



### **The Ascension of Christ**

As an Old Testament Priest went into the Holy of Holies once a year to sacrifice and make atonement for the sins of Israel, Jesus' sacrifice in death is seen as the ultimate atonement for all people before God.

The Gospel of Luke describes the transference of the resurrected body of Jesus from the earth to heaven in Acts 1:9-11.

“And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”

The location of the ascension was east of Jerusalem near Bethany. Forty days after His physical resurrection Jesus “was taken up” and disappeared into a cloud.

God raised Christ from the dead “and made Him sit at His right hand in the heavenly places”. He sits “at the right hand of the Majesty on high”. The ascension made it

possible for Christ to enter into His heavenly “glorification” and sit at the right hand of the Father until His enemies are made His footstool. He received “the name that is above every name”. Jesus is superior to angels, authorities, principalities, powers and dominions because He is the ascended Lord.

Jesus told His disciples the Holy Spirit could not come until Jesus died, rose from the dead and ascended to heaven. “If I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.”

Because Jesus ascended to heaven He is “wherever two or three are gathered in My name, there I am in your midst”. At His ascension He said, “I am with you always, even to the end of the age”. Because Jesus is in heaven He is everywhere all the time through His Spirit.

Jesus returned to heaven “to prepare a place for you”. The ascension guarantees the promise, “I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also”. The ascension of Jesus makes it possible for us to go boldly into the presence of God in prayer. We have an advocate with the Father who has experienced everything we experience in this life. He understands and is always ready to help in our time of need.