

HE ASCENDED!

Hebrews 7:11-28

Psalm 110

Acts 1:6-11



19 May 2024

Disciples Celebrate Christ's Ascension

- Christ Ascended: Acts 1:6-11; Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 24:45-53.
- We celebrate that His work on earth (for which He came) is DONE. (Hebrews 1:1-3)
- We celebrate that He “obtained eternal redemption” for every single person He died for! (Hebrews 9:12)
- We celebrate that we now have an Advocate (1 John 2:1-2) and High Priest making intercession to God for us! (Hebrews 7:25)

Traditions vs Word of God (Matt 15:1-9)

- Placing the right date for Himmelfahrt - Ascension Day!
- 40 days after the Feast of Firstfruits - the Resurrection.

The Downward Trend of Ascension Day in Germany

- 4th Century: Religious ceremonies celebrating Christ returning to His Father.
- 18th Century: Ham and Beer - celebrating fathers.
- 20th Century: Männertag
 - Drunkenness and Debauchery - 300% spike in auto accidents!
- 21st Century: Women joined men in their drunkenness and debauchery.

Our Salvation Is Dependent on . . .

- The Eternal Purpose of God - Ephesians 3:8-11.
- The GOSPEL: Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21
- Christ creating the world. (Genesis 1:1; John 1:1-3, 10; Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:2-3; Revelation 4:11)
 - ★ Creation is just as much part of our salvation as the Cross! **MEDITATE!**
- Christ coming into the world to save His people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21; Philippians 2:5-8)
- Christ living a perfect life **for HIS people**. (1 John 3:5; **2:1**; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 3:18)
- Christ dying on the Cross. (Romans 6:23a; John 10:11, 17-18; ; 19:30; Galatians 2:20; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:9)
- Christ's resurrection. (Romans 4:25; 1 Corinthians 15:12-23)
- Christ's ascension/intercession. (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 2:1-2)

Consider Our High Priest (Hebrews 3:1)

- “Consider” - “to ponder *intensely*”

The Order of Melchizedek (Psalm 110)

- (Genesis 14:18-20) He was . . .
 - The King of Righteousness (the meaning of “melchizedek”) and
 - The King of Peace (“Salem” means “peace” and was an ancient name for Jerusalem)
 - The priest of GOD MOST HIGH, Possessor of the heavens and earth.
Remember a priest is one who stands between a holy, holy, holy God and sinners.
 - Melchizedek was **KING** and **PRIEST**.
- (Psalm 110) THE ASCENSION: **Pictured in Genesis; promised in Psalm; fulfillment in Christ revealed in Hebrews 7.**
- (Hebrews 7:11) The requirement for us to have fellowship with God is PERFECTION.
- (Hebrews 7:11-12) Perfection did not come through the Levitical priesthood - there had to be a change.
- (Hebrews 7:11) There had to be “*another*” priest - after the order of Melchizedek, not Aaron.

Christ, Our High Priest (Hebrews 7:13-24)

- Christ fulfilled the prophecy in Psalm 110. Christ is both King (from Judah tribe) and Priest (after the order of Melchizedek).
- A **forever** priesthood. Psalm 110 states that the Messiah, the Christ, would be priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. (Hebrews 7:15-17, 24)
- A **better** priesthood. God’s people could not draw near God during the Levitical. BUT Christ, being priest after the order of Melchizedek, brings us into the presence of God Most High. (1 Peter 3:18; **Hebrews 4:14-16**; Ephesians 2:16-18; Hebrews 6:19-20)
- A **Surety** of a **BETTER COVENANT**. (Hebrews 7:22)
 - A SURETY is one who **agrees** to undertake for another who is lacking the **ability** to discharge his own **obligations**.
 - Christ **agreed** to meet **all** the requirements of the BETTER COVENANT **for His people**.
- After Christ fulfilled all the requirements He sat down just as it was prophesied in (Psalm 110:1 – “Sit at My right hand!”)
- **Christ sat down**: Mark 16:19; Acts 2:34; Ephesians 1:20-22; Hebrews 12:2; 1 Peter 3:22; Hebrews 1:3, 13; 10:12; Heb 8:1; Col 3:1; Revelation 3:21
- Sat down: **Work is finished!** (John 4:34; 17:4; 19:30; Hebrews 1:3)
 - Hebrew 10:1-14
- An **unchangeable** priesthood. (Hebrews 7:23-24; 13:8)

ARE WE PONDERING INTENSELY ON OUR HIGH PRIEST?

THEREFORE (Hebrews 7:25)

- This THEREFORE (wherefore; hence; so; consequently) points back to:
 - ① The **OATH** of His consecration in verse 20.
 - ② The **IMMUTABILITY** of the FATHER in verse 21.
 - ③ The **BETTER COVENANT** of which He is the **SURETY** (Guarantee) of in verse 22)
 - ④ The fact that He *lives forever* in an *unchanging priesthood* in verse 24.
- Because of all the ABOVE HE IS **ABLE TO SAVE to the UTTERMOST**.
 - “able to save” from **sin** (Matt 1:21); from the **curse** (Gal 3:13); from God’s **wrath** (1 Thess 1:10)
 - “**uttermost**” – $\pi\alpha\nu\tau\epsilon\lambda\eta\varsigma$ panteles {pan-tel-ace’} – completely in regards to WORK **and** in DURATION – 100% FOREVER!
- **TRUTH**: Christ **does not** effect PART of our SALVATION and leave the REST to us!!
 - IF man **CANNOT** save himself he **CANNOT** keep himself!
- **Who does Christ save to the UTTERMOST?** “those who come to God through Him” –
 - Coming to GOD is a consequence of *coming to Christ*.
 - **NO ONE** can come to Christ **unless** the Father **draws** that person. (John 6:44, 65)
 - **ALL** those whom the Father draws **will** come to Christ. (John 6:37)
- ALL these are DRAWN and COME **since** He lives forever to intercede **for them**.
 - He **lives**. John 14:19; Romans 5:10
 - Because He **lives** I live! My eternal security is in Christ – NOT ME!
- Christ now **intercedes** for us.
 - We are being save**D** through the **intercession** of Christ. (Hebrews 7:25)
 - Christ is our **HIGH PRIEST** and God **always** hears Him. (John 11:42)
 - Christ is our **ADVOCATE** in God’s courtroom. (1 John 2:1-2)
 - Christ does **not** intercede for **all!** • See John 17:9, 20
 - ★ Contrast Judas and Peter on the night before Christ was to die.
 - **JUDAS**: John 13:21-27
 - **PETER**: Luke 22:31-32.
 - **NOTICE**: Christ prayed for Peter but did not pray for Judas!
- This intercession is NECESSARY for our salvation! – see Romans 5:9-10.
- Through this intercession we are PRESERVED in Christ.
 - **Back to Jude** (Jude 1)
 - We are preserved in Christ
 - Christ promised to keep us. (John 10:27-28)
 - We are hidden with Christ in God! (Colossians 3:1-4)

- **HE DREW NEAR TO GOD *for us!*** (Hebrews 9:24) He brought us TO GOD! (1 Peter 3:18) And there He makes intercession *for us.* (Romans 8:34) On the throne of God, at the right hand of God, He performs priestly duties as our High Priest.

When He Ascended, We Ascended with Him (Ephesians 2:6)

- BACK to the Eternal Purpose of God.
- (Ephesians 3:8-12) God IS accomplishing His purpose through Christ - JUST AS HE PLANNED IT.
- A quick look at Ephesians 2:4-6 ----
 - BUT GOD (ponder this!)
 - Who is RICH in MERCY
 - Mercy is not given to all. A guilty person does not deserve mercy by definition. God does not give mercy to all!! He is merciful to those who fear Him, those who love Him, and those who keep His commandments! (Psalm 103:11, 17; Nehemiah 1:5; Daniel 9:4) Through His **abundant mercy** He has begotten us to a living hope (1 Peter 1:3)
 - Because of HIS GREAT LOVE with which He love **us** (saints; **faithful** in Christ - Ephesians 1:1). God's love is EVERLASTING for His own. (Jeremiah 31:3; Deuteronomy 7:7-8; 1 John 4:10)
 - ★ NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM THIS LOVE. (Romans 8:34-39) **MEDITATE.** Remember those who love Him keep His commandments. (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14; 1 John 5:3)
 - (v. 5) When we were DEAD in our sins He made us ALIVE **together** with Christ – **THIS IS RESURRECTION GRACE!**
 - (v. 6) **and** raised us up together with Christ - **THIS IS ASCENSION GRACE.**
 - (v. 6) **and** He has **already** seated us with Christ in heaven. **THIS IS FINISHED GRACE!**
- Why would God do all this for sinners like us?
 - ★ (v. 7) IN ORDER THAT He might show the **exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us** (saints; faithful servants in Christ) in Christ Jesus. See Isaiah 43:25!!

Do You CELEBRATE the Ascension of Christ?

OR

Do you just take a day off?