

June 30, 2019

The Ascension of the Risen Lord

Matthew 28:8-20; Acts 1:9

The Grand Climax

- The significant events of the life of Christ...
- Christ's ascension is the last stage of God's grand work of rescuing and redeeming his people from their sin for his pleasure and glory.
- Apart from the ascension, we would never have experienced the good *finished* work of the cross of Christ as declared in his resurrection.
- It is the result of Christ's ascension that we received the power to be saved and sanctified.

The Ascension

- The word *ascend* simply means to *go up* or to *climb up*.

Ex 19:18 The smoke of it went up [ascended]...

Ps 24:3 Who may ascend [climb up] the hill of the Lord?

- Jesus' going up into heaven.
- Jesus' going up to the *Right Hand of God*.

...the Right Hand of God...>>Acts 2:33; 7:55; Rom. 8:34; Col. 3:1; Heb. 10:12; 1 Peter 3:22
...the Right Hand of the Lord [YHWH]...>>Ps. 118:15,16
...the Right Hand of Power...>>Matt. 26:64
...the Right Hand of the Majesty on High...>>Heb. 1:3
...the Right Hand of the Throne of the Majesty...>>Heb. 8:1
...the Right Hand of the Throne of God...>>Heb. 12:2
...the Right Hand of Him...>>Rev. 5:1,7

- When Jesus was about to be taken up into Heaven [Luke 24:51], He told His disciples:

***Matt 28:18-20** And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to Me..."*

- If Christ is the Incarnate Son of God, how is it that He says He has been given all authority?
- As the eternal Son of God, Who is ever equal with the Father and with the Spirit, He has always possessed all authority in heaven and earth.
- His authority over the created order is clearly demonstrated in His work of creation.

***Gen 1:1-3** In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light'*

John 1:1-3 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made...*

Col 1:16-17 *For by Him all things were created [Gen. 1:3; John 1:3] in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together...*

- He is the Son of God Who possesses the fulness of the Divine Nature and all of the Divine prerogatives equally with the Father and the Spirit.

Heb 1:3 *...He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature...*

- He is the Son of God Who is fully God within Himself but not by Himself.

Heb 1:3 *...[the Son of God] upholds [sustains] the universe by the Word of His [own] power...*

- As the Son of God, He possesses the underived Life of God in Himself (John 5:26; 11:25; 14:6). As the Son of God, He is the exact Image of God:

Col. 1:15 *...[the Son] is the Image of the invisible God...*

John 14:9 *...Whoever has seen me has seen the Father...*

- In this declaration, Christ was speaking about His Incarnational ministry of Redeemer and Savior.
- We remember that John 1:1-3 affirms the Deity of the Son as the Divine Word. But then in v. 14, John announces that the eternal Son, the very Word of God [Heb.1:2] “became flesh and dwelt among us.”

- Why? Because a man sinned [Rom.5:19], in order for God to forgive our sin, another Man had to be our Representative [1 Cor. 15:22] Mediator [1 Tim. 2:5] in order to pay for our sin to redeem us from our sin.
- This means that for the Son of God to be our Redeemer, He had to assume our humanity but without its sin [Heb. 4:15].
- This means that the eternal Son emptied Himself of the USE of His Divine prerogatives and power [Phil. 2:6-8] to be led by the Spirit [Luke 4:1], to live according to His Humanity [...the Son of Man...] rather than to His Divinity.

***John 5:19, 30** Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise... I can do nothing on my own...*

- Therefore, in His Humanity, Christ judicially [2 Cor. 5:21] bore our sin to the cross.

***1 Peter 2:24** He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness...*

- It is obvious that Jesus is not ascending to receive all authority but because He has already been given all authority in Heaven and earth. Therefore, Jesus statement in Matt. 28:18 is the result of what we read in:

***Ps 110:1** the Lord [YHWY] says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand..."*

- Christ as to His Humanity is given to sit at the Father's Right Hand, the position of supreme authority in Heaven and earth (Matt. 22:44; Acts 2:34; Heb. 1:13).
- When did Christ receive this delegated authority?