

The Ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ

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)

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.

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.

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.
2. He has a **powerful** priesthood, V25.
3. He has a **holy** priesthood, V26.
4. He has an **authoritative** priesthood, 26.
5. He has a **vicarious** priesthood, V27.
6. He has a **perfected** priesthood, V 28.

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.
- B. In regard to prayer the message of the Ascension is **invitation**. Heb 4:14-16
- C. In regard to fruitfulness the message of the Ascension is **enablement**. Eph 4:7,8
- D. In regard to holiness the message of the Ascension is **provision**. Col 1:1-5
- E. In regard to Satan the message of the Ascension is **authority**. Eph 1:19-22; 2:6

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.

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