

THOUGHTS ON THE ASCENSION OF JESUS

Acts 1:7-14

Between Jesus' resurrection appearances and Pentecost the disciples were witnesses to Jesus' ascension back into heaven - back to Father God. It is good to take time to consider why He went back and the significance for those early disciples and for us.

1 To represent us before Father

Romans 8:34 "Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised— who is at **the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.**"

Hebrews 6:20 "where Jesus has gone as a forerunner **on our behalf**, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek."

Hebrews 7:25 "Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since **he always lives to make intercession for them.**"

1 John 2:1 " My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, **we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.**"

He is saying to us "I remember you and am praying for you" "I know what it's like"

2 To release Holy Spirit in fullness

John 14:16-18 "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you **another Helper, to be with you for ever,**¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

Acts 1:8 " 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."

Galatians 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. . . **If we live by the Spirit let us also walk by the Spirit.**"

As Jesus goes Holy Spirit will come and be available to all. The call is to be witnesses throughout the world and for this we need power.

He is saying to us " Don't just stand there". "Receive and live by my Spirit"

Go with the flow - receive gifts and grow fruit

To rule and reign

Hebrews 1:3

*"He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he **sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high**"*

Rev 5:12 *"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, **to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!**"*¹³ *And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be **blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever!**"*¹⁴ *And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshipped."*

Ephesians 2:4-7 *"God . . . because of the great love with which he loved us . . . , made us alive together with Christ . . . ⁶ and **raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,** ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus."*

He is LORD. He has all things under His feet. He is ruling and reigning in heaven.

He is receiving and accepting worship.

We are invited to join in. He is saying to us "Come up to a better seat."

To return

Acts 1:11 *"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."*

Jesus will return. Most prophesied event. 21 OT/6NT. The day when God directly intervenes in human affairs in judgement and blessing. Jesus Himself said that He didn't know when it would be. (Matt 23) but it will come suddenly with various signs.

Be prepared to be received by Him. He is coming for YOU.

So, Jesus has gone to **represent us** before Father. He is always praying for us.

He has **released** Holy Spirit to give life and power

He is **ruling and reigning** in heaven

He will **come again** Our end is in His hands.

His ascension means that we are safe for now and for eternity. For us now it means that we should be empowered to live and witness for Him, but we also have a place in heaven and can join with the hosts of heaven in praise and worship to Him.

