

Luke 24:50-53 – The Ascension & Session Of Christ

Introduction

1. *The Lord Of The Rings* – Gandalf and Elrond discuss hope in men
2. Men failed when Adam partook of the forbidden fruit, but the Second Adam succeeded in triumph over temptation and in triumph ascended to attain the throne where He is highly exalted at Gpd's right hand
3. We cannot separate Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection from His ascension and session
 - a. Authority belongs to Christ and is given to us to win His sheep
 - b. All of Jesus' enemies will be put as a stool under His feet
 - c. He has fulfilled and finished the work His Father gave Him to do
 - d. He has received the glory He had in the beginning (**John 17:5**)
4. Jesus challenged His disciples concerning the day of His ascension (**John 6:60-62, 14:2-43, 20:17**)
5. The ascension and session of Christ was part of the Gospel message (**Acts 2:32-35, 1 Timothy 3:16**)
6. The ascension and session of Christ is part of our eternal security (**Romans 8:34-39**); the ascension is not an add-on to the Gospel

Main Idea: Christ's ascension and session was foretold in the Old Testament and Christ's teaching, fulfilled when He was taken up into heaven and seated, exalted at God's right hand, and functions in Christ's priestly and kingly offices. The ascension and session of Christ compels us to be witnesses in the world and unified as a Church body to the glory of God.

The Foretelling Of Christ's Ascension & Session

1. The disciples still expected an earthly kingdom with the physical reign of Jesus on the throne of David (**Acts 1:6-7**)
 - a. The expectation before death and it seems now after death, the disciples expected a Messianic Warlord on earth
2. The Old Testament foretold of Christ's resurrection
 - a. Enoch (**Gen 5:24**) & Elijah (**2 Kings 2:11-12**) both pointed to the ascension of Christ
 - b. David prophesied about his Lord at God's right hand (**Psalms 110:1**)
 - c. Daniel saw visions of the Messiah receiving dominion (**Dan 7:13-14**)
 - d. The Church viewed Deut 32:43 as a direct result of the ascension
 - e. **Pss 47:5, 24:7-10** alludes to Christ's ascension – a Coronation of the King as He ascends to His throne as the world's Sovereign
3. **Psalms 68** is Theologically Precise concerning the Ascension
 - a. **Vs 18** – Paul applies this specifically to Christ's ascension as He sets the captive free & gifts the saints with spiritual graces (**Eph 4**)
 - i. Jesus triumphantly entered Jerusalem, inaugurating His kingship in the city of David
 - ii. Jesus foretold His ascension to Nicodemus (**John 3:13**), He prepared His disciples in the upper room; they were not ready
 - b. **Vss 7-8** – the King would come out of Egypt, establish the Law at Mt Sinai, and establish His throne on Mt Zion; God's holy hill

- i. Psalm 50 showcases the blessings and reverence before the Messianic King who dwells on Zion's holy hill (**Isaiah 8:18**)
4. **Vs 1** - He dwelt within the borders of the Israelite community, and His oath was that His enemies would be scattered
 5. **Vss 19-20** – He would save His people and bestow gifts
 6. **Vs 21** – He would crush the head of the serpent as Zion would become His dwelling place forever
 7. **Vss 24-35** – He would lead a military procession as the Great King who ascends His throne in triumph and victory
 - a. The disciples expected Jesus to be the King who would subdue His enemies, ready for the ax to fall

The Fulfillment Of Christ's Ascension & Session (Lk 24:50-53, Acts 1:9-11)

1. Jesus defied the law of gravity – He suspended nature (walked on water, defied the law of death) – Jesus had full authority over everything
 - a. Jesus is David's shekinah glory cloud lifted into the heavens
2. Jesus' military campaign was to win back the world in His crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, and session – He sat down and made His enemies a footstool
3. What does it mean Jesus ascended to heaven?
 - a. Satan at one time said he would ascend to heaven and be as God
 - b. To ascend means to ascend into the sphere of governance & glory
 - c. Ascension to heaven means to go to a place of sovereign authority
 - d. Jesus, at the Father's right hand, has complete supremacy and governs all things
 - e. Jesus rose visibly – the disciples were eye-witnesses
 - f. Jesus rose bodily – Flesh and blood in a glorified body
 - i. The incarnation is perpetual for all eternity
 - ii. He demonstrated what Adam was to be like
 - g. Jesus rose locally – from earth to heaven
 - h. Jesus rose victoriously – a Fivefold Exaltation (buried in a rich man's tomb, resurrection, ascension, session, second advent)
 - i. Jesus is exalted by God – glorified in heaven (**Phil 2:9-11**)
 - i. All authority is given to Jesus and He now commissions them to be witnesses in all the world; all the families of the earth blessed
4. **Psalms 68:29, 31** - Both the blessed and His enemies bring tribute

The Function Of Christ's Ascension & Session

1. Jesus is the mediator between God and man making intercession for us at the Throne of God (**Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25**)
 - a. Jesus keeps us in the faith, sustains us, preserves & perseveres us
2. Jesus prepares a place for us (**John 14:2-3**); He makes us fit for heaven
3. Jesus pours out the Spirit in order to make us like Him (**John 16:7-11**)
4. Jesus sat down unlike the Levitical priesthood – His work was done!
5. Jesus reigns so we can rest! He was given dominion and power
 - a. Heaven and Earth are His inheritance – and He is above all rule and authority as the King of Righteousness (**Ephesians 1:19-23**)

Application 1. We witness (**Acts 1:8**), 2. We are to be unified (**Eph 4:1-4**)