



*The* SIGNIFICANCE  
*of the* ASCENSION

# Acts 1:1-11

<sup>1</sup> In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering, he presented himself to them 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. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

<sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

**<sup>7</sup> He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> 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.” <sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.**

**<sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> “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.”**

***“This is the event which confirms the grace of all the events together. For unless the Savior had ascended into Heaven, his Nativity would have come to nothing and his Passion would have borne no fruit for us and his most Holy Resurrection would have been useless.”***

***Augustine of Hippo***



# THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ  
his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived  
by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
the third day he rose  
from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand  
of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come  
to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

## **Significance # 1:**

**The Ascension of Jesus Christ  
is the confirmation that Heaven is a reality –  
Heaven is a *real place***

***“I am going there to prepare a place for you.”  
Jesus, John 14:2***

## **Significance # 2:**

**The Ascension of Jesus Christ is the assurance that we have One who pleads our cause in Heaven in the presence of God the Father Almighty**

**For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,  
so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things  
done while in the body, whether good or bad.**

**2 Corinthians 5:10**

**But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on  
the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken.**

**Matthew 12:36**



**Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.**

**Romans 8:34**

**But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 1 John 2:1**

**Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Hebrews 7:25**

**Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:14-16**

***“Therefore the Ascension of Jesus Christ to God’s right hand inaugurates the eternal intercessory work of Christ and thus guarantees that we will always have saving and sympathetic access to the Father forever.”***

***John Piper***

## **Significance # 3: In the Ascension Jesus sends the Spirit**

**Now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. John 16:5-7**

## **Significance # 4:**

**The Ascension verifies the unending authority and power of Jesus.**

**But when this priest (Jesus) had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. Hebrews 10:12-14**

**Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

**Philippians 2:9-11**

**That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.**

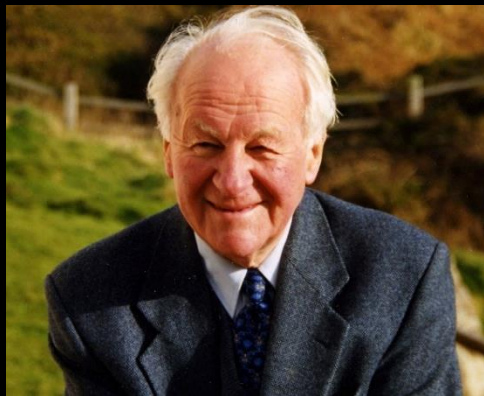
**Ephesians 1 :20-23**

## **Significance # 5:**

**The Ascension of Jesus Christ to the right hand of God the Father (from whence he will judge the living and the dead) is the reminder that history has a good ending!**

**We are people of profound hope in the grace and justice of God.**





*“There was something fundamentally abnormal about their gazing up into the sky when they had been commissioned to go to the ends of the earth. It was the earth – not the sky – which was to be their preoccupation. Their calling was to be*

*witnesses not stargazers. The vision they were to cultivate was not upwards in nostalgia to the heaven which had received Jesus, but outward in compassion to a lost world which needed him. It is the same for us! We have work to do in the power of the Spirit on behalf of our Ascended Lord.”*

*John Stott*