

The Miracles of Jesus

Lesson Forty-Three

The Ascension of Jesus

Text: Mark 16:19-20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11

Introduction:

1. After His resurrection and appearances to His disciples, Jesus' time on earth was at an end.
2. It was time for Him to return to where He was before He came into this world (John 17:5).
3. The ascension of Jesus is an important miracle at the end of Jesus' earthly sojourn.

I. The Miracle

- A. Mark says that Jesus was "received up into heaven."
 1. The Greek word literally means "to be taken up" or "to take up" (cf. John 14:17; Acts 10:16; Ephesians 6:13, 16).
 2. Luke uses a different Greek word that means "to carry up" or "to bear up."
 3. Furthermore, Luke says that He was parted (removed, separated) from them.
 4. In Acts, Luke uses a word that means "to lift up" or "to raise up." {*It is the same word for when Jesus "lifted up" His hands.*}
- B. Thus, Jesus was miraculously lifted up from the earth and taken up into Heaven.
- C. This was an actual, historic event.
 1. Jesus ascended 40 days after His resurrection (Acts 1:2-3).
 2. Jesus ascended from the Mount of Olives (Luke 24:50; Acts 1:12).
 3. Jesus ascended before witnesses (Acts 1:9-10).
- D. As He ascended and the apostles watched, a cloud "received Him out of their sight."
 1. Literally, He was taken under a cloud.
 2. This word for cloud is also used in reference to the cloud that led the children of Israel in the wilderness (1 Corinthians 10:1-2).
 3. It is used for the bright cloud on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:5).
 4. It is used for the cloud of judgment on which Jesus rides (Matthew 24:30; 26:64).
 5. It is used for the clouds in which Jesus will return at the end of time (Revelation 1:7; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

II. The Manifestation

- A. The ascension of Jesus proves His deity (Psalm 24:7-10; John 6:56-62; 20:17).
- B. The ascension of Jesus proves the beginning of His kingdom (Daniel 7:13-14; Luke 19:12-15; Ephesians 1:20-23; Revelation 1:9; Hebrews 12:28; 1 Corinthians 15:24-26).

III. The Message

- A. Jesus finished (accomplished) the work of God (John 17:4-5; 19:30)
- B. Now, He would send the Holy Spirit to complete God's revelation (John 16:7, 13; 14:26).
- C. Now, He would mediate for man as our great High Priest and Advocate (Hebrews 7:23-25; 9:6-15, 24; 1 John 2:1; 1 Timothy 2:5).
- D. He charted the course for man to follow (Hebrews 2:10; 6:17-20) and now would prepare a place for the faithful (John 14:1-6; Revelation 3:20-21).
- E. He waits for the time appointed to return as Judge to carry His faithful home forever!