

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Sixteen

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Scripture reading: Luke 24:51; Matt. 26:64; Acts 2:36; 4:12; Eph. 1:22; Phil. 2:9

Burden to Impart:

The children should be impressed that the Lord Jesus ascended to the highest position and authority in the universe. He is above all things, all persons, and every name that is named. He is Lord of all. All things, kings, principalities, powers, demons, and evil spirits (including the Devil) are beneath His feet. Today in the highest heavens, seated in the highest position of honor and authority, at the right hand of God, He is ruling over the whole universe. Especially, He is working in the lives of all of His chosen ones to lead them to salvation and to build them up together in His Body, the church.

Memory Verse: "Men, Galileans, 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 beheld Him going into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

Facts to Teach:

1. After His resurrection, the Lord Jesus remained forty days with His disciples. During that time He showed Himself to them (thus proving that He was really alive), He appeared to them and disappeared (thus training them to live by His invisible presence), and He spoke to them concerning the kingdom of God (to strengthen their understanding) (Acts 1:3).
2. Then one day He led them to Bethany, to the Mount of Olives. He gave them a few final commandments and promises that day. What He said to them He also said to all of us who are His believers.
3. He commanded His disciples to go and preach the gospel, to tell the good news of the forgiveness of sins in His name to all people. He also told them that they should baptize all those who believe in Him and teach them all the things He had commanded. Finally, He gave them one last and great promise: that He would be with them all the days, even to the end of the age. That means He is with us still today!
4. While He was speaking to them, He suddenly began to rise up off the ground and was lifted up into the air. As He was lifted higher and higher a cloud took Him out of their sight.
5. While they were looking intently into heaven, two angels in the form of two men asked them a question, "Men, Galileans, why do you stand looking into heaven?" Then they told the disciples, "This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you beheld Him going into heaven."
6. Now, almost 2,000 years have passed since the Lord Jesus bodily ascended into heaven in the air and in the cloud. We are still awaiting His second coming. As the Lord Jesus told the high priest when He was being judged, afterward He would be "sitting at the right hand of power (God) and coming on the clouds of heaven" (Matt. 26:64).
7. When the Lord Jesus ascended up into the highest heaven, He was highly exalted by God, was made to sit at His right hand, and was crowned with glory and honor. He was made the Head over all things (Eph. 1:22), the Lord of all peoples (Acts 2:36), the King of kings and Lord of lords. Also, He was given a name above every name (Phil. 2:9). One day at the name of Jesus every knee will bow and every tongue will confess, "Jesus Christ is Lord." His precious name (the name of the One who loved us, died for us, and rose again) is the only name given to men to call upon, by which they can be saved (Acts 4:12). How precious, how worthy, how glorious is the name of Jesus!

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Songs for Lesson Sixteen

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Hymns, #1346.

D
Now unto the king eternal, immortal, invisible,
 A D A
 The only wise God, the only wise God,
D A D A
Be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. Amen.
 D A D
 Be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hymns, #132.

G D
Lo! in heaven Jesus sitting,
 D⁷ G
 Christ the Lord is there enthroned;
 G⁷ C
As the man by God exalted,
 G D⁷ G
 With God's glory ever crowned.

He hath put on human nature,
Died according to God's plan,
Resurrected with a body,
And ascended as a man.

Lo! a man is now in heaven
As the Lord of all enthroned;
This is Jesus Christ our Savior,
With God's glory ever crowned.

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

(Story for Lesson 16)

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD JESUS

Memory verse: Men, Galileans, 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 beheld Him going into heaven.
Acts 1:11

Do you think the Lord Jesus was resting for the three nights and three days He was in the grave? No He did something spectacular before He arose and went up to His Father above. He descended down into Hades, deep down in to the lower part of the earth. To the prison-house of death, where the dead wait for the judgment they must face. It is part of Satan's domain, with torments of fire and no water. Those heavy gates and bars are never opened by Satan to his captives but he himself goes in and out.

The Lord Jesus entered this dreadful domain and proclaimed to all those prisoners bound there that He had conquered His enemy, Satan, and all the hosts of evil. It was with great ease that He could leave that dark prison. Nothing could hold Him. He is the God of Light and Life.

Jesus came back to the empty tomb and stood waiting behind Mary. It was a comfort to Him that she had come so early to seek for Him. When she did not know Him through her tears, He spoke her name. And that she could never mistake. She said, "Lord " and reached out in love. He told her to wait until He had ascended to His Father. He left her filled with peace and joy and told her to go to the disciples and tell them He had risen from the dead. Then our Lord ascended to the throne of God.

There is no way for anyone describe that ascension up to The Father. It was through space; trillions of miles through the starry heavens. Much of space is dark, making the stars shine very bright. Up and up the Lord ascended through the skies and stars He had created. They all obey Him and stay in their courses. God's throne is far, far away above the great empty space on the sides of the North (Job 26:7).

After being with the Father He came back to earth to where His own were, in that dimly-lit room. The light of all the world came to them, to comfort them and to assure them that He had truly risen from the dead. Soon they were filled with joy because now they believed. They knew Him, they touched Him. And they all talked together. After He had comforted them He disappeared from them in the same mysterious way He had come into their presence. From that time on, and in many ways, He appeared and then disappeared again from them to teach them to believe that He was always there

with them, they should not see Him with their eyes, but with a heart that believed His own words to them, "LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS."

So for forty days in different circumstances our Lord appeared to many; even once to over 500 disciples. Each time leaving as He had come. One day soon He was going to take from them His visible Presence. When that day arrived He led His disciples out as far as Bethany, not quite three miles outside of Jerusalem, where Mary, Martha and Lazarus lived. This was the home that had meant so much to our Lord, and it was here that our Lord had spent His last few nights before His crucifixion. There He gave His followers His final blessing and command. It was to preach the Gospel: the forgiveness of sins to all the world and to baptize those who believed into the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. The last words they heard Him speak was His promise to be with them all the days, even to the end of the age. This promise is for us now. Then He ascended. Right before their eyes He rose up into heaven, disappearing in a cloud. As they kept gazing upward two angels, in the form of men, told them, "This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him going into heaven." We are still awaiting His return in the same way.

He ascended to the highest position of honor and authority, at the right hand of God to rule over all the universe. Even though He is clothed with such power and majesty, our names are engraved on His heart. As the High priest used to wear the breast-plate of beautiful stones, the Lord Jesus today, bearing us on His heart of love. He watches over us and patiently waits for us to open our heart to Him, to allow Him to come into us. Then the King of Glory will dwell within us forevermore as our Savior and best friend.