

LESSON #91 – THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST

Matt. 28:16-20, Mark 16:15-20; Luke 24:50-53; John 14:1-4; 16:5-16; Acts 1:1-11

It had come time for Jesus to return to His home in heaven. Jesus is God, and He was always in heaven with God the Father and God the Spirit, the One Eternal God Who had no beginning and will have no ending. He had come to earth to die for the sins of His people as God had promised way back in the Garden of Eden to Adam and Eve. He had taught His disciples many things, and they were now going to build His kingdom through the work of the church. The church is very important today because where those who really believe in Jesus are, there is His kingdom and there are His disciples. Those who are members of His church will love Him and serve Him as these first disciples did.

Before He left the earth Jesus told His disciples that they should stay in Jerusalem until the gift of the Holy Spirit came upon them. This is where they would get their power and wisdom. The disciples knew, now, that Jesus must return to heaven. Yet, they were afraid. They did not want Him to go. They wanted Him to stay with them to help them. They thought of the Jews and the Roman and all of their enemies and it made them even more afraid. They thought that maybe Jesus was going to set up His kingdom on earth right away. But Jesus said that before that time they were to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all of Judea and in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. A witness is one who tells about something he has seen or heard. The disciples were supposed to tell others about Jesus, Who He was and what He had done. But they were just ordinary men. They had not even gone to school. How could they do this great job for God? Weren't their enemies more powerful than they were?

Ah, but they had forgotten something! Hadn't Jesus told them that HE was going to build His church and that the gates of hell could not stand up against His power? Now Jesus encourages them with these words, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age." What a wonderful promise! All authority, all power, belonged to Jesus! He would be with them! He would help them! Even though they could not see Him, He would be there, guiding them, watching them, protecting them!

We will see next week more about the gift of the Holy Spirit. But let's turn back in the Gospel of John for a moment and see what Jesus had told His disciples about His going away. He said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God' trust also in Me. In My Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am." Jesus is in heaven right now praying to the Father for us and watching over us. We have His wonderful promise that we shall someday be with Him there! That should make us happy while we live here on the earth and brave because we know that He is with us every minute.

And, finally, He told His disciples that it was better that He go away for then He would send the Holy Spirit Who would live inside of them and help them to serve Him better. We will see what a wonderful gift the Holy Spirit is in next week's lesson. After Jesus had blessed the disciples He lifted up His hands and was taken up in a cloud in the sky. As they looked up two angels said to them, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, Who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven! And He will!!!

Memory Verse: "And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age." – Matt. 28:20.

Application: Look forward to the coming of Jesus and serve Him now!

LESSON #91 – THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST

Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-20; Luke 24:50-53; John 14:1-4; 16:5-16; Acts 1:1-11

Jesus came into the world to take the place of His people on the cross and to bring those who believed in Him salvation from sin. Those who believed would be saved from God's anger and His punishment of all sin. He did that on the cross where God had punished Him for the sins of all His people. Jesus also came to begin a group of people who would tell others about His death and resurrection and what it meant for them. These people would be filled with His Spirit and would be members of His kingdom. Together they would be called the Church.

Now it was time for Jesus to return to heaven where He had been before He came to earth. As you have learned, Jesus is true God, and He had no beginning and will have no ending. He came to earth as a part of God's plan to save for Himself a people who would serve Him. Remember how God had promised Abraham way back at the beginning of the Bible that his descendants would be more than the sands of the seashore or the stars of the sky? The Bible says that all who believe the gospel message are the true children of Abraham. They are saved from their sins by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

The work of the disciples goes on today. Those who are true members of the church and kingdom of God know that it is His will that we take the same message to the world which the disciples took. What message is that? How can we, weak as we are and always getting afraid, be brave enough to serve Jesus? Let's see what Jesus tells His disciples before He ascends into heaven.

Jesus told them that they should stay in Jerusalem where they had returned to until the gift of the Holy Spirit came upon them. They would know when He came because they would not be afraid anymore and would speak out boldly about Jesus. Yet, the disciples did not want Jesus to leave them. Jesus said that it was better that He go so that the Holy Spirit would come upon them and give them the power which they needed to be His witnesses. A witness is someone who tells about something he has seen or heard. The disciples were to tell others about Jesus, His death and His resurrection. What did these things mean? Jesus explained to them very clearly that it meant that those who believed in Him, had believed he died for their sins, rose again, and ascended into heaven, these would be saved from their sins. They would be forgiven and would have eternal life through Him. What a wonderful message to take to the world!

But still, they were only men. What if others, like the Jews, killed them and hated them, too? Jesus encouraged them with these words: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Surely, I will be with you always, to the very end of the age." Jesus made that promise to the disciples, but that promise is also ours. Jesus is here with those who believe in Him and trust Him for strength, courage and wisdom. There is no braver person than the one who believes and trusts in Jesus.

All of the power in the world belongs to Jesus. He is the King. Don't you think that He can help you when you are in trouble? Don't you think He will give you wisdom and strength if you ask Him for His Holy Spirit every day? Yes, He will, for He has promised and God cannot lie! We must not be discouraged just because there are some people who do not believe. Jesus is working, and all He wants us to do is to obey Him and trust Him at all times. As the disciples looked at Him, Jesus went up into heaven. Two angels told them, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky?" This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven! Believe it!

The Ascension of Christ (Continued)

Name: _____ Date: _____

MEMORY VERSE

“If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am.” - John 14:3

APPLICATION

Jesus has not been seen since this time, but we know that He lives. Remember His Words, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” As Jesus commanded the disciples to tell others about Him, so He tells those who are members of His kingdom today. God gives us our lives so that we can be witnesses to the power of Jesus. He wants us to love others and be joyful so that they will know that we have his spirit in our hearts, and then they may believe in Him, too. Our hope must be on Jesus, for we believe that one day He will return, and we shall reign with Him forever over all things! What a wonderful promise!

QUESTIONS

Fill in the blanks with the words at the bottom.

1. Salvation means that we are saved from the punishment and anger of God against our _____.
2. Jesus called those who believed in Him and lived for Him by being witnesses to others, His _____.
3. Since Jesus is _____, He had no beginning and no ending and returned to heaven where He had been before.
4. God has kept the promises of His Covenant of Grace, and the Bible says that those who believe in Jesus Christ now are the true children of _____.
5. The power of the _____ is what makes God’s people brave enough and wise enough to be the witnesses of Jesus.
6. The goodness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that those who believe have their sins _____ and receive the gift of eternal life.
7. The disciples were happy when Jesus promised them that He would be with them until the end of the _____.
8. God has given all power in the world to His son Jesus Christ that He might be the _____ of His people, that He might rule over them and lead them in the right way.
9. We know that every _____ which God makes to us in His Word will come true because God cannot lie.
10. Two angels promised the disciples and us that Jesus will return from the _____ just as He left to return to heaven.

forgiven
King
Abraham
church

God
sky
promise

Holy Spirit
sins
age

Class 5 Memorization	<i>HC Q+A:</i>		<i>Scripture:</i>	
-----------------------------	----------------	--	-------------------	--

LESSON #91 – THE BURIAL OF JESUS

Read Matt. 27: 57-66; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42

You may have wondered before why Jesus died and was buried if He paid the penalty for our sins on the cross. Why didn't Jesus just come down from the cross and show all of His enemies that He really was the Son of God? We have seen how everything which has happened thus far was a part of the plan of God to bring salvation to His people. Salvation means the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. But it also means joy and peace and hope. God knew that every person must die. And the Bible says that the fear of death is something which holds people as slaves. Jesus did not want us to live our whole lives wondering about death as so many are doing today. He died willingly and was buried so that He might rise again and show His power over death, the worst enemy of man. He did this to show that for those who believe in Him, who trust Him as their Savior and live for Him out of love and thankfulness, that death is not the end of life, but only the beginning of a new life!

QUESTIONS

1. According to Matthew 27:55-56 who watched the crucifixion from a distance? _____
2. Why did the Jews want Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down? _____
3. Did the soldiers break the legs of Jesus? _____
4. What did they find when they came to Jesus? _____
5. What did they do to Him? _____
6. Why did these things happen just this way? _____
7. What were the names of the two men who came to get the body of Jesus to bury Him? _____
8. Whom did they have to ask for permission? _____
9. What did they do with the body of Jesus? _____
10. Who else saw where the body had been laid? _____
11. What was rolled in front of the tomb? _____
12. Why did the chief priests and Pharisees go to Pilate the next day? _____
13. How did Pilate make sure that no one would take the body of Jesus? _____
14. Why didn't anyone go to visit the tomb of Jesus the next day? _____

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

What are your feelings about death? Should we be happy at the death of a loved one who was a Christian?