

(13) The (Final) Ascension (Mark 16:19,20; Luke 24:50-53 cf. Acts 1:9-11)

1. The Luke Gospel narrative.
 - a. Jesus led the disciples to the place of the Final Ascension. The Mount of Olives (Bethany's location) is a significant location for heavenly comings and goings (Ezek. 11:23; Zech. 14:4; Acts 1:11,12).
 - b. The Final Ascension was the occasion for Jesus' final blessing of His disciples (Lk. 24:50).
 - c. Jesus parted from them (active voice) and was carried up into heaven (passive voice) (Lk. 24:51).
 - d. The disciples returned to Jerusalem and blessed God daily in the temple as they awaited their spiritual clothing (Lk. 24:49,52-53).
2. Luke's second narrative, Acts 1.
 - a. The Great Cognition from Luke (Lk. 24:44-49) is restated in Acts (Acts 1:6-8).
 - b. The Final Ascension from Luke (Lk. 24:50-53) is restated in Acts (Acts 1:9-11).
 - c. He was lifted up (passive voice) and a cloud received Him out of their sight (Acts 1:9).
 - d. Two angels appear and identify the ascension with the second coming (Acts 1:10-11).
3. Other passages related to The Ascension.
 - a. Jesus referenced The Ascension when He challenged unbelieving Jews (Jn. 6:62).
 - b. Jesus didn't fix His eyes on the crucifixion. He fixed His eyes on The Ascension (Lk. 9:51; Heb. 12:2).
 - c. Jesus' admonishment to Mary Magdalene indicates an initial ascension different than His final ascension (Jn. 20:17).
 - d. The common confession mystery of godliness uses The Ascension for its climax (1st Tim. 3:16).
4. The Ascension of Jesus Christ was followed by the present Session of Jesus Christ.
 - a. God the Father invites Jesus Christ to be seated at His right hand (Ps. 110:1). This session is closely identified with His Melchizedek priesthood (Ps. 110:4).
 - b. No angel is accorded that glory (Heb. 1:3,5,13).
 - c. Jesus referenced The Session (and The Second Coming) when He asserted His Deity (Mt. 26:64; Lk. 22:69).
 - d. Jesus stood to greet Steven at his martyrdom (Acts 7:55).
 - e. The Session of Christ provides for the Session of the Church (Eph. 1:20; 2:6).
 - f. The Session of Christ features His glorious advocacy (Rom. 8:34; 1st Jn. 2:1).
 - g. The Session of Christ is the basis for our heavenly mindset (Col. 3:1-4; Heb. 12:2).
 - h. The Session of Christ is the basis for our priesthood (Heb. 3:1; 8:1; 10:12).
 - i. The Session of Christ is the greatest testimony to the once and for all work of Calvary (Heb. 10:12; 1st Pet. 3:18-22).