

## Basic Bible Doctrine Lesson 12

### **The Ascension** 8-28-2011

#### 1. Review

The bodily resurrection. Jesus still has a body.

#### 2. Introduction

- a. What is the dominate image you have of Jesus Christ
  - i. May generally assess spiritual maturity
- b. Baby in Manger- incarnation
- c. On the Cross- no longer dead
- d. Resurrected Christ- speaks peace to disciples and great commission
- e. The Ascension- seated at the right hand of God, ruling his Church and awaiting the day to come forth in power to judge the living and the dead.

The N.T. refers to the ascension of Christ in many places.

- Anticipatory manner Jn 6:62; Jn 20:17
- The actual ascent Acts 1:9; Mark 16:19; Lk 24:51
- Where he is seated Ro 8:34; Col 3:1
- His present position in heaven  
Heb 1:3; 6:20; 8:1; 9:12,24; 10:12; 12:2; 13:20

The fact that the ascension is mentioned in so many places is a clear indication of its importance.

But that does not tell us why it is important or how it relates to us.

The verses we have just read do give us an explanation of the meaning of the ascension in 3 main areas.

These are framed in the Apostles' Creed

“He **ascended** into heaven and **sitteth on the right hand** of God the Father Almighty from thence he shall come **to judge** the quick and the dead.”

### 3. The Ascension      “He ascended into heaven...

#### a. Preparing a Place      Jn 14:2,3

One thing that is suggested by the ascension is that heaven is a real place

Jesus is going to prepare a place for us.

Revelation refers to a city with streets paved with gold whose foundations are massive where the light never ceases to shine.

- Not necessarily an actual city
- Symbolic language
- City.....speaks of a place to belong
- Foundations.....convey the idea of permanence
- Gold suggests that which is precious
- Light speaks of the eternal presence and enjoyment of God by his people

Heaven is impossible to grasp entirely but we do know that just as

- Jesus became and remains the God-man for eternity
- We will have bodies in the resurrection
- Our bodies will be like Christ’s resurrected body, ie move thru closed doors
- Still they will be real bodies, whatever their mysterious characteristics
- AS BODIES THEY HAVE TO BE SOMEWHERE.....HEAVEN IS THE PLACE
- Presumably, we will be able to move freely about the universe.

As well as preparing a place for us, the ascension of Christ speaks to us of his present work.

#### b. His Present Work

i. Sending the Holy Spirit      Jn 16:7

ii. Intercession as our High Priest      Hebrews

### 4. Sits at Gods’ right hand

#### a. Position of honor

i. Heb 1:3

ii. Phil 2:5-11

**Cont'd** Sits at God's Right hand

b. Speaks of the Lord's present authority over heaven and earth

i. Matthew 28: 18-20 **ALL**

1. **In Heaven**

a. Eph 6:12

2. **On Earth**

a. All his creatures and all their actions.

i. Believers

ii. Unbelievers

iii. Parents, children, city, county, state, nation

HIS RESURRECTION DEMONSTRATES HIS AUTHORITY OVER ANY POWER THAT CAN POSSIBLY BE IMAGINED

5. He shall **come to judge** the quick and the dead (closed with this last week)

a. Acts 17:31

b. Heb 9:26,27

c. 2Thess 1:7-9

Close in Prayer