

**(These are the sermon notes used to preach with)**

**Post-Resurrection**

Last week was Easter and we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus.

What happened to Jesus after the resurrection? Did the credits role? Did they pack up and wait to celebrate next Easter? Is He still roaming the earth? Is He hiding in a secret location? Is He hovering in some space reserved for disembodied souls? Is He on another planet? Where is he right now? Did He live for a while and then die in secret?

Today we are going to look at what happened to Jesus after the resurrection.

Read Luke 24 (Don't read 50-51)

**What can we observe about Jesus after the resurrection?**

Jesus can walk- Luke 24:15

Jesus can talk- Luke 24:17

Jesus can teach –Luke 24:25-27

Jesus can be known- Luke 24:30-31

Jesus can be seen- Luke 24:31

Jesus is mobile- Luke 24:31, 36

Often when you hear or read about Jesus' resurrected body you hear that He could walk through walls and appear and disappear at will. What does the Bible say?

-Vanished or disappeared is only used here in the NT, but it is found in a writing from 60-30 B.C., a historian Diodorus Siculus used this word to describe a man and his chariot who fell into a chasm and “disappeared from sight” also he also talked about Atlas who was blown off a mountaintop by high winds and “disappeared.” In both of these instances it does not mean the person became immaterial or invisible only that they were moved out of sight.

-Doors being locked: John 20:19, 26, it does not say He walked through the closed door or the walls, Acts 5:19, 23 Angels opened the doors, Acts 12:6-10, Angels escorted Peter out of prison and chains and gates opened freely. Jesus walked on water before the resurrection John 6:16-21. Let's not make big jumps when the Text doesn't go there, He could have walked through walls but it doesn't say.

Jesus has hands and feet- Luke 24:39

Jesus can be touched- Luke 24:39

Jesus has flesh and bones –Luke 24:39

Jesus is the same person as before- Luke 24:39

Jesus is not a ghost - Luke 24:37, 39

Jesus has the marks of crucifixion- Luke 24:40

Jesus can eat - Luke 24:41-43

Jesus has a memory- Luke 24:44, compare Luke 9:22, 44-45

Jesus can bring understanding- Luke 24:45

Jesus is the Christ- Luke 24:44, 46

Jesus is the peace of the world- Luke 24:47

Jesus knows what's going on in time and space- Luke 24:48

Jesus has the power to have the Holy Spirit sent- Luke 24:49, John 7:38-39, 14:26

Jesus knows the future – Luke 24:49, Pentecost

Summary: From Luke we see that Jesus was a real physical person with intellect, past memories, and was recognizable. Jesus wasn't some sort of ghost or spiritual resurrection of the heart in the lives of the believers but a literal physical person. But it is also imperishable 1 Cor 15:42.

### Transition

So post-resurrection Jesus ate, walked, talked and taught with His disciples.

### **Then what happened to Him.**

Did the credits role? Did they pack up and wait to celebrate next Easter? Is He still roaming the earth? Is He hiding in a secret location? Is He hovering in some space reserved for disembodied souls? Is He on another planet?

Jesus ascended to heaven-Luke 24:50-53

### Acts 1:1-11-Read

Jesus was here on earth for 40 days after His resurrection, Acts 1:3

### **? Did Jesus go to heaven in bodily form before the 40 days?**

We know He told the thief on the cross, “today you will be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:43) but that was pre-resurrection, before He was raised from the dead.

And Paul says that he “would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord” (2 Cor 5:8) showing the state of those who die in the Lord.

But did Jesus go to heaven in bodily form at some point before the 40 day mark?

John 20:17 “Do not cling to me” *KJV*, “Touch me not.” This leads some to think that She would defile Jesus before He went to heaven that day. The trouble with this is Christ’s invitation to have Thomas touch His side 20:27. It is best understood as “Stop clinging to me. There is no need for this, for I am not yet at the point of permanent ascension. You will have opportunity of seeing me.”<sup>1</sup> The most favorable translation of this present imperative with a negative is “Stop clinging to me” and not, “Do not begin to touch me.”<sup>2</sup>

“I have not yet ascended to the Father” – **perfect** — The verb tense used by the writer to describe a completed verbal action that occurred in the past but which produced a state of being or a result that exists in the present.<sup>3</sup> A past action with ongoing results. “for I am not yet at the point of permanent ascension.” Or “I have not yet entered into an ascended state.”

“I am ascending to My Father” this is in the present tense. This may denote future action, it is with the thought either of imminence or certainty.<sup>4</sup> It’s a done deal about to take place. I’m doing it.

Why such certainty?

Prediction of ascension John 6:62, 7:33, 16:5,10, 16, 17, 28.; Luke 9:51

What this verse doesn’t tell us is that Jesus ascended on Easter.

John 20:19 also shows that Jesus appeared to the disciples on Easter night so if He did ascend that day He came back that evening.

Conclusion: John 20:30, 21:25: it is not recorded in detail what Jesus did for the 40 days post-resurrection but there is no clear expression from Scripture that He

<sup>1</sup> Leon Morris, *The Gospel according to John*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995), 742–743.

<sup>2</sup> Leon Morris, *The Gospel according to John*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995), 742.

<sup>3</sup> Michael S. Heiser and Vincent M. Setterholm, *Glossary of Morpho-Syntactic Database Terminology* (Lexham Press, 2013; 2013).

<sup>4</sup> Leon Morris, *The Gospel according to John*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995), 743.

ascended and descend from heaven multiple times. The one clear expression that tells us when Jesus Ascended to heaven is Acts 1:3.

### **What was the ascension like?**

-It was public –Acts 1:9 “and they were looking on”

-It was a passive action of Christ Acts 1:9 “He was lifted up,” ἐπήρθη, (*epērhē*), conveys the thought “to put your hands under something and to lift or to hoist something from one place to another.”

This language connotes the literal removal of an object from one place to another. It is in the passive form and makes clear that the ascension is upward and that the Father is taking His Son to heaven. Christ is not flying superman style but God is acting upon Him.

-“a cloud took him,”<sup>9</sup> ὑπέλαβεν, (*hupelaben*), gives the impression that the cloud went under Jesus and supported Him.

-It was travel. 10“As He went,” πορευομένου, (*poreuomenou*), means “to proceed from one place to another.” It was a common word meaning to pursue a journey which would lead to the conclusion that the ascension is regarded as a departure from earth and also a journey to heaven. not merely a disappearance or a change of state, but an actual transmission from earth to heaven.

-It started on Earth- Acts 1:11, 12, Luke 24:50-51

-It ended in Heaven Acts 1:11

The ascent was

1. Gradual
2. Visible
3. public
3. Bodily
4. Received with clouds
5. Started on earth
6. Ended in Heaven

Conclusion: The literal God-man Jesus was taken physically to heaven, this is His ascension.

### **The significance of the ascension- Walvoord**

#### **The ascension of Jesus Christ is significant for at least 3 reasons:**

1) It marked the final transition from Christ's humiliation to exaltation. He went from humble servant to exalted Lord –

-Phil 2:6-11

There is a difference between ascension and exaltation -Walvoord

A distinction is made between "Jesus ascended into heaven" and "Jesus was exalted by God the Father." The Ascension is the removal of the resurrected body of Jesus from earth into the immediate presence of God. The exaltation is the Father's placing His incarnate Son in the position of His Vice-regent. Exaltation presupposes both resurrection and ascension; but it is not the sum of them. Rather, exaltation emphasizes what actually happened to the Word made flesh as He entered heaven: He sat at God's right hand.

Acts 2:22-36

Exaltation: Eph 1:20-22,

Glorification: John 17:5 " And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed."

Rev 5

Heb 10:12

1 Peter 3:22

Exaltation normally refers to an event in which someone is raised to a position of importance, glory, or public esteem. Jesus' exaltation is that act of God whereby Jesus was raised from death itself, through resurrection and ascension to the position of preeminence in the cosmos and heaven, to share in the power and glory of the Father, and to sit at the right hand of the Father as His Vice-regent.

#### **2)The second reason the ascension of Jesus Christ is significant**

##### **-Is it marked the entrance of resurrected humanity in heaven;**

This was the first time ever a resurrected man entered heaven. His ascension refers to His going up into the sky. It is the opposite of descent. In the New Testament, Jesus' incarnation is described in terms of descent, the eternal Son of God came *down* from heaven to become man. So in the Ascension Jesus went up in the

sense that He went from man's place (earth) to God's place (heaven). He is now wholly and totally removed from the world of time and space and is present in heaven in the closest possible proximity to the eternal Father. Christ is our forerunner and the first fruits, we shall bear the image of the man of heaven 1 Cor 15:49. Through Christ there is now a way for man to be with God.

### **3) The third reason the ascension of Christ is significant**

**- is it began His present work in heaven.** He is not sitting around.

He was able to send the Holy Spirit, John 16:7

-Beginning of the church Matt 16: 18;

-Baptize believers into the body 1 Cor 12:13

-To receive witnessing power Acts 1:8, Luke 24:49

Jesus is head of His the body the church

- Eph 1:22-23

Jesus is sanctifying the church

-Eph 5:26

Jesus is nourishing and cherishing the church

-Eph 5:29

Jesus gives gifts to the body for maturing

-Eph 4:9-14

Jesus is the vine and we are the branches-He is empowering the church

-John 15:1-10

-We abide by keeping His commandments, 1 John 3:24

Jesus is our Shepherd and we are His sheep

-John 10:1-21, He provides and protects and we need to follow Him.

Jesus is our cornerstone and we are being built up together into a dwelling place for God

-Eph 2:20-22 We should dwell in unity.

Jesus is our great High priest

-He sympathizes with our weaknesses Heb 4:15

-He is able to help us when we are being tempted Heb 2:18

-He intercedes for us Heb 7:25, Rom 8:34

If Jesus' heavenly intercessions are like His earthly ones -John 17

- Pleads the cause of His righteousness for believers who have sinned
- Beseeches the Father that we might be sanctified and kept from the evil one

Jesus is preparing a place for us

-John 14:1-3

Jesus is Lord and we are His slaves

-He purchased us

“If Christ’s lordship is to be a reality, obedience to the inscripturated Word of God is indispensable. No amount of church attendance, Christian stewardship, prayer, Bible reading, or any other Christian responsibilities of themselves will accomplish the goal. Only as the child of God knows, loves, and obeys the written Word of God will the Son of God be Lord of life.”-Robert Lightner

-1 John 2:3-6 (4) “Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”

## **Conclusion**

The 3 significant reasons for Christ’s ascension are

- 1) It marked the final transition from Christ’s humiliation to exaltation. He went from humble servant to exalted Lord
- 2) It marked the entrance of resurrected humanity in heaven;
- 3) It began His present work in heaven.

**Will Jesus be in His current heavenly state forever?** (No, one day He will claim His rightful rule as King of the earth and rule with a rod of iron)

Acts 1:11-12-He will return to the Mount of Olives, cloud

Rev 19:11-16

Zech 14:1-5 Mt of Olives

Rev 1:7 cloud

Matt 24:30 cloud

Christ remains in heaven until the Jews believe and the Fullness of the gentiles is complete Rom 11:25

Acts 3:21 heaven must receive until the Jews receive Christ as lord, their hearts will change Zech 12:10, John 19:37 look on him whom they pierced. Romans 11:26, isa 53 is going to be their confession, Matt 23:39 blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Conclusion:** The tomb is empty the Lord is raised but the story isn't over. He has ascended to the right hand of the Father, rules as head of the church until the appointed day in which He will return and judge the world and rule as king. Jesus is alive and well. Is He Lord to you? Are you ready for His return? Be ready.