

The Ascension of Jesus

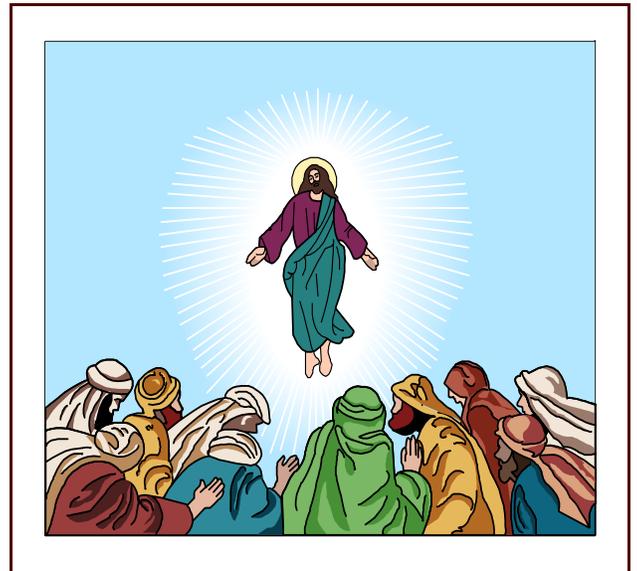
Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:19, 20; Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1:1-12

Have you ever had a friend move away? When people are going to be away from each other for a long time, they often promise to keep in touch.

Jesus made some very special promises to His disciples, and us, when He ascended into heaven.

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, help us to give careful attention to Your word so that we can learn of the important promises Jesus made to His disciples and to us. Help us to grow in Your word. 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 disciples 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 - Answer the following questions.

1. Where did Jesus meet with His disciples?
2. What authority did Jesus claim to be His?
3. What things did Jesus instruct His disciples to do?
4. Where were the disciples supposed to stay?
5. What were they supposed to wait for?
6. How did Jesus visibly leave this earth?
7. Who appeared after Jesus' ascension?
8. What message did they have for the disciples?
9. Why is this message also a comfort for us?
10. What does Jesus want us to do while here on earth?

Outer Aim - Jesus returned to heaven after His work of redemption was finished. Jesus' last message to His disciples was to direct them to spread His Gospel message throughout the world.

Review - Mark each statement as (T)rue or (F)alse.

1. ____ Jesus and His disciples met at Bethlehem.
2. ____ Jesus rightfully claimed all power in heaven and on earth.
3. ____ Jesus commanded the disciples to teach all nations.
4. ____ The disciples were supposed to go out immediately into all the world.
5. ____ Jesus did not tell the disciples what they were to wait for.
6. ____ As Jesus ascended, a cloud blocked Him from view.
7. ____ Two angels told the disciples they would never see Jesus again.
8. ____ The disciples were happy after Jesus' ascension.
9. ____ Jesus' command to teach all nations is for us also.
10. ____ We aren't sure how Jesus will return to earth on the Last Day.

Inner Aim - Jesus has called us to teach all nations because we are His disciples too. We are to spread the Gospel message that Jesus died for all sins. Jesus has promised to be with us until He takes us to be with Him forever.

Passages

Mark 16:15b – Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

Acts 1:11 – This same Jesus ... will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.

Hymn - Read or sing Hymn 215:1-3.

Draw us to Thee, For then shall we Walk in Thy steps forever And hasten on Where Thou art gone To be with Thee, dear Savior	Draw us to Thee, Lord, lovingly; Let us depart with gladness That we may be Forever free From sorrow, grief, and sadness.	Draw us to Thee; Oh, grant that we May walk the road to heaven! Direct our way Lest we should stray And from Thy paths be driven.
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Prayer

Dear Father in heaven,

Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to take away all sins. Help us to learn Your Word so that we may spread the Good News of Jesus' saving work to all we meet. In our ascended Jesus' name. Amen.

Answers

Recalling Details

1. Where did Jesus meet with His disciples? **On Mt. Olivet near Bethany**
2. What authority did Jesus claim to be His? **All authority in heaven and on earth**
3. What things did Jesus instruct His disciples to do? **Teach all nations; baptize; preach the Gospel**
4. Where were the disciples supposed to stay? **In Jerusalem**
5. What were they supposed to wait for? **The gift of the Holy Spirit**
6. How did Jesus visibly leave this earth? **He rose into the clouds**
7. Who appeared after Jesus' ascension? **Two angels**
8. What message did they have for the disciples? **Jesus will return**
9. Why is this message also a comfort for us? **Jesus will take us to be with Him some day**
10. What does Jesus want us to do while here on earth? **Preach the gospel to all creatures**

Review Mark each statement as (T) rue or (F) alse.

1. F Jesus and His disciples met at Bethlehem. **(Mt. Olivet near Bethany)**
2. T Jesus rightfully claimed all power in heaven and on earth.
3. T Jesus commanded the disciples to teach all nations.
4. F The disciples were supposed to go out immediately into all the world. **(They were to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit).**
5. F Jesus did not tell the disciples what they were to wait for.
6. T As Jesus ascended, a cloud blocked Him from view.
7. F Two angels told the disciples they would never see Jesus again. **(This same Jesus...)**
8. T The disciples were happy after Jesus' ascension. **(Lk. 24:52, They returned to Jerusalem with great joy)**
9. T Jesus' command to teach all nations is for us also.
10. F We aren't sure how Jesus will return to earth on the Last Day. **(This same Jesus ... will so come in like manner)**