

The Ascension of Jesus

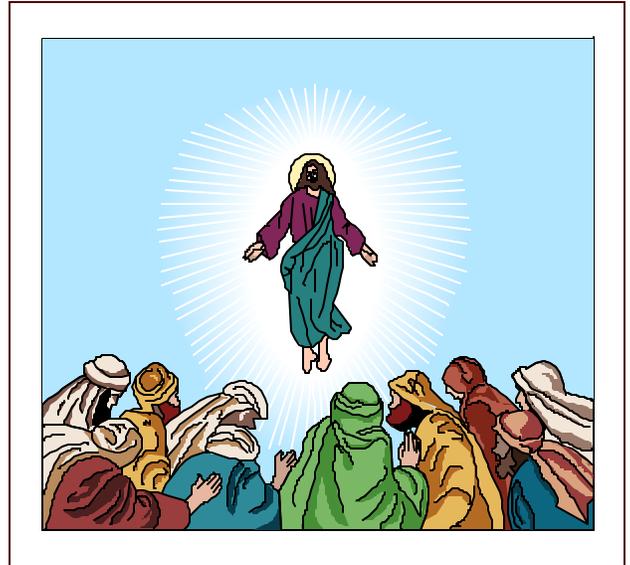
Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:19, 20; Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1:1-12

Have you ever seen a movie that showed a king's triumphal entry into a city? The loyal subjects shout and cheer for joy at their king's return.

Jesus had such a triumphal entry when He returned to heaven. May the Holy Spirit bless our study of Jesus' ascension.

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, send us Your Holy Spirit that we may rightly understand Your Word. Teach us the importance of Jesus' ascension and the mission He has prepared for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.



The Story - A Harmony of the Gospels

After Jesus had shown Himself alive to many of His followers, He spoke to the eleven. "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."

Then Jesus opened the disciples' minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

"Thus it was written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead...that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations."

Then Jesus commanded that the

disciples were to remain in Jerusalem "until you are endued with power from on high." By this, Jesus meant the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Then Jesus took the disciples out near Bethany. He reminded them that He had all authority in heaven and on earth. Now He wanted the disciple to be His witnesses to all the world. "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," Jesus told them. He instructed His disciples to make new disciples of all the nations. They should baptize in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus also promised to be with His disciples as they carried out His work. "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."



Jesus lifted up His hands in blessing over His disciples and an amazing thing happened! He began to ascend into the air. Jesus rose until a cloud took Him from view, and still the disciples stood staring!

Suddenly, two angels in white appeared and reminded the men that Jesus would return one day. "This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

Jesus was then triumphantly received into heaven and sat down on the right hand of God, the Father.

Then the disciples worshiped Jesus and returned to Jerusalem full of joy. They praised and blessed God for all that He had done for them and they awaited the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Recalling Details

1. Where did Jesus meet with His disciples?
2. What authority did Jesus claim to be his?
3. How did the disciples understand the Scriptures about Jesus?
4. Why did Jesus have to suffer and die?
5. Where and why were the disciples supposed to wait?
6. What instructions did Jesus have for His disciples?
7. How did Jesus visibly leave this earth?
8. Who appeared after Jesus' ascension?
9. What message did they have for the disciples?
10. Why is this message also a comfort for us?
11. What does Jesus want us to do while here on earth?
12. How do we know that Jesus is still here, though we can't see Him?

What the Story Tells Us

Jesus ascended into heaven triumphantly, having completed all that was necessary to save mankind. He instructed His disciples to spread this saving message to all the world by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Review - Match the statement with the passage reference from the box that best fits.

A. Matt.28:18

B. Mark 16:19

C. John 24:46

D. John 24:52-53

E. Matt. 28:19

F. Matt. 28:20

1. ____ Jesus had to suffer and die.
2. ____ Jesus reclaimed His rightful authority.
3. ____ Jesus is sitting at the right hand of God the Father.
4. ____ The disciples were given clear instructions by Jesus.
5. ____ The disciples appreciated the blessings they had received.
6. ____ The disciples could be comforted that Jesus had left them only visibly.

What God Tells Us

Our Lord Jesus has commanded us to spread the Good News that He has conquered sin and death. He has promised to be with us as we carry this message to all the world.

Passages

Matt. 28:18 – Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matt. 28:20b – And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Acts 1:11 – This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.

Hymn - Read or sing Hymn 215 1-5.

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to live and die for us. Make our faith strong, reassure us by Your Word that the Holy Spirit will guide us as we spread the Good News of Jesus' salvation to all we meet. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.