

Christian Doctrine Jesus Christ (Part 7)

The Ascension and Current Ministry

The Ascension of Christ

Following Christ's resurrection, He continued to minister on earth for forty days. After that, He ascended to heaven.

Details of the Ascension:

- It was prophesied in the Old Testament (compare Ps. 68:18 with Eph. 4:8, and Ps. 110:1 with Acts 2:34-35).
- It happened on the Mt. of Olives (near Bethany) when Jesus was with His disciples (Acts 1:12; Luke 24:50).
- Jesus went up to heaven on a cloud as the disciples watched (Acts 1:9).
- Following the ascension, two angels told the disciples that He would return again in the same way He left (Acts 1:10-11).

Following the Ascension, Jesus sat down at the right hand of God the Father, where He was exalted with glory and honor (Eph. 1:20-22; Phil. 2:9; I Pet. 3:22).

The Ministry of Christ Today

The work of Jesus today is seen in several ways:

- He is Head of His Body, the Church (Eph. 1:22-23).
 - He formed the Body and continues to build it (Acts 2:47; Eph. 2:20-22).
 - He directs the Body, guiding its work (Eph. 4:11-12; 5:23-24).
 - He empowers the Body, moving the church to maturity and holiness (Eph. 4:14-16; 5:26-27).
- He serves as our High Priest (Heb. 2:17; 4:14).
 - He is our Mediator. He represents us to God and maintains our relationship with God (I Tim. 2:5).
 - He is our Advocate. If we sin, He speaks to the Father in our defense (I John 2:1-2).
 - He is our Intercessor. He prays to the Father on our behalf (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25).
- He is preparing a place for us in heaven (John 14:1-3).

It can be noted that in the future Christ's ministry will also include raising the dead, judging people, rewarding believers, and ruling over the world (John 5:28-30; II Cor. 5:10; II Tim. 4:1; Rev. 19:15).

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