

THE IMPLICATION OF HIS ASCENSION

Matthew 28:16-20 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. v17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. v18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. v19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, v20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Mark 16:19-20 After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. v20 Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

Luke 24:50-53 When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. v51 While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. v52 Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. v53 And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

Acts 1:1-11 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach v2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. v3 After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. v4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. v5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." v6 So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" v7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. v8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." v9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. v10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. v11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

There are seven IMPLICATIONS our Lord's ascension has on us as BELIEVERS.

1. The Ascension of the Lord Jesus FORCES US TO LIVE BY FAITH

*Matthew 28:16-20 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. v17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; **but some doubted.***

It was easy to follow the Lord while they could see him, when he was resurrected, Jesus was no longer physically with them.

2. The Ascension of the Lord Jesus PLACES THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOSPEL ON US

*Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. v19 **Therefore go and make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, v20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you..*

The literal translation of v19 is ""When you have gone". There is no debate whether we should be telling others about Jesus. The implication of not telling others is DISOBEDIENCE!!!

3. The Ascension of the Lord Jesus GUARANTEES AUTHORITY FROM THE HIGHEST SOURCE

*Matthew 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.**"*

*Mark 16:19-20 After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and **he sat at the right hand of God.***

Much has been said about the visit of Pres Ramaphosa and Pres Trump. WHY WAS THE MEETING IMPORTANT? The HIGHEST OFFICE of the RSA met the HIGHEST OFFICE of the USA.

When we go out we go in the AUTHORITY of the HIGHEST OFFICE POSSIBLE!!!

4. The Ascension of the Lord Jesus SETS THE TONE OF THE CHURCH FOR ETERNITY

*Luke 24:50-53 When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. v51 While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. v52 Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem **with great joy.** v53 And they stayed **continually** at the temple, **praising God.***

Acts 1:v1 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

The focus of the true Christian is no longer on earth. The focus of the true believer is "PERHAPS TODAY"!!!

5. The Ascension of the Lord Jesus PROVIDES PERMANENT PRESENCE

*Matthew 28:20 And surely **I am with you always**, to the very end of the age."*

*Mark 16:20 Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, **and the Lord worked with them** and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.*

*Acts 1:4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, **but wait for the gift my Father promised**, which you have heard me speak about. ...v8 But you will receive power when the **Holy Spirit comes on you;***

By giving us the Holy Spirit, Jesus has given HIMSELF to us. In the marriage vow we give ourselves to each other, UNTIL DEATH DO US PART. In Christ, death does not separate us, it simply opens the door to ongoing relationship of eternal presence.