

Jesus' Homecoming (The Ascension)

Luke 24:50-51; Mk. 16:19; Acts 1:8-11

I Timothy 3:16—A

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, ,
, *RECEIVED UP into glory.*

There are many important events in the life of Christ. Among the most important are:

1. His miraculous incarnation.

By seeing Jesus taken up with His hands outstretched with a parting blessing, assured them His earthly mission was complete. Now they should go on to the business at hand—Being His witnesses to the world.

"Elvis has left the building" is a statement that was often used at the end of Elvis' concerts to disperse the audience who lingered behind in the arena. Guess what? "Jesus has left the building!"

A. The **PURPOSE**—

1. Jesus had to leave in order to send the Holy Spirit (John 7:39-“ ; .”). While physically on earth, Jesus could only be in one place with a limited number of people at a time. By leaving and sending the Holy Spirit His presence would not be limited to one locality (John 16:7; 14:16-20).
2. He would fulfill the promise of His presence (Mt. 18:20). Today He abides in every believer anywhere on earth. , , , .
3. Notice Mark 16:20— A , , E D E Jesus was physically gone, but He was still WORKING with them. When you do the work of the Lord, you never work alone—The Lord is working right along with YOU (1 Cor. 3:9). GLORY!!!

B. The **PROOF**— Mark 16:19 says Christ “ ECE ED ...” This proved several things:

1. His earthly ministry was accepted by the Father.
2. His earthly ministry was over. He SAT DOWN (Heb. 1:3).
3. It demonstrated a power greater than the law of gravity. To send a man into outer space requires enormous power. [Launching a space shuttle requires 16 million horsepower.¹]

¹ <http://hypertextbook.com/facts/2001/StaverieBoundouris.shtml>

How much more the power required and exhibited to take up a body from the earth all the way to heaven?!

II. The **POSITION of Christ on high** (Eph. 4:8-10).

➡ Ephesians 4:8-10—
on high, *ASCENDED up*
ASCENDED, . 9 (
 ? 10
ASCENDED up far above all heavens, that he
might fill all things.)

- A. **HIGH** position—Position above all the world and it's strife. Everything is under His feet (Eph. 1:20-23).
- B. **HONORED** position—Position of sovereignty and power. He is seated at .”

- 1 Peter 3:22—

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. **His ascension became a coronation!**

III. The **PRIESTHOOD of Christ at God's right hand** (Mk. 16:19).

- A. Christ's ascension was the **consummation of His earthly work**. But it was also the **commencement of His heavenly work**. Now He has passed into the heavens to His ministry as our Great High Priest (Heb. 4:14-16).
- B. Christ's ministry is three-fold / office:
 1. His PAST ministry — PROPHET (on earth).
 2. His PRESENT ministry — PRIEST (at God's right hand).
 3. His FUTURE ministry — KING (over all the earth).
- C. Today, He is appearing at God's right hand *F* (Heb. 9:24). He is our Advocate, pleading our case (1 John 2:1).
- D. He is interceding for us (Heb. 7:25). Saving us to the uttermost (cf. Acts 1:8). Saved to the very end—to the farthest extremity—to the highest degree—Saved as saved can be! **He keeps me saved!**

IV. The **PROMISE that Jesus will return** (Acts 1:8-12).

➡ **This same Jesus!** " (Acts 1:11).

- A. He ascended bodily. He shall return bodily.
- B. He ascended in glory. He shall return in glory.
- C. He ascended suddenly. He shall return suddenly.
- D. He ascended from presence of His own. He shall return for the presence of His own.
- E. He ascended into a cloud (Acts 1:9). He is coming again in the clouds (1 Thess. 4:17).

1. *A E* "into heaven (Acts 1:9). Mark says, *ECE ED* . Luke 24:51 says, *CA ED* . It was as if an invisible hand reached down and picked Jesus up and lifted Him into the heavens.

2. We shall be " ... "(1 Thessalonians 4:17).

SUMMATION: The fact Jesus has departed from planet earth should cause the charms of this world to lose their appeal. If Jesus were still physically on earth, we would want to remain here with Him. But since He is ascended into heaven, those who love Him want to be where He is.

THIS WORLD IS NOT MY HOME. My citizenship is in heaven,
 , C .

I HAVE A DESIRE TO DEPART AND BE WITH CHRIST. If that is not your desire, this world has a greater attraction to you than you do of Christ!