

THE YEAR IN OUR LORD, 2009-2010

JESUS THE EXALTED:
AN ASCENSION MESSAGE
(LUKE 24:50-53)

I. Forty Days Later (Acts 1:3)

II. The Ascension of Jesus Christ (Lk 24:50-53)

- A. The final recorded instructions of Jesus in Luke's gospel (Lk 24:44-49) include the following points:
1. Christ's death and resurrection fulfill Scripture.
 2. Repentance to God and forgiveness of sins in Christ must be proclaimed to the world.
 3. The disciples are witnesses of these things.
 4. Christ will send the promise of the Father to his disciples.
- B. Jesus gives his church a blessing (24:50).
- C. While Jesus gives his blessing, he ascends into the skies (24:51).
- D. The disciples respond to Jesus' ascension in three ways (24:52-53):
1. They worship Jesus (v 52a).
 2. They return to Jerusalem with great joy (v 52).
 3. They continually bless God in the temple (v 53).

III. The Many Implications of the Ascension of Jesus Christ

What was it about Jesus' ascension that caused the disciples to worship him, rejoice greatly, and bless God continually?

The ascension of Jesus Christ is...

- A. Jesus' enthronement as the Son of Man at the right hand of God (Lk 22:67-69; Dan 7:13, 14).
- B. The beginning of Jesus' rule (Lk 1:31-32; 1 Cor 15:25).
- C. Proof that Jesus was innocent and perfectly righteous (cf. Mt 26:64-65).
- D. Our enthronement (Eph 2:6).
- E. Our victory over the powers (Eph 1:20-21).
- F. The guarantee of our future exaltation (Eph 2:7; Col 3:1-4).
- G. God's all-encompassing gift to his holy people (Eph 1:22).

IV. A Life that Looks Outward—and Upward

Because the Lord Jesus Christ's ascension is his exaltation as (1) our righteous and victorious King and therefore (2) our indestructible guarantee of eternal glory, we now bow to Christ as our King, praise God for the glory that Christ ensures, and look to Christ for victory over the powers of the world.