

The Ascension of our Lord

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In our meeting this month we reflect on the Ascension of our Lord; the culmination of our recent reflections following His:

- **Birth:** conceived of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was the Son of God; born of the virgin Mary, He was the Son of Man. Two natures, truly God and truly Man, who was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.
- **Death:** Jesus paid in full the account demanded by the nature of a righteous (just) God for the sins of the world.
- **Resurrection:** showed that His sacrifice was full, perfect and sufficient and accepted of God.

SCRIPTURE VERSES

- [Luke 24:50-53](#)

24⁵⁰ And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. ⁵¹ And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: ⁵³ And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

- [John 14:2; 16:7](#)

14² In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 16⁷ 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.

- [Acts 1:9; 2:33](#)

1⁹ And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. 2³³ Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

- [Romans 8:34](#)

8³⁴ Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

- [Eph 4:8](#)

4⁸ Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

- [1 Pet 3:22](#)

3²² Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

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DISCUSSION THOUGHTS:

1. What is the meaning and importance of the ascension of Jesus?
2. In light of the scripture verses reflect on the following:
 - It signaled the end of His earthly ministry. God the Father had lovingly sent His Son into the world at Bethlehem, and now the Son was returning to the Father. The period of human limitation was at an end.
 - It signified the completion of His earthly work. All that He had come to do, He had accomplished.
 - It marked the return of His heavenly glory. Jesus' glory had been veiled during His sojourn on earth, with one exception: the Transfiguration [Matt 17:1-9](#)
 - It symbolized His exaltation by the Father [Eph 1:20-23](#). The One with whom the Father is well pleased [Matt 17:5](#) was received up in honour and given a name above all names [Phil 2:9](#).
 - It allowed Him to prepare a place for us [John 14:2](#).
 - Tyndale New Testament commentary on John 4:2
 - See [John 17:24](#) , [John 14:23](#) , [2 Cor 5:1-2](#)
 - Was this in Paul's thoughts in [1 Thess 4:16-18](#) ?
 - It was the beginning of His work as High Priest [Heb 4:14-16](#) and Mediator of the New Covenant [Heb 9:15](#).
 - It set the pattern for His return. When Jesus comes to set up the Kingdom, He will return just as He left literally, bodily, and visibly in the clouds [Acts 1:11](#) , [Dan 7:13-14](#) , [Matt 24:30](#); [Rev 1:7](#).
3. How does, or should, the ascension of our Lord translate into our lives today?
[Phil 4:4-8](#) , Ven Clive Mansell, Archbishop of Tonbridge