

# *The Ascended Christ*

## Acts 1:6-11

**Big Idea:** The Ascension isn't just Jesus going up—it's Jesus taking His throne. He prays for us in our weakness, rules over nations in turmoil, and will return to make all things right. When anxiety rises, remember: the King of the universe reigns, and you are His beloved.

### Key Takeaways:

1. The Ascension is Christ's Exaltation to His Throne
2. Daniel Saw It From Heaven's Perspective
3. Three Meanings of the Ascension:
  - a. Jesus is perfectly positioned to pray for us
  - b. Jesus reigns over all nations and affairs
  - c. Jesus will return to make all things right

### Scriptures:

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| <input type="radio"/> Daniel 7:9-14    | <input type="radio"/> Hebrews 4:14-16    |
| <input type="radio"/> Psalm 110:1      | <input type="radio"/> Psalm 2:1-4        |
| <input type="radio"/> 1 Corinthians 15 | <input type="radio"/> Mark 8, 9, 10      |
| <input type="radio"/> Psalm 102        | <input type="radio"/> Matthew 26:63-66   |
| <input type="radio"/> Psalm 8          | <input type="radio"/> Philippians 2:9-11 |

### Opening Question:

Before this sermon, how much did you think about the Ascension compared to other events in Jesus' life (Christmas, Good Friday, Easter)? What was your understanding of what happened?

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### Discussion Questions:

Read Acts 1:6-11 together. What details stand out to you about how Luke describes this event? Why do you think the angels asked, "Why do you stand looking into heaven?"

Read Daniel 7:9-14. How does Daniel's vision help us understand what was really happening when Jesus ascended? What details in this passage are most striking to you?

The sermon mentioned that Jesus' resurrected body had unusual qualities (appearing in locked rooms, eating, visible wounds, etc.). Why is it important that Jesus retained His human nature when He ascended?

Read Hebrews 4:14-16. How does knowing that Jesus is both fully God and fully human—and that He sits at God's right hand—change how you approach Him with your needs and weaknesses?

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The sermon listed five anxiety-producing headlines: Artificial Intelligence, China, Deportation, Iran, Putin. What current events or circumstances make you most anxious? How does the truth of Christ's sovereign rule speak to those fears?

Read Psalm 2:1-4. The sermon said, "He who sits in the heavens will laugh" at the schemes of earthly powers. Why is this both comforting and challenging? How does this change your perspective on world events?

Eugene Peterson said the ascension "relativizes and marginalizes all earthly thrones." What does this mean practically? How should this truth affect how we engage with politics and culture?

Read Matthew 26:63-66. Jesus told the most powerful men in Israel that they would see Him "seated at the right hand of power." Why was He so calm in the face of their threats? What can we learn from His example?

The sermon stated: "When we become anxious, it is because we're being forgetful of who He is and the power that He has." Do you agree? What helps you remember Christ's authority when you're anxious?

#### Practical Applications:

1. Daily Remembrance - Each morning this week, before checking news or social media, spend 5 minutes reading one of these passages and reminding yourself that Christ reigns: Monday: Psalm 2, Tuesday: Daniel 7:9-14, Wednesday: Hebrews 4:14-16, Thursday: Philippians 2:5-11, Friday: Acts 1:6-11, Saturday: Revelation 5:11-14, Sunday: Matthew 28:18-20
2. Anxiety Inventory - List the top 3-5 things that make you anxious about the world or your life. For each one, write out how the truth of Christ's ascension and reign speaks to that fear. Pray through each item, surrendering your anxiety and choosing to trust in His sovereign rule
3. Intercessory Confidence - Since Jesus is perfectly positioned to pray for us, practice bringing your weaknesses to Him with confidence this week. Each day: Identify one area of weakness, temptation, or struggle, Remember that Jesus knows what it's like to be human, Approach His throne expecting to "receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need"

#### Closing Thought/Prayer:

"Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." - Philippians 2:9-11

Final Question: How will you live differently this week knowing that Jesus is enthroned at God's right hand and that every knee will one day bow before Him?