

The Spectacle of Jesus' Ascension & the Promise of His Return (Acts 1:9-11)

⁹ Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹ who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

1. ASCENSION: Jesus Is Lifted Up

⁹ Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

a. When Jesus finished _____ (4-5, 7-8)

- 1:4 – Stay in Jerusalem
- 1:4-5 – Wait for the Promise of the Father
- 1:7 – It is not yours to know times or seasons
- 1:8 – Be witnesses of me, locally, regionally, and globally
- Luke 24:51 – ... while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven.

b. While the apostles are _____

c. How Jesus _____

- Jesus was lifted up (passive) and thus, away
- A cloud received Him up (hand off? shekinah? no hint; Lu 9:34-36)
- From their eyes

2. ATTENTION: Apostles Stare Skyward

¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up,...

a. What – staring (present), they were being (imperfect)

b. Where – Into the heaven (i.e. the sky)

c. When – While Jesus was ascending

3. ANGELS: Two Men Appear

¹⁰ ...behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,

a. Behold

b. Two Men (Deut 19:15 – 2 or 3 witnesses)

c. Having come to stand before them [as Jesus was lifted up...]

d. In white clothing (as the angels in Lu 24:4)

4. ADMONISHMENT: Angels Question Apostles

¹¹ who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven?..."

a. They Identify the Apostles' _____

b. They Reference the Apostles' Geographical _____

c. They Address the Apostles' _____

- Standing (having come to stand)
- Staring (still looking, v. 9)
- Skyward (unchanged from v. 10)

5. ANNOUNCEMENT: Jesus Will Return

¹¹ ...This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

a. Same _____: This Same Jesus

- The One Taken Up From You
- Into the Heaven (i.e. "the sky")

b. Certain _____: Thus Will Come (NOT new information!)

c. Same _____:

- In the Same way
- You saw Him go into the sky... (bodily; visibly)

Key Lessons and Takeaways:

1) The Bodily Resurrection & Ascension Are **Core** Truths of Christianity

2) This Event:

- a. Marks the Completion and Conclusion of His First Coming
- b. Confirms His Identity (Again)
- c. Indicates His Absence Until His Return (unspecified time, v.7), though Active with People (Stephen, 7:56; Paul, 9:5)
- d. Changes Jesus Human Location (in heaven – Right Hand of God the Father) 1 John 2:1 – As man, he is physically present by God the Father. As God, He is omnipresent – aware and in control of everything.
- e. Affirms His Future Return Physically, Visibly, Locally, Gloriously from the Sky
- f. Is Not to Be Spiritualized (as destruction of Jerusalem, our death, Pentecost, etc.)

3) Three Emphases in Scripture: Jesus, the Messiah...

- a. Is Coming to _____ (ON EARTH: to die as the Lamb of God)
- b. Is Coming to _____ (IN AIR: to catch up the saints – 1Th 4:13-18; 1Co 15:51-52; 1 Jn 2:28-3:3)
- c. Is Coming to _____ (ON EARTH: as King and Judge)