

The Ascension of Jesus Christ

Acts 1:1-11

Introduction

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Look here and throughout for the hand of the divine in seamless continuity.

I. The Foundation of Jesus Christ

“In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen” (Acts 1:1-2).

The disciples, who witnessed Jesus perform miracles, were taught directly by Him.

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you” (John 14:26).

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you” (John 16:13-14).

Jesus Christ alone provides the unshakable foundation for the continuing work of His beloved Church.

“For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:11).

“This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone” (4:11).

Jesus taught the apostles *all truth* necessary to carry on the work of building His Church by the power of His Holy Spirit.

“And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18).

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone” (Ephesians 2:19-20).

Spirit-filled, Bible-illuminated believers today are the continuation of the ongoing work of Jesus Christ.

John 17:3-8, 18-21, 23

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father" (John 14:12).

"For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:9-11).

"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11-13).

II. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

"To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God" (Acts 1:3).

Jesus provided irrefutable evidence of being made alive after His death.

"by many proofs"

Luke 24:44-47

Jesus continued to manifest an abundance of evidence of His resurrection long after His ascension.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

"Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed" (1 Corinthians 15:11).

III. The Witness of Jesus Christ

"And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, 'you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.' So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?' He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth'" (Acts 1:4-8).

"You are witnesses of these things " (Luke 24:48).

The idea of all believers serving as witnesses for Jesus Christ is prominent in the book of Acts.

"So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?' He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority'" (vv6-7).

The apostles still held the belief in an earthly kingdom and reign of Jesus Christ.

"they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately" (Luke 19:11).

"But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only" (Matthew 24:36; also Mark 13:32).

Anxiety comes when we neglect our responsibilities and begin to relieve God of His.

Now, by the authority in the inspired Word of God that we have been given, *we are His witnesses.*

IV. The Ascension of Jesus Christ

"And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9).

Acts 2:32-36

Ephesians 1:19-21

V. The Promised Return of Jesus Christ

"And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven'" (Acts 1:10-11).