

* OPENING WORD: KNOWING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ASCENSION

I. The Man-Savior's ascension is His inauguration into His heavenly office through the process of creation, incarnation, human living, crucifixion, and resurrection as God and man, as the Creator and the creature, and as the Redeemer, the Savior, and the life-giving Spirit, to execute God's administration and to carry out God's New Testament economy.

* INSIGHT

II. We need to see the objective aspect of the Lord's ascension:

- A. The Lord's ascension caused Him to be crowned with glory and honor—Heb. 2:9:
- Glory is the splendor related to Jesus' person; honor is the preciousness related to Jesus' worth—1 Pet. 2:7.
 - Christ is glorious in state and honorable in rank; He is above all kings and rulers; this is His honor.
- B. The Lord's ascension caused Him to be enthroned for God's administration; Hebrews 12:2 says that Christ is now seated on the right hand of the throne of God:
- The fact that God in Christ is sitting on the throne means that God administers the entire universe from within Christ and through Christ, just as the light shines from within the lamp and through the lamp—Rev. 22:1, 3; cf. Rev. 21:23.
 - Christ is now on the throne to administer the entire universe; He is the unique Administrator, the King of kings and the Lord of lords; He is the Ruler of the kings of the earth—Rev. 1:5; 17:14; 19:16.
 - His administering is related to the universe, but His carrying out of God's New Testament economy is to propagate Himself for His reproduction to build up the church, His Body, which will issue in the New Jerusalem—cf. Acts 5:31.
- C. "Let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you have crucified"; in this verse the word *made* can be understood to mean "inaugurated"; in His ascension God inaugurated Christ into His heavenly ministry—Acts 2:36:
- The Man-Savior, in His ascension, has been made the Lord to possess all; He is now the Lord to possess the whole universe, God's chosen people, and all positive things, matters, and persons.
 - The Man-Savior, in His ascension, was made the Christ as God's Anointed to carry out God's commission—Heb. 1:9.
- D. We are now one with Christ in His resurrection and ascension; as a result, we have life and power in resurrection and also authority in ascension; when we contact our Lord, we need to have a realization of what He is, a realization of His status, position, and office—Eph. 2:6.

* EXPERIENCE

III. **We need to see the subjective aspect of the Lord's ascension**—cf. [Psa. 91:1](#); [S. S. 4:7-8](#); [6:10](#):

- A. Christ in His all-transcending ascension transcended Hades (where the dead people are being held), the earth (where the fallen people are moving against God), the air (where Satan and his power of darkness are acting against God), and all the heavens (where Satan can go)—[Eph. 1:20-21](#); [4:8-10](#); [Heb. 7:26](#); [Job 1:6-12a](#); [2:1-6](#)
- B. In His ascension Christ passed through the heaven so that now He is not only in heaven but is also higher than the heavens, far above all the heavens—[Heb. 4:14](#); [9:24](#); [7:26](#); [Eph. 4:10](#).
- C. [Ephesians 1:19-23](#) reveals that there is a transmission from the ascended Christ to us; verse 22 says that God gave Christ “to be Head over all things to the church”; the phrase to the church indicates a transmission from the ascended Christ to the church, His Body:
 - God gave the ascended Christ a great gift—the headship over all things; what God gave Christ to be is to the church; it is transmitted to the church, and the church shares it.
 - Verses 20 through 22 show that God caused His power to operate in Christ in four steps: first, raising Him from the dead; second, seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies; third, subjecting all things under His feet; and fourth, giving Him to be Head over all things to the church.
- D. In His ascension Christ was made the Head of the church, His Body, to express God in His fullness—[Col. 1:18](#); [Eph. 1:23](#); [3:19](#):
 - The Head and the Body are one and form a universal man; with this divine matter there is neither the element of space nor the element of time; **the Body is one with the Head in the divine life and in the divine Spirit.**
 - According to the divine viewpoint, we are one with the ascended Christ, and His ascension is also ours; **here in this ascension we express Him in His fullness**; since the transcending Christ is the embodiment of the Triune God, His transcending transmission includes all the rich dispensing of the Triune God to make us the fullness of Christ for His expression—[Eph. 2:6](#); [Col. 2:9](#); [Eph. 1:22-23](#); [3:19, 8](#).
- E. In His ascension Christ was also made the High Priest in the heavens to bear us in the presence of God and to care for all our needs; in His ascension He was inaugurated into His priestly office—[Heb. 2:17-18](#); [4:14-15](#); [Psa. 110:1-4](#); [Heb. 5:6](#); [7:26](#):
 - On the one hand, Christ is the High Priest interceding in the heavens for the churches; on the other hand, He is the High Priest moving in the churches to care for them; in Revelation 1:13 Christ is depicted as the High Priest, as shown by His garment, a garment reaching to the feet, that is, a priestly robe—[Heb. 7:25-26](#); [Rom. 8:34](#); [Exo. 28:33-35](#).
 - In Revelation 8 Christ is revealed as the Priest offering the incense at the golden altar: “Another Angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer, and much incense was given to Him to offer with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne”—[Rev. 8:3](#).

* PRACTICE

IV. **We need to see that we are in the Lord's ascension**—[Eph. 2:6](#):

- A. The entire age of grace is the time of the Lord's ascension—[Eph. 1:20](#).
- B. Christ is not only in ascension but also in us—[Col. 1:27](#).
- C. Christ is still moving in His ascension; He is living, dwelling, staying, ministering, serving, working, and acting in His ascension:
 - He is in His ascension within us; this is why Paul tells us that we are seated together with Christ in His ascension—[Eph. 2:6](#).
 - Within our being, there is an extraordinary person—the ascended Christ—[Col. 1:27](#); [Eph. 2:6](#).
 - The Lord today is in our spirit in His ascension—[2 Tim. 4:22a](#).
 - In this ascension the Triune God moves in us, and this move becomes our history.
 - Christ is the embodiment of the Triune God, and we are parts of this embodiment in His ascension—[Rom. 8:10](#); [2 Cor. 13:5](#); [Gal. 2:20](#); [4:19](#).
 - Whenever we are gathered together into His name, Christ is there with all His members in ascension, and this is God's move within man—[Matt. 18:20](#); [Col. 3:1, 3-4](#); [Eph. 1:20](#); [2:6](#).

- I. **OPENING WORD: The Man-Savior's ascension is His inauguration into His heavenly office through the process of creation, incarnation, human living, crucifixion, and resurrection as God and man, as the Creator and the creature, and as the Redeemer, the Savior, and the life-giving Spirit, to execute God's administration and to carry out God's New Testament economy** [S.S 4:8] Come with me from Lebanon, my bride; / With me from Lebanon come. / Look from the top of Amana, / From the top of Senir and Hermon, / From the lions' dens, / From the leopards' mountains.
- II. **INSIGHT: We need to see the objective aspect of the Lord's ascension**
- The Lord's ascension caused Him to: ① be crowned with glory (splendor state related to Jesus' person), and honor (precious and honorable in rank related to Jesus' worth); ② be seated on the right hand of the throne of God for God's administration of the entire universe by God from within and through Christ. He is the unique Administrator, the Lord of lords; the Ruler of the kings of the earth. Of His universal administration, His carrying out of God's New Testament economy is to propagate Himself for His reproduction to build up the church, His Body, which will issue in the New Jerusalem; ③ be "inaugurated" by God into His heavenly ministry as Lord and Christ, as Lord to possess the whole universe, God's chosen people, and all positive things, matters, and persons; and as Christ the Man-Savior, God's Anointed, to carry out God's commission in His ascension. We are now one with Christ in His resurrection and ascension, therefore, we now have life and power in resurrection and also authority in ascension. We should realize His status, position, and office when we contact our Lord. [Heb. 2:9] But we see Jesus, who was made a little inferior to the angels because of the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor...[Heb. 12:2] Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God. [Acts. 2:36] Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you have crucified. [Heb. 1:9] You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of exultant joy above Your partners“.
- III. **EXPERIENCE: We need to see the subjective aspect of the Lord's ascension**
- In His all-transcending ascension, Christ transcended the earth, the air and all the heavens; Satan's evil kingdom. He is far above all the heavens where God gave Christ a great gift—the headship over all things; what God gave Christ to be is to the church; it is transmitted to the church, His body, and the church shares it. God caused His power to operate in Christ in four steps: ① raising Him from the dead; ② seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies; ③ subjecting all things under His feet; ④ giving Him to be Head over all things to the church. In His ascension Christ was made the Head of the church, His Body; the Body is one with the Head in the divine life and in the divine Spirit, a universal man without space nor time constraint. According to the divine viewpoint, His ascension become ours when we are one with the ascended Christ; here in this ascension we express Him in His fullness. Since the transcending Christ is the embodiment of the Triune God, His transcending transmission includes all the rich dispensing of the Triune God to make us the fullness of Christ for His expression. [Eph. 1:19] And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength. [Eph. 1:20] Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies. [Eph. 1:22] And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church. [Eph. 1:23] Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
 - In His ascension Christ was also inaugurated into His heavenly High Priest office to bear us in the presence of God and to care for all our needs. Rev. 8 reveals Christ as the High Priest offering the incense with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne, interceding for the churches in the heavens while He, in His reaching to the feet priestly garment, is moving in the churches to care for them as in Rev. 1:13. [Col. 1:18] And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things. [Eph. 3:19] And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God. [Heb. 4:14] Having therefore a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast the confession. Rev. 8:3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer, and much incense was given to Him to offer with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. Rev. 1:13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like the Son of man, clothed with a garment reaching to the foot, and girded about the breast with a golden girdle.
- IV. **PRACTICE: We need to see that we are in the Lord's ascension**
- The entire age of grace is the time of the Lord's ascension. Christ is still moving in His ascension; He is living, dwelling, staying, ministering, serving, working, and acting in His ascension. The Lord is also within us in our spirit in His ascension today. Christ is the embodiment of the Triune God, and we are parts of this embodiment in His ascension; the Triune God moves in us, and this move becomes our history. Whenever we are gathered together into His name, Christ is there with all His members in ascension, and this is God's move within man. [Eph. 2:6] And raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus. [Col. 1:27] To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. [Col. 3:1] If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

Not only is Christ in us; His resurrection and ascension are also in us. As the processed, all-inclusive, indwelling Spirit, Christ dwells in us today with His humanity, divinity, human living, death, resurrection, and ascension. All this is being transmitted into us.

The New Testament reveals that our Christ is in resurrection and ascension. Whatever He has obtained and attained in His resurrection and ascension is now being transmitted into us by the all-inclusive, life-giving Spirit. We simply need to open ourselves and say, “Lord, I am here. I love You, and I give myself to You. Lord, I empty my whole being for You.” If you pray like this, you will experience and enjoy this divine transmission.

<Excerpts from “Life-study of Lukes”, Chapter 78, “The Man-Savior’s Ascension (3)”>

The Bible tells us that Christ is not only in ascension but also in us ([Col. 1:27](#)). If He were working only in ascension, His work would have nothing to do with us, and His work could never be our story as a part of God’s history in us. But today He is working within us. Because His work is within us, this work is related to our history. So this work is God’s history in His union with man. He is working in His ascension within us. As the ascended One with many statuses and positions, He is moving within us. This is God’s move in man, and this is God’s writing of His history.

<Excerpts from “The Move of God in Man”, Chapter 9, “In the ascension of Christ (2)”>