

## **Acts 1 “Ascension”**

### **Acts 1:1-11**

**April 27, 2025**

#### **Acts 1:1-11**

1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” 9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

The ascension of Jesus.

#### **John 20:17**

17 Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Christ reigns and represents in Heaven.

#### **Ephesians 1:19-23**

19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

#### **Acts 1:6**

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

Act's 1:7

7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Luke 24:45-49

45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

This is a declarative message not a defensive one.

Like the disciples, we can think about it all too small.

Hebrews 4:14. (NIV)

14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

Heaven is now open to us, because Jesus is there.

Ephesians 4:8

8 Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."

Through the Spirit, Jesus sends heaven into our humanity.

Hebrews 7:25

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Luke 24:50-51

50 And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. 51 While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven.

Jesus is forever reigning and interceding and representing.

### **Life Group Discussion Questions**

- What did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday gathering?
- How often do you think about Jesus reigning presently? Is that a new idea?
- What is Jesus doing in his reign? Read 1 Corinthians 15:25. What are those "enemies?" What is an "enemy" that you face right now? How might you approach Jesus for help?

- When has “witnessing” and sharing your faith been easy? When has it been difficult?
- How does the idea of being a “witness” adjust as think about being a herald of true historic events?
- What does it mean for the Christian faith that Jesus is still fully human in heaven?
- If Jesus took on flesh through the incarnation, then discuss the significance of the Holy Spirit taking on flesh in us?
- What encouragement can be gained realizing that Christ is forever reigning and representing?
- Share with your Life Group one takeaway of the ascension of Jesus that you can apply in your life this week.