of Sinai,
before God, the God of Israel.*
 - 9 *You gave abundant showers, O God;
you refreshed your weary inheritance.*
 - 10 *Your people settled in it,
and from your bounty, O God, you provided for the
poor.*
 - 11 *The Lord announced the word,
and great was the company of those who proclaimed it:*
 - 12 *"Kings and armies flee in haste;
in the camps men divide the plunder.*
 - 13 *Even while you sleep among the campfires,
the wings of my dove are sheathed with silver,
its feathers with shining gold."*
 - 14 *When the Almighty scattered the kings in
the land,
it was like snow fallen on Zalmon.*
 - 15 *The mountains of Bashan are majestic mountains;
rugged are the mountains of Bashan.*
 - 16 *Why gaze in envy, O rugged mountains,
at the mountain where God chooses to reign,
where the LORD himself will dwell forever?*
 - 17 *The chariots of God are tens of thousands
and thousands of thousands;
the Lord has come from Sinai into his sanctuary.*
 - 18 *When you ascended on high,
you led captives in your train;
you received gifts from men,
even from the rebellious—
that you, O LORD God, might dwell there.*
 - 19 *Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior,
who daily bears our burdens. Selah*
 - 20 *Our God is a God who saves;
from the Sovereign LORD comes escape from death.*
 - 21 *Surely God will crush the heads of his enemies,
the hairy crowns of those who go on in their sins.*
 - 22 *The Lord says, "I will bring them from Bashan;
I will bring them from the depths of the sea,*
 - 23 *that you may plunge your feet in the blood of your foes,
while the tongues of your dogs have their share."*
 - 24 *Your procession has come into view, O God,
the procession of my God and King into the sanctuary.*
 - 25 *In front are the singers, after them the musicians;
with them are the maidens playing tambourines.*
 - 26 *Praise God in the great congregation;
praise the LORD in the assembly of Israel.*
 - 27 *There is the little tribe of Benjamin, leading them,*

- there the great throng of Judah's princes,
and there the princes of Zebulun and of Naphtali.*
- 28 *Summon your power, O God;
show us your strength, O God, as you have done before.*
- 29 *Because of your temple at Jerusalem
kings will bring you gifts.*
- 30 *Rebuke the beast among the reeds,
the herd of bulls among the calves of the nations.
Humbled, may it bring bars of silver.
Scatter the nations who delight in war.*
- 31 *Envoys will come from Egypt;
Cush will submit herself
to God.*
- 32 *Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth,
sing praise to the Lord, Selah*
- 33 *to him who rides the ancient skies above,
who thunders with mighty voice.*
- 34 *Proclaim the power of God,
whose majesty is over Israel,
whose power is in the skies.*
- 35 *You are awesome, O God, in your sanctuary;
the God of Israel gives power and strength to his people.
Praise be to God!*
- 8 *This is why it says:
"When he ascended on high,
he led captives in his train
and gave gifts to men."
NIV*

What a wonderful time the Ascension was for the Lord Jesus. He had finished the work His Father had given Him to do. What a welcome He must have received when He returned home. Who can imagine the praise and adoration of the angels? What wonderful songs they must have composed for His homecoming. How delightful it must have been for the Lord Jesus, to be so adored by angels, and probably by saints in Heaven, and most of all to receive the "well done" of His Heavenly Father.

II. In the Ascension the Lord Jesus Entered Into His Priestly Work of Intercession.

A. The Scripture

Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a *permanent priesthood*. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Such a high priest meets our need—*one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens*. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He *sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself*. For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, *who has been made perfect forever*. Heb 7:23-28

B. The Explanation

1. He has a **permanent** priesthood, Vs 23,24.
Once He assumed that office for us His ministry will never change. A contrast to the OT priests whose ministry terminated because they died.
2. He has a **powerful** priesthood, V25.
He is able to save us completely -- no area untouched by divine grace.
3. He has a **holy** priesthood, V26.
He alone can deal with a persons spiritual life. The doctor can deal with the body, etc., but only Jesus Christ can deal with the spiritual life.
4. He has an **authoritative** priesthood, V26.
He has the authority (right) and power (ability) to intercede and save us.
5. He has a **vicarious** priesthood, V27.
His work was done as our Substitute. We were identified in His work.
6. He has a **perfected** priesthood, V 28.
His work is complete -- nothing more needs to be done.

III. In the Ascension the Lord Jesus Displayed His Redemptive Provision for Us.

- A. In regard to salvation the message of the Ascension is **assurance**. Heb 10:21-23.
The Ascension indicated that His sacrifice on the cross was accepted by the Father.

21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.
NIV

- B. In regard to prayer the message of the Ascension is **invitation**. Heb 4:14-16
Because He is seated in the heavenlies He invites us to come and ask for our needs.

14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. 16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
NIV

- C. In regard to fruitfulness the message of the Ascension is **enablement**. Eph 4:7,8
In the Ascension the Lord Jesus made provision for gifts of enablement to be given to all believers. One important gift was the Holy Spirit.

*7 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. 8 This is why it says:
"When he ascended on high,
he led captives in his train
and gave gifts to men."
NIV*

- D. In regard to holiness the message of the Ascension is **provision**. Col 3: 1-5
Because the Lord Jesus conquered sin and the world -- we can through believing and receiving His grace -- live above sin and the world, never perfectly, but yet powerfully.

*1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.
5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.
NIV*

- E. In regard to Satan the message of the Ascension is **authority**. Eph 1:19-22; 2:6
Because the Lord Jesus is seated in the heavenlies -- signifying His victory over Satan and all wicked spirits, and because that authority has been given to all believers -- we can learn to live in freedom from Satan and wicked spirits if we will be honest and forsake our selfishness and sin. The following is a sample of how to utilize the victory of the Lord Jesus in a practical way.

*19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,
6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,
NIV*

A Suggested Affirmation For Times of Stress

Heavenly Father, I appeal to You for help. Please show me whatever sin I have committed so I may repent. I ask You to forgive me for my pride, my neglect of You, and my disobedience to Your Word. Please rescue me.

I confess before You that I have believed a lot of lies, and practiced them—particularly lies about You and about myself. Help me to confess and reject them.

In Your name, Lord Jesus, I take back from Satan all the ground I have given to him in believing these lies and putting them into practice. I choose to reject Satan and all the Kingdom of Darkness from my life.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I take charge of what is happening in my mind, emotions and body.

Whatever is of You, Heavenly Father, in what is happening within me, then I accept it, thank You for it, and depend on You for wisdom, guidance, and healing.

Whatever is not of You, Heavenly Father, in what is happening within me, whatever there is of **error** I have accepted, or the **work of the enemy**, then I reject it in Your name, and I bring the power of Your blood—Lord Jesus against it, and **against the source of it**, and I command it must leave me now. I refuse to submit to it.

(Maintain your trust in God, submission, and the position of authority given in the Ascension.)

Conclusion: In order to have the assurance, joy, power, and fruitfulness of the Ascension in our life we must surrender all the error and sin that contradicts this great event and give ourselves to Jesus Christ in full submission of faith and love.

