

August 4, 2019

The Purpose of the Ascension

Luke 24:50-51

- In the ascension of the Son of Man to the Throne, God implements His eternal plan in His people to be consummated with the visible return of Christ at the end of the ages.

Psalm 24 Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully

- Christ fulfilled the eternal purpose of God, that His people would dwell with Him in His presence. This means that we are made fit to enter God's presence only as we enter through Christ Who is the Door [John 10:7] into God's presence, because He is our sinless Substitute [Matt. 26:28; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13; Heb. 9:28; 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18].
- Jesus was qualified to be the Door because He *was the good Shepherd [Who lays] down His life for the sheep* (John 10:11).
 - In His role as King, Christ is the the good Shepherd Who leads His sheep (John 10:27).
 - In His role as Prophet, Christ is the good Shepherd Who is the Word of God to His sheep (John 8:31).

- In His role as Priest, Christ is the good Shepherd Who dies for His sheep (John 1:29; 10:11).
- In each of the roles, Jesus represents the distinct but not separate roles of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:3-14). Therefore, redemption is the Trinitarian work of the One Being of God (Deut. 6:4) participated.

The God/Man is God's Royal Ruler

- Jesus ascends to Heaven to sit on the Throne in fulfillment of God's promise to David to establish the throne of [Solomon's] kingdom forever (2 Sam. 7:13).
- This promise was fulfilled as prefigured in 1 Chron 29:23 when "Solomon sat on the throne of the Lord as king in place of David his father."
- In His ascension, Jesus has become the Man of Heaven or the Heavenly Man.
1 Cor 15:47-49 The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second Man is from Heaven. 48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the Man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the Man of heaven...
- In the ascension of Christ, Jesus now sits on the Throne of God in fulfillment of God's mandate to the 1st Adam in Gen. 1:28.

- As God gave the 1st Adam kingly authority to *subdue* and take *dominion* over the earth [Gen. 1:28], He now gives Jesus, the 2nd Adam, Kingly authority to rule over His creation.
- A picture of the enthronement of Christ:

Gen. 41:39-44 *Then Pharaoh said to Joseph... 40 You shall be [rule] over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you... 41 See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt." 42 Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck. 43 And he made him ride in his second chariot. And they called out before him, "Bow the knee!" [Phil. 2:9-11] Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt. 44 Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no one shall lift up hand or foot in all the land of Egypt*

- What happened when Jesus ascended to Heaven?

Heb 1:3 *...after making purification for sins, He sat down at the Right Hand of the Majesty on High...*

Heb 10:12 *...when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the Right Hand of God...*

Rev 3:21 *...[I] sat down with My Father on His Throne...*

- Now from the Throne of God, Christ will exercise His Royal authority over all the creation.