

## A Momentous Event 2020-03-22

### Acts 1:3-11

*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.*

*4 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; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."*

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

*9 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. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 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."*

In scripture's usual understated form, something beyond comprehension is described with very simple language.

- Ascension affirmed Jesus had completed His redemptive work and inaugurated His exaltation. Ephesians 1:20b-23, Mark 16:19-20
  - Right Hand of God is the highest, most exalted place the Father could give.....eternally ruling over all: Universe, church, human race.
    - Now accomplishing His earthly work thru Christians like us

Ascension marked end of one chapter in history and beginning of another.

- End of Jesus post-resurrection appearances and His physical earthly presence,
  - public ascension (not vanishing) necessary to establish disciples' faith and make clear He no longer with them physically.
- Ascension affirmed Jesus' atoning work was completed and guaranteed His future earthly work would be completed and all His promises fulfilled.

Ascension revealed select details of Jesus' promised future return. Acts 1:10-11

- Return same as left: Visibly and physically with glorified body.
  - Same type of body all Christians will someday receive.
    - He will return again to reward saints and judge ungodly.

10 day after ascension, Jesus fulfilled promise to all believers John 16:7, Acts 1:4-5, 2:1-4

- Spirit of Christ (Holy Spirit) descended from heaven to indwell ALL believers.
  - If Jesus not gone back to heaven, Holy Spirit would not come.
    - Ascend not to leave us but be more intimately/fully with us.

Holy Spirit came because although Jesus' redemptive work was completed, His earthly work is not yet finished/done! Acts 1:8, Mark 16:15-18

- Ascension signaled a new chapter of Jesus indwelling ordinary, imperfect followers to accomplish His unfinished work on earth.
  - Passed evangelism and ministry to Christians not "churches".
    - "church" Greek "ekklesia" = "gathering/assembly."
      - "church" not building/organization, but people.
    - Ultimately we don't go to church; we **are** the church.

In His infinite wisdom, our sovereign King has created you "for a time such as this" and called you to be His witness. 2 Timothy 1:6-9, Ephesians 2:10.

- Our glorious, eternal God desires to display His greatness and love to a confused, fearful, lost world through His people.
  - Jesus indwells you and will equip and empower you to accomplish all His will on earth....we living in exciting times.
    - Holy Spirit will lead you to "divine appointments" so you can share Gospel, help/encourage others.

In this time of chaos and uncertainty, with things changing daily, we need someone all powerful and unchanging to steady us and give strength and hope.

- Jesus Christ is that anchor in this storm and every storm of life.
  - He was exalted at His ascension to Right Hand of God, ruling and reigning over all
    - Equipping and empowering you to be His witness and to accomplish His earthly work for His glory and your joy.