

July 28, 2019

## The Purpose of the Ascension

### *Luke 24:50-51*

- God's intention to have a people in his image is accomplished in the resurrection of Christ, the God-Man who replaced Adam as the Head of the New race (2 Cor. 5:17) of God's redeemed people.
  
- Who is this Man who now stood upon the earth with *all authority in Heaven and on earth*?
  - He *...is the image [Gen. 1:26] of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation... 18 the head of the body, the church...[in Whom]...all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form...>>Col 1:15,18; 2:9*
  - He is the perfect Man in Whom there was no sin>>**Heb. 4:15**
  - He is the Son of the Father's unique love>>**Matt. 3:17**
  - He is the living embodiment of **Is. 7:14**>>
  - He is the Man *...in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins...>>Col 1:14*
  - He is the Man in Whom *...in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge...>>Col 2:3*
  - He is the Man in Whom we have *...an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you...>>1 Peter 1:4*

- He is the Man in Whom God has blessed us ...*with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies*...>>**Eph. 1:3**
- He is the Man in Whom God has made us ...*a new creation*...>>**2 Cor. 5:17**
- He is the Man in Whom we ...*are justified [not guilty]*...>>**Gal. 2:17; 2 Cor. 5:21**
- He is the Man in Whom we have become ...*sons of God*...>>**Gal. 3:26**
- He is the Man in Whom God has called us ...*to His eternal glory*...>>**1 Peter 5:10**
- He is the Man with Whom we will ...*reign*...forever>>**Eph. 2:6; Rev. 20:4**
  
- Since the resurrection is the proof that Christ has merited all of this for us and so much more, why must He ascend to the Throne of God? What is the essential distinction between the resurrection and the ascension?
  
- Promise and possession—potential and actual.
  
- God had one essential goal in the life and ministry of the Incarnation of His Son: To bring us into union with [in] Christ.
  
- Why? Because God is glorified in the Son [John 13:32], He is therefore, glorified in those who are united to the Son.
  
- Therefore, our union with Christ is the means of God glorifying Himself in His people who have been re-created [John 3:3] in His image.

**Eph 1:3** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies...*

- All that God has done for us and will do in us is the result of our union with [in] Christ.
- This is the purpose of the Incarnation: That God sent His Son into the world to reclaim His purpose to have a people in whom His glory would be manifested.

**John 17:1, 5** *Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify You...5 now, Father, glorify Me in Your own presence with the glory that I had with You before the world existed*

- In the fleshly Body of Christ being raised from the dead, there is now upon the earth a Man in Whom the glory of God dwells (Col. 1:19).
- This means that in Christ God has relationally embraced the Humanity of His Son so that the Triune Nature and character of the One Being of God is revealed.
- However, it was not God's purpose that His glory would be manifested in just one Man. God's intention was that His glory would be displayed in a nation of people so that in them His glory would fill the earth.

**Gen 1:28** *Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth...*

**Gen 22:18** *in your [glorified Seed-Gal. 3:16] shall all the nations of the earth be blessed...*

**Hab 2:14** *For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea*

- Eph. 1:3 is not ours unless Christ ascends. Apart from His ascension, we remain in our sin.
- So, what will happen in the ascension of Christ? In being taken up into Heaven [Luke 24:51], Christ will take His seat at the Right Hand of God to implement God's eternal plan through His triune role as King, Prophet and Priest.