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The Ascension of Jesus Christ

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THE ASCENSION OF JESUS CHRIST

- **THE OUTLINE**

Mark 16:19, 20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-12

- A. Jesus led the eleven apostles out to the vicinity of Bethany and blessed them (Lk. 24:50).
- B. He was then received up into heaven and sat on the right hand of God (Mk. 16:19; Lk. 24:50; Acts 1:9).
- C. While the eleven watched Him go, two men dressed in white robes suddenly appeared promising them that the same Jesus who had just left would return in like manner! (Acts 1:10, 11)

- **THE ANALYSIS**

"So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen." (Mk. 16:19-20)

"And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven, And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen." (Lk. 24:50-53)

"And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:9-11)

- A. Jesus had previously predicted His own ascension on several occasions (Jn. 6:22; 16:28; 20:17).

We are told He ascended to the right hand of God (Mk. 16:19). The dying Stephen, Christianity's first martyr would later see Him there (Acts 7:55). (See also Heb. 8:1; 10:12; 1 Peter 3:22.)

- B. The heavenly messengers assured the apostles that Jesus would return in similar fashion as He departed. Thus:
 - 1. The going was personal, and so shall the return be (1 Thess. 4:16).
 - 2. The going was visible, and so shall the return be (Phil. 3:21).
 - 3. The going was from the Mount of Olives, and so shall the return be (Zech. 14:4).

C. This event marks the seventh of at least nine appearances of God's Shekinah Glory cloud. Note that it appeared:

1. To Israel en route to Palestine (Ex. 13:21; 14:19-20)
2. Over the Tabernacle holy of holies (Lev. 16:2)
3. Over the Temple holy of holies (2 Chron. 5:13-14)
4. In Ezekiel's time (Ezek. 10)
5. At the birth of Christ (Lk. 2:9-11)
6. At His Transfiguration (Mt. 17:5)
7. Here at this Ascension (Acts 1:9)
8. It will appear next at the Rapture (1 Thess. 4:17)
9. It will appear again during His Second Coming (Mt. 24:30)

D. The prophecies involved

1. As predicted by David, the King of Israel

"Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them" (Psa. 68:18).

2. As predicted by Jesus, the King of kings

"What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?" (Jn. 6:62).

"I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father" (Jn. 16:28).

"Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God" (Jn. 20:17).

D. The parting involved

"So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God" (Mk. 16:19). "And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven" (Lk. 24:51).

"And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. (Acts 1:9)

E. The promise involved

"And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:10-11).

F. The place involved

"Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey" (Acts 1:12).