

## **Biblical Theology**

### **U4L5: Resurrection and Ascension**

#### **Introduction**

- Statues of Christ
  - Pre-incarnate glory.
  - Humiliation
    - Incarnation
    - Suffering
    - Death
    - Burial
  - Exaltation
    - Resurrection
    - Ascension
    - Session at God's right hand.
    - Return in glory and power.

#### **Nature of Resurrection and Ascension**

- Crucial cornerstone to Christian faith is that Christ rose from the dead and ascended to heaven following his death on the cross.
  1. **When Jesus was resurrected he was witnessed by angels and men.**
    - *Luke 24:5-7 - He is not here; he has risen!*
    - *John 20:27-28 - "Put your finger here; see my hands."*
    - *1 Corinthians 15:3 - he was buried, that he was raised on the third day.*
  2. **When Jesus was resurrected he took on a glorified, fleshly form.**
    - *Luke 24:39-43 - They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it*
    - *Luke 24:13-16 - they were kept from recognizing him.*
    - *John 20:15 - Thinking he was the gardener,*
    - *John 21:4 - but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.*
      - Plausible explanations for each, but still indicate alteration in appearance.
    - *Luke 24:30-31 - and he disappeared from their sight.*
    - *John 20:19 - doors locked ..., Jesus came and stood among them*
      - Indication that Christ's glorified body had unique abilities and properties.
    - *1 Corinthians 15:23 - Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.*
      - Indication that Jesus' glorified body demonstrates our future glorified bodies.
  3. **Forty days following his resurrection, Christ ascended to a place.**
    - *Acts 1:9-11 - taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him*
  4. **Christ sits at God's right hand awaiting his return.**
    - *Acts 7:55-56 - "I see ... the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."*
    - *Hebrews 1:3 - he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.*
    - *Ephesians 1:20 - raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand*

#### **Importance of Resurrection and Ascension**

- Resurrection and ascension ratified the efficacy of God's covenant of salvation and displayed God's immense sovereignty.
  1. **Gave witness to legitimacy of Jesus' claims and teachings.**
    - *Matthew 16:21 - that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.*
    - *Matthew 20:17-19 - On the third day he will be raised to life!"*
    - *John 2:19 - "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."*

2. **Gave witness to sovereign power of God.**
  - *John 10:17-18 - I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again.*
  - *Romans 8:11 - And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.*
  
3. **Gave witness to ultimate plan of God of salvation.**
  - *Acts 1:10-11 - will come back in the same way you have seen him go*
    - Future events tied to personhood Jesus.
  - *1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 - will be caught up together with them in the clouds*
    - Mankind's future is exemplified and clarified, though still mysterious.
  - *Acts 26:22-23 - the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles."*
    - God's covenant through Jewish Messiah brings eternal salvation to Jews and Gentiles alike.
  
4. **Affirmed efficacy of the atonement.**
  - *Colossians 2:15-17 - When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*
    - If Jesus were still dead, he would still be paying off sin.
  
5. **Ensures the hope of believers.**
  - *2 Peter 3:3-4 - Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." [13-14] But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.*
  - *Titus 2:13-14 - while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What characteristics of Christ's glorified flesh are most intriguing to you and why? How does this affect your view of your future glorified body?
2. Why is it important to recognize that Jesus ascended to a place rather than de-materializing to some ethereal state?
3. As significant as Christ's death on the cross was, why would God's promises seem so incomplete if Christ had never risen from the grave or ascended to heaven?