

WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST

Acts 1:4-11, 9

The ascension of Christ is one of the greatest events ever to happen, and yet so little is said about it. Let's look at some great truths linked to the Ascension of Christ.

THE FIRST WAVE OF SAVED PEOPLE ENTER HEAVEN

OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS DID NOT GO TO HEAVEN WHEN THEY DIED

They went to Paradise, also called Abraham's bosom

When Lazarus died he went to Paradise

When Jesus died on the cross, He went to paradise

When the thief on the cross died, he went to paradise

It was their city of refuge, where they waited for the death of the High Priest

The reason was because their sins were not yet atoned for

But after His death their sins were covered and were able to enter into the presence of God

EPHESIANS 4:8-10

Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive

Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things

NOTICE THAT THE ASCENDING AND THE DESCENDING ARE LINKED TOGETHER

He first descended, then he ascended and led captivity captive

Those in captivity are believes who died in the Old Testament

They did not go to Heaven when Christ died. They ascended when Christ ascended

HERE IS THE ORDER OF EVENTS

Death

Burial, and while in the grave, he went and set the captives free

When he arose, they arose

Mat 27:52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,

Mat 27:53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

Ascension. When He ascended, they ascended

HIS DEATH KEPT THEM OUT OF HELL AND HIS ASCENSION TOOK THEM TO HEAVEN

And His ascension kept you out of hell, and you go to Heaven because He ascended to Heaven

The Old Testament Saints won't get to heaven before Him

He is the first fruits of them that believe

THE PRESENT WORK OF CHRIST AS MEDIATOR IS BECAUSE OF THE ASCENSION

JESUS IS OUR INTERCESSOR, AND OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

He ascended back to Heaven and is set down on the right hand of God

We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous

He ever liveth to make intercession for us

Hebrews says that He appeared in the presence of God for us all

HIS ASCENSION KEEPS YOU SAVED

When He ascended the first thing He did was sprinkle His blood on the mercy seat which is in Heaven

And like the Priests would enter into the Holy of holies, and make atonement for the people, so Christ entered into Heaven for us

When He said, it is finished, He meant that all prophesies were fulfilled. He did not mean that His work was done

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS BECAUSE OF THE ASCENSION

VERSES

Verse 5 Jesus said, ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence

Verse 8, Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you

John 16:7 says, Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST, THE HOLY SPIRIT WOULD NOT BE HERE

We need the dear Holy Spirit to win souls, to live right, and to be encouraged

There is a link between the going of Christ and the coming of the Holy Ghost

THERE IS A LINK BETWEEN THE ASCENSION AND THE SECOND COMING

VERSE 11, THIS SAME JESUS SHALL SO COME IN LIKE MANNER

He went up bodily; He's coming back bodily

He went up in plain view; He's coming again in plain view

He left His disciples; He's coming for His disciples

He left from the Mt of Olives; He's going to return to the same Mount

TWO ANGELS SAID, WHY STAND YE HERE GAZING

To many of us are gazing, rather than doing what he has called us to do

The ascension means, get busy for God