

Christology Lesson 15
**THE ASCENSION AND PRESENT MINISTRY
OF JESUS CHRIST**

Acts 1:9-11

1A. THE PLACE WHERE HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN

Luke 24:50 - "as far as to Bethany"

Acts 1:12 - "Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey"

2A. THE POSITION HE NOW HAS IN HEAVEN

Ephesians 4:8 - "ascended up an high"

Ephesians 4:10 - "ascended up far above all heavens"

1. Heavens is plural; The Bible speaks of 3 heavens

A. 1st Heaven is known as the earth's atmosphere. *Gen. 1:20*

B. 2nd Heaven is what we know as outer space. *Gen. 1:17*

C. Paul is taken up to the 3rd heaven. *II Corinthians 12:2* (see *Psalms 66:1*)

*The first two heavens constitute a continuum called the "firmament," and this firmament is collectively called "Heaven" *Gen 1:8*

Acts 2:33 - "by the right hand of God exalted"

Acts 2:34 - "into the heavens"

Acts 7:55-56 - "standing on the right hand of God"

Romans 8:34 - "at the right hand of God"

Ephesians 1:20 - "at his own right hand in the heavenly places"

Colossians 3:1 - "where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God"

Hebrews 1:3 - "sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high"

1. The Bible repeatedly pushes the theme of Jesus sitting down. This is significant because no priest ever sat down in the Tabernacle or the Temples in the O.T; There are no chairs there. The layout was a picture of somebody who never finishes his work. The Bible says that He sat down, "By one sacrifice He had offered for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God." Any Jewish reader would have understood this and known that the work is done. The sacrificial system is over.

Hebrews 8:1 - "set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty In the heavens"

Hebrews 18:12 - "sat down on the right hand of God"

Hebrews 12:2 - "set down at the right hand of the throne of God"

I Peter 3:22 - "Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God"

1B. His position reflects God's **AUTHORITY** - "right hand"

1. Jesus carries out Judgment on behalf of the Father.

2B. His position reflects God's **APPROVAL** - "by the right hand of God exalted"

1. When it says "at his right hand" it is speaking of the fact that God exalted Jesus. He lifted him up above every name that is named. He is above all principality, all power, all authority, all throned, dominions and everything. The Father has exalted Jesus by his Ascension.

3B. His position reflects His **ACCOMPLISHMENT** - "sat down" (priests never sat down - work was never finished!)

1. He said on the cross "it is finished". No more sacrificial system.

3A. THE PURPOSE OF HIS ASCENSION AND PRESENT MINISTRY

1B. His **EXALTATION** - *Acts 2:33; Ephesians 1:20-23; Philippians 2:9-11*

1. "So that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth" *Philippians 2:10*

2B. His **INTERCESSION** – Interceding is a prayer to God on behalf of others. *Romans 8:34; Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:24-25*

1. His intercession provides care.

2. Satan accuses the brethren day and night before God *Rev. 12:10*

3. Jesus is our advocate (*1 John 2:1*).

a. The Greek word means "defense attorney"

b. Jesus never stops defending us.

3B. His **PREPARATION** - *John 14:1-3*

1. Jesus is preparing us mansions. It will be glorious. *Rev. 21*

4B. His **FULLNESS** as Head of the Church - *Ephesians 1:20-23; 4:7-10; Colossians 1: 19-19; 2:9-10*

1. Christian leaders are not called to govern the church however we see fit. We are to be seeking the mind of the Lord in which we might receive guidance that he might be able to lead and direct everything according to His will. We are called to listen and follow.

5B. His **EXPECTATION** - *I Cor. 15:24-28; Acts 2:33-35*

1. Christ will come again in the same way as which he went into heaven. Know man knows the time or the hour but clearly warns us to be ready for His second coming.