

CHAPTER FORTY

UP, UP AND AWAY

Now we are going to move from talking about the resurrection to talking about the ascension.

ACTS 1:1-11

1 THE FORMER TREATISE HAVE I MADE, O THEOPHILUS, OF ALL THAT JESUS BEGAN BOTH TO DO AND TEACH,

2 UNTIL THE DAY IN WHICH HE WAS TAKEN UP, AFTER THAT HE THROUGH THE HOLY GHOST HAD GIVEN COMMANDMENTS UNTO THE APOSTLES WHOM HE HAD CHOSEN:

3 TO WHOM ALSO HE SHEWED HIMSELF ALIVE AFTER HIS PASSION BY MANY INFALLIBLE PROOFS, BEING SEEN OF THEM FORTY DAYS, AND SPEAKING OF THE THINGS PERTAINING TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD:

4 AND, BEING ASSEMBLED TOGETHER WITH THEM, COMMANDED THEM THAT THEY SHOULD NOT DEPART FROM JERUSALEM, BUT WAIT FOR THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER, WHICH, SAITH HE, YE HAVE HEARD OF ME.

5 FOR JOHN TRULY BAPTIZED WITH WATER; BUT YE SHALL BE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY GHOST NOT MANY DAYS HENCE.

6 WHEN THEY THEREFORE WERE COME TOGETHER, THEY ASKED OF HIM, SAYING, LORD, WILT THOU AT THIS TIME RESTORE AGAIN THE KINGDOM TO ISRAEL?

7 AND HE SAID UNTO THEM, IT IS NOT FOR YOU TO KNOW THE TIMES OR THE SEASONS, WHICH THE FATHER HATH PUT IN HIS OWN POWER.

8 BUT YE SHALL RECEIVE POWER, AFTER THAT THE HOLY GHOST IS COME UPON YOU: AND YE SHALL BE WITNESSES UNTO ME BOTH IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDAEA, AND IN SAMARIA, AND UNTO THE UTTERMOST PART OF THE EARTH.

9 AND WHEN HE HAD SPOKEN THESE THINGS, WHILE THEY BEHELD, HE WAS TAKEN UP; AND A CLOUD RECEIVED HIM OUT OF THEIR SIGHT.

10 AND WHILE THEY LOOKED STEDFASTLY TOWARD HEAVEN AS HE WENT UP, BEHOLD, TWO MEN STOOD BY THEM IN WHITE APPAREL;

11 WHICH ALSO SAID, YE MEN OF GALILEE, WHY STAND YE GAZING UP INTO HEAVEN? THIS SAME JESUS, WHICH IS TAKEN UP FROM YOU INTO HEAVEN, SHALL SO COME IN LIKE MANNER AS YE HAVE SEEN HIM GO INTO HEAVEN.

The ascension is of great significance for the high priestly office is attained through the ascension. On earth Christ brought the essential fulfillment of the priesthood of Aaron. At His ascension Christ entered the Most Holy Place above "not with the blood of, others" as the high priests of the Old Testament entered the most holy place on the great day of atonement, but "by virtue of His own blood." He entered there on the ground of His own personal merit through His self-offering on Golgotha. He entered there before the face of

God for us. On this account the ascension of Christ became the justifying of the Crucified One. This showed the acceptance by the Father of the work of the Son.

JOHN 16:10

I GO TO MY FATHER, AND YE SEE ME NO MORE;

1 TIMOTHY 3:16

16 AND WITHOUT CONTROVERSY GREAT IS THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS: GOD WAS MANIFEST IN THE FLESH, JUSTIFIED IN THE SPIRIT, SEEN OF ANGELS, PREACHED UNTO THE GENTILES, BELIEVED ON IN THE WORLD, RECEIVED UP INTO GLORY.

God the Father, the Highest Majesty in the heavenly world, pronounced the earthly priesthood of Christ as valid.

ACTS 2:34-36

**34 FOR DAVID IS NOT ASCENDED INTO THE HEAVENS: BUT HE SAITH HIMSELF, THE LORD SAID UNTO MY LORD, SIT THOU ON MY RIGHT HAND,
35 UNTIL I MAKE THY FOES THY FOOTSTOOL.
36 THEREFORE LET ALL THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL KNOW ASSUREDLY, THAT GOD HATH MADE THAT SAME JESUS, WHOM YE HAVE CRUCIFIED, BOTH LORD AND CHRIST.**

The ascension was the essential meaning and the central fulfillment of the most solemn high priestly act. Of all the priestly responsibilities, the entrance into the most holy place was the greatest responsibility, yet a privilege at the same time. Here Jesus has just re-entered the heavenly most holy place. He entered before the Father on our behalf in the power of that which He won as priest on earth.

HEBREWS 9:24-25

**24 FOR CHRIST IS NOT ENTERED INTO THE HOLY PLACES MADE WITH HANDS, WHICH ARE THE FIGURES OF THE TRUE; BUT INTO HEAVEN ITSELF, NOW TO APPEAR IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD FOR US:
25 NOR YET THAT HE SHOULD OFFER HIMSELF OFTEN, AS THE HIGH PRIEST ENTERETH INTO THE HOLY PLACE EVERY YEAR WITH BLOOD OF OTHERS;**

The chief significance of the ascension relates, not only to the priestly office of Jesus, but also to the kingly office. It is the enthronement of the King of glory. He who possesses by birth kingly rights; in His person kingly dignity; in His kingly service full authority, by His ascension took possession of kingly rule. His hidden kingship became revealed when He arrived back in heaven. Now we see Jesus on the throne of God "exalted to the right hand of the Majesty," "crowned with glory and honor."

HEBREWS 8:1

8 NOW OF THE THINGS WHICH WE HAVE SPOKEN THIS IS THE SUM: WE HAVE SUCH AN HIGH PRIEST, WHO IS SET ON THE RIGHT HAND OF THE THRONE OF THE MAJESTY IN THE HEAVENS;

PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11

9 WHEREFORE GOD ALSO HATH HIGHLY EXALTED HIM, AND GIVEN HIM A NAME WHICH IS ABOVE EVERY NAME:

10 THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, OF THINGS IN HEAVEN, AND THINGS IN EARTH, AND THINGS UNDER THE EARTH;

11 AND THAT EVERY TONGUE SHOULD CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER.

HEBREWS 1:3

3 WHO BEING THE BRIGHTNESS OF HIS GLORY, AND THE EXPRESS IMAGE OF HIS PERSON, AND UPHOLDING ALL THINGS BY THE WORD OF HIS POWER, WHEN HE HAD BY HIMSELF PURGED OUR SINS, SAT DOWN ON THE RIGHT HAND OF THE MAJESTY ON HIGH;

ROM 8:34

34 WHO IS HE THAT CONDEMNETH? IT IS CHRIST THAT DIED, YEA RATHER, THAT IS RISEN AGAIN, WHO IS EVEN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, WHO ALSO MAKETH INTERCESSION FOR US.

PSALMS 110:1

THE LORD SAID UNTO MY LORD, SIT THOU AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE THINE ENEMIES THY FOOTSTOOL.

1 PETER 3:22

22 WHO IS GONE INTO HEAVEN, AND IS ON THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD; ANGELS AND AUTHORITIES AND POWERS BEING MADE SUBJECT UNTO HIM.

HEBREWS 2:9

9 BUT WE SEE JESUS, WHO WAS MADE A LITTLE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS FOR THE SUFFERING OF DEATH, CROWNED WITH GLORY AND HONOUR; THAT HE BY THE GRACE OF GOD SHOULD TASTE DEATH FOR EVERY MAN.

In the ascension Jesus was properly made Christ, made Lord and Governor, and made ruler of all lands. From heaven Christ displays His kingship in various ways: in the founding of His church—by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit; and in the extension of His kingdom.

The ascension of Christ was fundamentally the entrance of the Head of the new humanity into the heavenly glory. He, the Head, has gone in advance, as the Leader of His members to glory. At this time, only the Head has been birthed into Heaven. All nature is groaning and travailing in pain, waiting for all the body to be born into the spiritual world. Once the Head has been born, the

body follows immediately. But until then with the Head in Heaven and the body still here in this world, the life of God is brought to earth by the body being connected to the Head.