

August 11, 2019

The Necessity of the Ascension

Luke 24:50-51

- The Son came into the world to perform the work that the Father had given him (John 17:4).
- In Christ, God was reclaiming his rule over the cosmos and his captured people.

Ps. 2:7-8 I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord [YHWH]: He said to Me, 'You are My Son [Luke 3:22; 2 Sam. 12:25], Today I have begotten You. 8 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession...

- In this gathering, the glory of God's rule over his creation and his people as intended in Adam will be re-established.

Gen. 1:28 Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over...the earth

- But Adam deliberately rejected God's rule by bowing to Satan's temptation (Gen. 3:6). He surrendered his royal authority, and Satan became the "god of his world" (2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2) so that all humanity became "captured by Satan to do his will" (2 Tim. 2:26) rather than the will of their benevolent Creator.

Rom. 1:21-32 *For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles... 24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves...26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions... 28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind... 32 Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them...*

- Therefore, for God's rule to be reestablished in his people, Jesus had to earn the right to be God's Ruler over the creation.

- Now, from his Heavenly Throne, Jesus will exercise his royal rule over the creation by sending the Holy Spirit as the Father's Divine Agent to establish the Kingdom of God upon the earth.

- After receiving the Father's affirmation (Matt. 3:17), Jesus confronted the deceiver in the wilderness to be tempted in three areas as recorded in Matthew 4:
 - 1st in v. 3, for his own personal interest
 - 2nd in v. 7 to test the Father's faithfulness
 - 3rd in v. 9 for the interests of his people

- The essence of these temptations was the same as in the original temptation. In each, Christ would be *grasping* to use his divine authority rather than humbling himself by submitting to the divine authority of the Spirit.

- Then, after three years of serving God as Adam should have done, the final and great confrontation occurs as Jesus faces the horror of the cross.

John 12:31 ...now will the ruler of this world be cast out...

John 14:30 ...the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me...

- He has no ground for accusation (Rev. 12:10) because Jesus is without sin (Heb. 4:15).

2 Cor 5:19-21 God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, [HOW] not counting their trespasses against them ... [WHEN] 21 For our sake [God the Father] made [the Humanity of Christ] to be sin Who knew no sin [Heb. 4:15], so that in [united to] Him [by the new birth] we might become the Righteousness of God

Heb. 2:14 ...through death [Christ] might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery...

- How Jesus disarmed Satan:

Col 2:13-15 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him...

- As a result of the victory of Jesus in overcoming the wrath of God and Satan's authority, we can say with Paul:

***1 Cor 15:57** ...thanks be to God, Who gives [Eph. 2:8; Rom. 3:24,28] us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ...*

- Having been crowned King of kings and Lord of lords. with glory and honor (Heb. 2:7), Jesus will confer the blessings of His inheritance (Ps. 2:7-8) upon His people (Col. 1:12).