

Come to Jesus

Understanding the Ascension



Finding Stability

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 4:14** Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.
- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 6:19** This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, ²⁰ where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.



- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 7:24** but He [Jesus], ... because He abides forever, holds His priesthood permanently. ²⁵ Hence, also, He is able to save forever [to the uttermost] those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.
- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 8:1** Now the main point in what has been said is this: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens... ⁶ ... He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.
- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 9:11** But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands ... ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?



The Ascension: Overview

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 1:1** God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ² in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. ³ And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high;
- ^{NAS} **Ephesians 4:8** Therefore it says, "When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, And He gave gifts to men." ⁹ (Now this expression, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)



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The Type

- ^{NAS} **Exodus 19:18** Now Mount Sinai was all in smoke because the LORD descended upon it in fire; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked violently. ¹⁹ When the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him with thunder. ²⁰ And the LORD came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain; and the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.



- ^{NAS} **Exodus 24:12** Now the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and remain there, and I will give you the stone tablets with the law and the commandment which I have written for their instruction." covered the mountain ... ¹⁶ And the glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; and on the seventh day He called to Moses from the midst of the cloud. ¹⁷ And to the eyes of the sons of Israel the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the mountain top. ¹⁸ And Moses entered the midst of the cloud as he went up to the mountain; and Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.



The Reality

- ^{NAS} **Luke 24:48** "You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ "And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." ⁵⁰ And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ And it came about that while He was blessing them, He parted from them.
- ^{NAS} **Acts 1:8** but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." ⁹ And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.



The Comparison

- Moses is the mediator between God and His people.
- Jesus is the true mediator between God and His people.
- Moses ascends up a mountain into the clouds.
- Jesus ascends through the clouds into heaven itself.
- Moses is shown a copy of the heavenly tabernacle which he replicates on earth.
- Jesus ascends to enter the heavenly tabernacle.
- High priest enters God's presence in earthly tabernacle through a cloud of incense once per year.
- Jesus passes through the clouds of heaven and entered the real tabernacle forever.

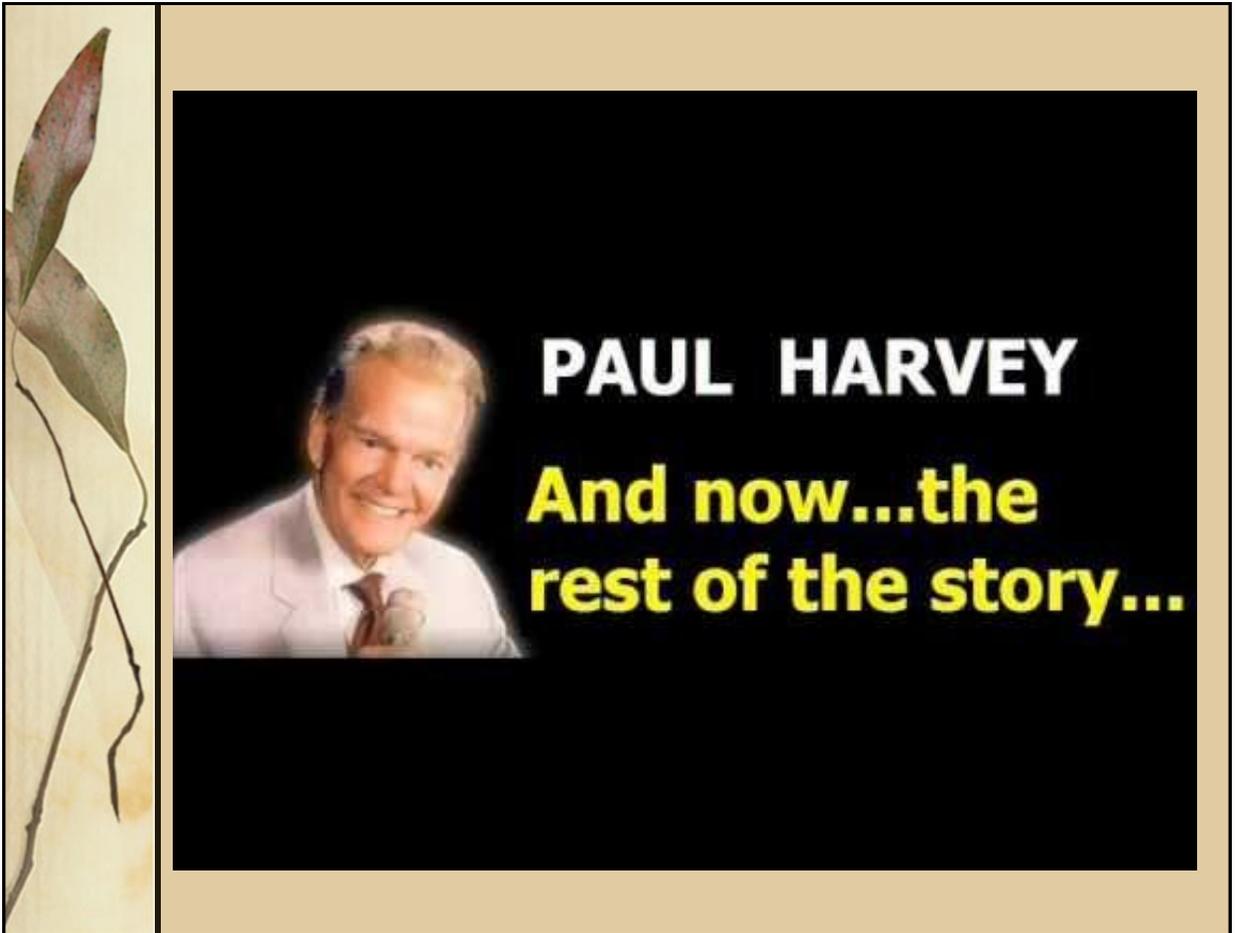
➤ *The Ascension: Humanity in the Presence of God*

Tim Chester & Jonny Woodrow



Luke's Two Accounts

- Gospel: Opens with Jesus coming from heaven and ends with him going back up into heaven.
 - Story of Jesus as the promised Savior and King who inaugurated God's kingdom and secured salvation for God's people.
- Acts: Opens with Jesus going up into heaven with the promise he will return the same way and ends with the spread of the gospel and growth of the church.
 - Story of the ascended king sending the Holy Spirit to empower His people to extend His reign through the proclamation of His word.
- Collectively: The ascension is the turning point of history
 - marks the end of the old covenant and national Israel
 - marks the initiation of the New Covenant and the true Israel and the gift of the Holy Spirit





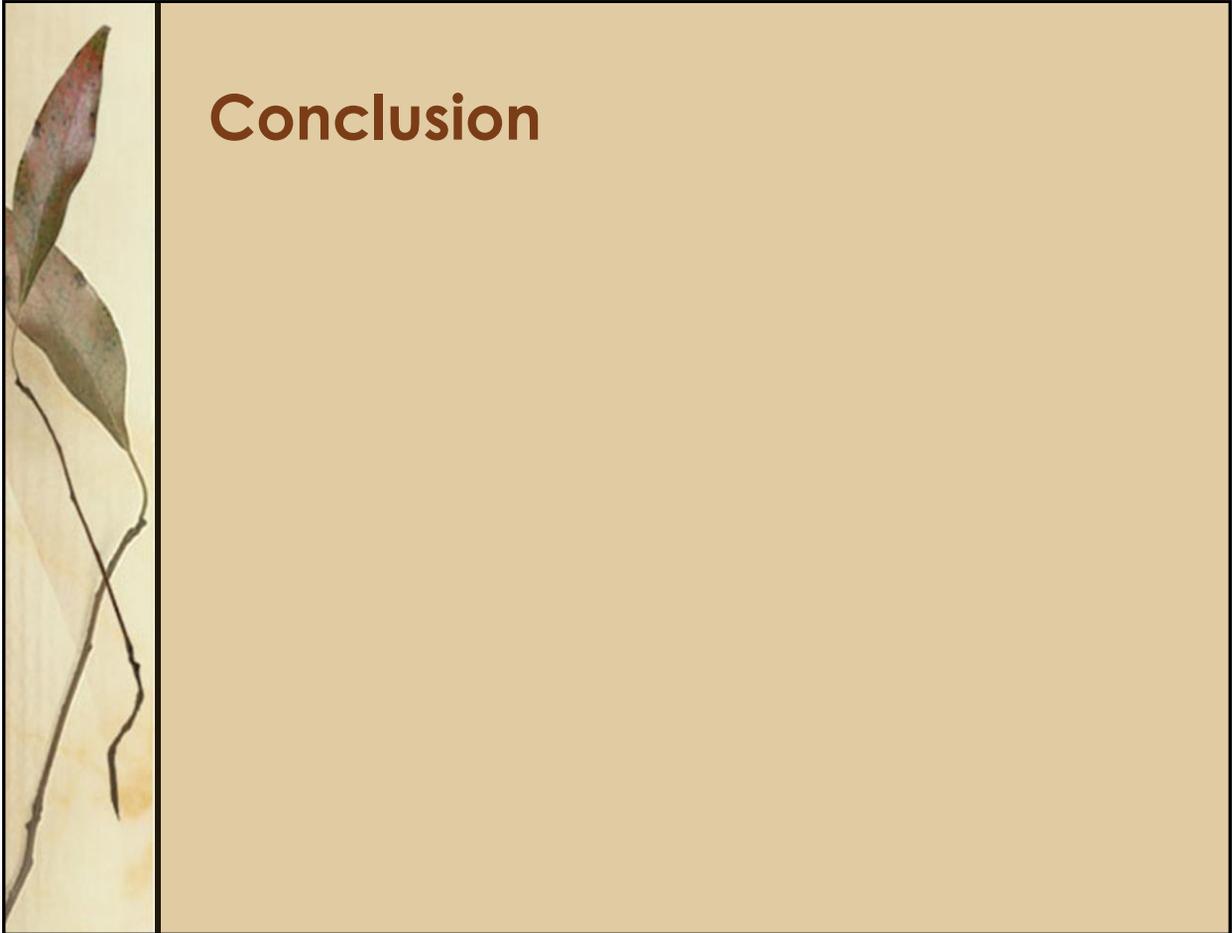
The Rest of the Story

- ^{NAS} **Daniel 7:9** "I kept looking until thrones were set up, And the Ancient of Days took His seat; His vesture was like white snow, And the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames, Its wheels were a burning fire. ¹⁰ "A river of fire was flowing And coming out from before Him; Thousands upon thousands were attending Him, And myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; The court sat, And the books were opened...¹³ "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. ¹⁴ "And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations, and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.



Jesus: Sovereign King and Lord

- ^{NIV} **Hebrews 1:3** ... After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.
- ^{NIV} **Hebrews 2:7** ... you crowned him with glory and honor⁸ and put everything under his feet." In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him.
- ^{NAS} **Ephesians 1:20** ... He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come.²² And He put all things in subjection under His feet ...
- ^{NIV} **Revelation 19:16** On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.



Conclusion



Understanding the Ascension

- Jesus is the ...
 1. Ascended Priest
 - He is able to save to the uttermost.
 2. Ascended King
 - He has all authority and power in heaven and on earth.
 3. Ascended Man
 - He has brought humanity into heaven into the presence of God



Called to Mission

- ^{NAS} **Acts 2:33** "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. ³⁴ "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, ³⁵ Until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet.'" ³⁶ "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ-- this Jesus whom you crucified."
- ^{NAS} **Matthew 28:18** And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."



Our Mission

- Jesus tells the apostles to “make disciples by baptizing people and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. In other words they are to call on people to submit to the authority of Jesus. They are to call on people to obey the commands of the ascended king. The mission of the church is an exercise of authority. We call on people to submit to the government of Christ through the gospel.”

➤ *Chester & Woodrow*



Empowered for Mission

- ^{NAS} **Ephesians 2:4** But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, that no one should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.



Direction and Guidance for Life

- ^{NAS} **Colossians 3:1** If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. ³ For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.
- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 12:1** Therefore ... let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.



Able to Persevere

- ^{NAS} **1 Corinthians 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.
- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 4:14** Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.