

## The Apostles' Creed He Ascended into Heaven

Psalm 68:18 ❖ Acts 1:1-11

"We have special celebrations on Christmas and Easter, but most churches make little or no mention of the Ascension. However, it is a redemptive event of profound importance. It marks the moment of Christ's highest point of exaltation."

("Essential Truths of the Christian Faith," R. C. Sproul, p. 95)

### Jesus' Ascension

The first time Jesus left the apostles, when He \_\_\_\_\_ on the cross, they were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

The second time Jesus left the apostles, when He \_\_\_\_\_ into heaven, "they returned to Jerusalem with great \_\_\_\_\_" (Luke 24:52).

*Why did they react so differently?*

Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus led the apostles to the village of \_\_\_\_\_, on the Mount of \_\_\_\_\_, just outside Jerusalem. He lifted His hands and \_\_\_\_\_ them before being taken up into \_\_\_\_\_. A \_\_\_\_\_ soon hid Him from their sight.

"Two \_\_\_\_\_ dressed in \_\_\_\_\_ said to them, 'This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the \_\_\_\_\_ way'" (Acts 1:10-11).

"Jesus could perfectly well have \_\_\_\_\_, as on other occasions, and gone to the Father secretly and \_\_\_\_\_. The reason for a \_\_\_\_\_ and visible ascension is surely that He wanted them to know He had gone for \_\_\_\_\_. During the forty days He had kept appearing, disappearing and \_\_\_\_\_. But now this interim period was over. This time His departure was \_\_\_\_\_."

"So they were not to wait around for His \_\_\_\_\_ resurrection appearance. Instead they were to \_\_\_\_\_ for Somebody else, the \_\_\_\_\_. For He would come only after Jesus had \_\_\_\_\_, and then they could get on with their mission in the \_\_\_\_\_. He would give them." ("The Message of Acts," John Stott, p. 49)

"Having finished His \_\_\_\_\_ ministry, our Lord \_\_\_\_\_ the power and glory of which He had \_\_\_\_\_ Himself on our behalf." ("We Believe," Henry DuBose, p. 51)

Specifically, Jesus ascended to heaven to "\_\_\_\_\_ at the place of cosmic authority beside \_\_\_\_\_ the Father." ("We Believe," R. C. Sproul, p. 148) *More on "sitteth on the right hand of God the Father" next Sunday!*

### What It Means for Us

Jesus told the disciples: "It is for your \_\_\_\_\_ that I am going away. Unless I go away, the \_\_\_\_\_ will not come to you; but if I go, I will send \_\_\_\_\_ to you" (John 16:7).

Through \_\_\_\_\_ we have a more intimate and immediate \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus than the apostles did.

"Jesus is able to \_\_\_\_\_ completely those who come to God \_\_\_\_\_ Him, because He always lives to \_\_\_\_\_ for them" (Hebrews 7:25).

Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ on His mission to His followers. He said to the apostles, "You will receive power when the \_\_\_\_\_ comes upon you; and you will be My \_\_\_\_\_ in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Jesus is not going to make any more \_\_\_\_\_ on earth until He \_\_\_\_\_ at the end of time.

### Takeaway

Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ and in the \_\_\_\_\_ Room of God.

Through \_\_\_\_\_, Christians have direct access to \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus says to \_\_\_\_: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be My witnesses in \_\_\_\_\_, and in all \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and to the ends of the \_\_\_\_\_."

