

CHRISTOLOGY:

DOCTRINE OF CHRIST:

THE DEATH OF CHRIST:

There are six major areas of study that we must understand about the death of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The six major areas of study concerning the death of Christ are as follows:

1. **Substitution:** The substitutionary death of Christ is also called *vicarious* meaning, “one in the place of another.”
2. **Redemption:** To redeem means to “buy back.” Christ purchased believers out of the slave market of sin.
3. **Reconciliation:** Means to restore unto favor. Mankind has been restored unto favor with God.
4. **Propitiation:** The appeasement of God’s wrath, to pacify an angry king at the expense of justice.
5. **Forgiveness:** The death of Christ is the LEGAL grounds whereby God COULD forgive us. The word forgive means, “To forgive out of Grace.”
6. **Justification:** The legal act in which God who is judge declares the believing sinner righteous. Since we are justified we are therefore called the righteousness of God in Christ. 2 Cor. 5:21

Substitution:

This means that Christ died a *substitutionary death* on behalf of sinners. *The substitutionary death of Christ is also called vicarious by scholars meaning, “one in the place of another.”* The great redemption chapter in Isaiah 53 reveals this vicarious death of Christ through the use of personal pronouns. Notice:

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him. And by His stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5 (NKJV)

Notice also the scripture in 1 Peter 2:24 that it reads in a similar manner.

who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed.

1 Peter 2:24 (NKJV)

According to the Moody Handbook of Theology by Paul Enns p. 233 there are two Greek prepositions that teach the *substitutionary* work of Christ's death. First of all the Greek preposition *anti* that is translated "for" and should mean "instead of."

“ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Matt 20:28 (NKJV)

The Greek actually reads, “and to give His life a ransom “instead of” many.”

The second Greek preposition is *huper*, and really means, “in the place of.” This word also emphasizes the substitutionary work of Christ. Notice the following scripture:

who gave Himself a ransom for (*huper, in the place of*) all, to be testified in due time,

1 Tim 2:6 (NKJV)

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for (*huper, in the place of*) us (for it is written, "*Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree*"),

Gal 3:13 (NKJV)

Our Lord died a substitutionary death by dying on a Roman Cross.

For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us (IN THE PLACE OF), that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Cor 5:21 (NKJV)

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for (IN THE PLACE OF) the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

1 Peter 3:18 (NKJV)

The demands of a Holy God were met completely by Christ's payment for our sins. This is the ONLY basis that we can approach Christ and that is through the substitutionary work of Christ alone and not on any of our own merits. This is the only reason Christ is able to declare us righteous when we accept His death and what that death really means. The sins of the whole world were placed on Christ who alone made the complete atonement for those who believe and accept Him as their Lord and Savior.

Redemption:

The death of Christ also provided *redemption* for mankind who believe and accept Him. To redeem means to "buy back." Notice the following scripture:

For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Cor 6:20 (NKJV)

The Greek word translated "bought" is *agorazo* and means a slave being purchased in the ancient slave market that was held in public. Christ purchased believers out of the slave market of sin and has set us free.

22 For he who is called in the Lord *while* a slave is the Lord's freedman. Likewise he who is called *while* free is Christ's slave.

1 Cor 7:22 (NKJV)

You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.

1 Cor 7:23 (NKJV)

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "*Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree*")

Gal 3:13 (NKJV)

And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

Rev 5:9 (NKJV)

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

Eph 1:7 (NKJV)

being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Romans 3:24 (NKJV)

Reconciliation:

Another result of the death of Christ is that man is reconciled to God. **To be reconciled means being restored unto favor.** Man was estranged and alienated from God but is now at peace with Him. Mankind must however accept this reconciliation. All the enmity and hostility that existed between us and God is now removed. Notice the following scriptures that teach us about this aspect of the death of Christ and what it provided.

For if when we were enemies we were reconciled (RESTORED UNTO FAVOR) to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled (RESTORED UNTO FAVOR), we shall be saved by His life. Romans 5:10 (NKJV)

Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, **19** that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. **20** Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 2 Cor 5:18-20 (NKJV)

Greek Word: καταλλαγή

Transliteration: katallagē

—Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary

Part Of Speech: Verb

Strong's Number: <G2644>

Original Word: καταλλάσσω, *katallassō*

Usage Notes: properly denotes "to change, exchange" (especially of money); hence, of persons, "to change from enmity to friendship, to reconcile." With regard to the relationship between God and man, the use of this and connected words shows that primarily "reconciliation" is what God accomplishes, exercising His grace towards sinful man on the ground of the death of Christ in **propitiatory (to make favorable, to appease)** sacrifice under the judgment due to sin, [2 Cor. 5:19](#), where both the verb and the noun are used (cp. No. 2, in [Col. 1:21](#)). By reason of this men in their sinful condition and alienation from God are invited to be "reconciled" to Him; that is to say, to change their attitude, and accept the provision God had made, whereby their sins can be remitted and they themselves be justified in His sight in Christ.

[Rom. 5:10](#) expresses this in another way: "For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son..." that we were "enemies" not only expresses man's hostile attitude to God but signifies that until this change of attitude takes place men are

under condemnation, exposed to God's wrath. The death of His Son is the means of the removal of this, and thus we "receive the reconciliation," [Rom. 5:11](#), RV. This stresses the attitude of God's favor toward us. The AV rendering "atonement" is incorrect. Atonement is the offering itself of Christ under Divine judgment upon sin. We do not receive atonement. What we do receive is the result, namely, "reconciliation."

—Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words

Propitiation:

The death of Christ provided for us *propitiation* which means that the demands of a righteous God for justice were completely satisfied and the wrath of God was appeased. We deserved judgment because of the righteous demands of God but Jesus through His death satisfied the claims of justice so that God's wrath is now parted from us.

The death of Christ was a satisfactory payment for our sins. God was satisfied by His holiness being upheld and thereby wrath was averted.

propitiation		
Book	Description	Context
NKJV	Ro 3:25 Chapter 3	25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,
NKJV	Heb 2:17 Chapter 2	17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.
NKJV	1Jn 2:2 Chapter 2	2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.
NKJV	1Jn 4:10 Chapter 4	10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Forgiveness:

The death of Christ also provided *forgiveness* for sinners. Because of the righteous nature of God He could not forgive sin unless a proper PAYMENT was made. The death of Christ provided the LEGAL means whereby God could forgive sins. The word for *forgiveness* is from the root word for grace. Therefore forgiveness in the Bible means: **“To forgive out of Grace.”**

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, **14** having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Col 2:13-14 (NKJV)

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 (NKJV)

forgiveness		
Book	Description	Context
	Ps 130:4 Psalm 130	4 But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared.
NKJV	Da 9:9 Chapter 9	9 To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness , though we have rebelled against Him.
NKJV	Mk 3:29 Chapter 3	29 but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness , but is subject to eternal condemnation"--
NKJV	Ac 5:31 Chapter 5	31 Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.
NKJV	Ac 13:38 Chapter 13	38 Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins;
NKJV	Ac 26:18 Chapter 26	18 to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'
NKJV	Eph 1:7 Chapter 1	7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace
NKJV	Col 1:14 Chapter 1	14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Justification:

Another result of the death of Christ is that *justification* is provided for believing sinners. Justification is a legal act in which God who is judge declares the believing sinner righteous. We have been justified in the sight of God through the death of Christ.

Justified		
Book	Description	Context
NKJV	Ro 3:24 Chapter 3	24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,
NKJV	Ro 3:28 Chapter 3	28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.
NKJV	Ro 5:1 Chapter 5	1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
NKJV	Ro 5:9 Chapter 5	9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.
NKJV	Ro 8:30 Chapter 8	30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified ; and whom He justified , these He also glorified.
NKJV	1Co 6:11 Chapter 6	11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.
NKJV	Gal 2:16 Chapter 2	16 knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified .
NKJV	Gal 3:24 Chapter 3	24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.
NKJV	Gal 5:4 Chapter 5	4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.
NKJV	Tit 3:7 Chapter 3	7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
NKJV	Jas 2:24 Chapter 2	24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST:

IMPORTANCE:

The resurrection of Jesus Christ cannot be over stated. **1) *The resurrection confirms the validity of the Gospel message. Without the resurrection of Jesus Christ we have no faith, or hope.***

Paul said it this way, “ And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty. **15** Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up--if in fact the dead do not rise. **16** For if *the* dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. **17** And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins! “ 1 Cor. 15:14-17 (NKJV)

THE PHYSICAL RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST IS IMPORTANT ONLY IF IT IS TRUE! If Jesus did not rise from the grave then everything we believe about the Bible is false. However, if Jesus did in fact rise from the dead, then everything Jesus claimed is true. And if what Jesus claimed is true, then he certainly died for the sins of the world and eternal life is received by believing in Jesus.

2) *The resurrection of Jesus guarantees the Father's acceptance of His Son's work.*

This means the work of the cross was completed and accepted by the Father God. The resurrection proves that Jesus is the true Jewish Messiah rather than a lying impostor.

3) *The Holy Spirit could not have come to the earth as Jesus promised (John 16:7) if Christ could not depart back to heaven (necessitating the resurrection).*

4) *It fulfilled all the prophecies concerning His resurrection.*

8 I have set the LORD always before me; Because *He is* at my right hand I shall not be moved. **9** Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. **10** For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. **11** You will show me the path of life; In Your presence *is* fullness of joy; At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore. Psalms 16:8-11 (NKJV)
22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know-- **23** Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless

hands, have crucified, and put to death; **24** whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. **25** For David says concerning Him: *'I foresaw the LORD always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken.* **26** *Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope.* **27** *For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.* **28** *You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.'* **29** "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. **30** Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, **31** he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. **32** This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. **33** Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

Acts 2:22-33 (NKJV)

The Apostle Paul more than any other apostle, is the supreme witness of the resurrection. He saw and heard Christ only in His heavenly glory. And thus it is in the Pauline epistles that we have the revelation not of the earthly life of Christ but of the resurrected life of Christ.

THE APOSTLE PAUL TEACHES US THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) **The resurrection establishes Jesus as the Son of God with power.**

...concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, **4** and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

Romans 1:3-4 (NKJV)

- 2) **At the resurrection Jesus was not only raised physically but also was born again spiritually.**

God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: *'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.'*

Acts 13:33 (NKJV)

- 3) **At the resurrection Jesus became the *prototype* of glorified humanity.**

And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam *was made* a quickening spirit.1
 Cor 15:45 (KJV)

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, **21** who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself. Phil 3:20-21 (NKJV)

4) **By virtue of the resurrection Jesus became the Head of the Church.**

and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power **20** which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, **21** far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. **22** And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church, **23** which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. Eph 1:19-23 (NKJV)

5) **By virtue of the resurrection Jesus became a life giving Spirit.**

And so it is written, "*The first man Adam became a living being.*" The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit. 1 Cor 15:45 (NKJV)

This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. **33** Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. Acts 2:32-33 (NKJV)

6) **By virtue of the resurrection Jesus entered upon His ministry as High Priest.**

High Priest		
Book	Description	Context
NKJV	Heb 2:17 Chapter 2	17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.
NKJV	Heb 3:1 Chapter 3	1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,
NKJV	Heb 4:14 Chapter 4	14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.
NKJV	Heb 4:15 Chapter 4	15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.
NKJV	Heb 5:1 Chapter 5	1 For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.
NKJV	Heb 5:5 Chapter 5	5 So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest , but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You."
NKJV	Heb 5:10 Chapter 5	10 called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek,"
NKJV	Heb 6:20 Chapter 6	20 where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.
NKJV	Heb 7:1 Chapter 7	1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,
NKJV	Heb 7:26 Chapter 7	26 For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;
NKJV	Heb 8:1 Chapter 8	1 Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest , who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,
NKJV	Heb 8:3 Chapter 8	3 For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer.
NKJV	Heb 9:7 Chapter 9	7 But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance;

NKJV	Heb 9:11 Chapter 9	11 But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.
NKJV	Heb 9:25 Chapter 9	25 not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another--
NKJV	Heb 10:21 Chapter 10	21 and having a High Priest over the house of God,

7) **Jesus Christ not only predicted His death but also His resurrection.**

From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

Matt 16:21 (KJV)

8) **Water baptism celebrates the resurrection. Going under the water is a remembrance of the death of Jesus, and being brought out of the water the believer is identifying with Jesus rising from the dead into a new life.**

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:4 (KJV)

Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

Col 2:12 (KJV)

9) **The ordinance of the Lord's Supper, commemorates the resurrection. Eating the bread and drinking the wine is a memorial to the sufferings and death of Christ as Jesus Himself requested before he died. Without the resurrection of Jesus Christ this ordinance would have no meaning.**

Proofs of the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

1) **THE EMPTY TOMB:** Christ was either resurrected or someone stole the body. If opponents of Jesus took the body why didn't they produce it later to prove their belief that Jesus was a fake? Also the disciples could not have stolen the body of Jesus as the Roman soldiers were guarding the tomb and there was a Roman seal on the tomb. The empty tomb is an obvious proof of the resurrection.

2) **THE SHAPE OF THE LINEN WRAPPINGS:** When John entered the tomb the Bible says that “he saw and believed” (John 20:8). John saw the linen wrappings that still retained the shape of the body and the headpiece that was “rolled up in a place by itself” (John 20:7). John knew that no one could have taken the body out of the wrappings and placed them in such a way to retain the shape of the body of Jesus.

So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. **5** And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen *cloths lying there*; yet he did not go in. **6** Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying *there*, **7** and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. **8** Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed.

John 20:4-8 (NKJV)

Greek word for “lying” = **Greek Word:** [κεῖμαι](#)
Transliteration: keimai

Phonetic Pronunciation: [ki'-mahee](#)
to *lie* outstretched (literal or figurative)—Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary

3) **THE RESURRECTION APPEARANCES:** Our Lord was seen by many witnesses in the forty days that followed His resurrection. Among them were:

- The faithful women at the tomb. (Matt. 28:1-20)
- The two on the road to Emmaus. (Luke 24:13-35)
- The eleven disciples.
- 500 believers at one time. (1 Cor. 15:5-8)
- The apostle Paul. (Acts 9:1-20)

4) **THE TRANSFORMED DISCIPLES:** In Acts 2 Peter is quite a different person than he was in John 19. Knowledge of the resurrection made the difference.

5) **THE OBSERVANCE OF THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK:** The disciples immediately began to meet together upon the first day of the week to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus.

And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" **27** Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." John 20:26-27 (NKJV)

Now on the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. Acts 20:7 (NKJV)

On the first *day* of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. 1 Cor 16:2 (NKJV)

6) **THE EXISTENCE OF THE CHURCH:** The early church grew because of the preaching of the resurrection.

Our Lord Himself gave witness to the preaching of the disciples and confirmed the Word preached with signs and wonders.

... whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. **25** For David says concerning Him: '*I foresaw the Lord always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. 26 Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. 27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 28 You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.*' Acts 2:24-28 (NKJV)

Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, **2** being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. **3** And they laid hands on them, and put *them* in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. **4** However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand. Acts 4:1-4 (NKJV)

And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. **9** Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia), disputing with Stephen. **10** And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke. Acts 6:8-10 (NKJV)

THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST:

The ascension of Christ is described in the following scriptures:

So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. **20** And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with *them* and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen. Mark 16:19-20 (NKJV)

And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. **51** Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. **52** And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, **53** and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.[Luke 24:50-53 (NKJV)

Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. **10** And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, **11** who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

Acts 1:9-11 (NKJV)

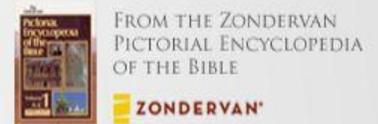
Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. Heb 4:14 (NKJV)

Significance of the ascension:

- It ended the earthy ministry of Christ. The ascension marked the end of the period of self-limitation that he exercised during his earthly ministry.
- The ascension ended the “humiliation” of Christ.
- It marked the beginning of a new work of Christ in heaven as the great high priest.

This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence *behind* the veil, **20** where the forerunner has entered for us, *even* Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. Heb 6:19-20 (NKJV)

Ascension (of Christ)



FROM THE ZONDERVAN
PICTORIAL ENCYCLOPEDIA
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remoteness, but His spiritual nearness (Matt 28:20). It issued in our Lord's present life in heaven for us. It enabled Him to send forth the Holy Spirit (John 16:7 ; Acts 2:33) to convict the world of sin (John 16:8), and to indwell His disciples (John 14:17), giving power for witness (Acts 1:8 ; 4:8 , 31), and creating a new and radiant fellowship (Acts 2:42-47 ; 2 Cor 13:14 ; Phil 2:1 , 2). The Ascension meant that Christ took His perfect manhood with Him into glory. Now, in the heavenlies, He does not continue to offer His blood, as Milligan states (*The Ascension* , etc., p. 266). The sacrifice for sin has been made once for all (Heb 7:27 ; 9:12 ; 10:10-14). But as our High Priest who understands our human temptations, He is able to sympathize (Heb 4:1-5), succor (Heb 2:18), and save (Heb 7:25). By virtue of His Ascension He is now Head of the Church (Eph 1:20-23 ; Col 1:17) and Lord of all (Phil 2:11). He is our Advocate with the Father (1 John 2:1) ever interceding for us (Rom 8:34 ; Heb 7:25). His presence in heaven assures us that we shall follow (Heb 6:18-20), and we await His coming again to receive us to Himself (Phil 3:20 , 21 ; 1 Thess 4:16 , 17 ; Heb 9:28).

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