

A person stands on a grassy hill at night, looking up at the Milky Way galaxy in a starry sky over a mountain range. The scene is illuminated by the soft glow of the galaxy and the distant stars, creating a sense of awe and wonder. The person is silhouetted against the bright light of the galaxy, which is visible as a dense band of stars and dust stretching across the sky. The mountains in the background are dark and silhouetted against the light of the galaxy, adding depth to the landscape. The overall mood is contemplative and spiritual, emphasizing the vastness of the universe and the human connection to it.

THIS IS
Our God

Look Up!

Acts 1:1-11

¹ “In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ 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.

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. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

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

⁷ He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ 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.”

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

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

WHY DO WE LOOK UP?

*The ascension is the enactment
and deposit of God's promised
justice (Daniel 7:13-14).*

Daniel 7:13-14

¹³ “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.
¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

WHY DO WE LOOK UP?

The ascension is the present reality of Jesus Christ who is ministering even now (Romans 8:31-34).

Romans 8:31-34

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ 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.

WHY DO WE LOOK UP?

*The reality of Jesus is the present
reality of our story.*

WHAT DO I SEE WHEN
I LOOK UP?

*A real, flesh-and-blood human
being (Hebrews 2:5-14)*

Hebrews 2:5-14, Jesus Made Fully Human

⁵ It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. ⁶ But there is a place where someone has testified:

“What is mankind that you are mindful of them,
a son of man that you care for him?

⁷ You made them a little lower than the angels;
you crowned them with glory and honor

⁸ and put everything under their feet.”

In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them.⁹ But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰ In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.

¹¹ Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.

¹² He says,

“I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the assembly I will sing your praises.”

¹³ And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again he says,

“Here am I, and the children God has given me.”

¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

WHAT DO I SEE WHEN
I LOOK UP?

An effective priest
(Hebrews 1:3b, 10:11-14)

Hebrews 1:3b

After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Hebrews 10:11-14

¹¹ “Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. ¹⁴ For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

WHAT DO I SEE WHEN
I LOOK UP?

Heaven's Host
(Acts 7:54-56)

Acts 7:54-56

⁵⁴ When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

“But as in the persecutions that which happen from time to time, so also then God will permit these things, not because He lacks power to stop them, but because according to His custom He will through patience crown His own champions like He did His prophets and Apostles; to the end that having toiled for a little while they may inherit the eternal kingdom of heaven.”

CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA (313-386)

WHAT ABOUT WHEN
I DON'T SEE?

(Acts 1:9)