

**Read Acts 1:9-11**

6 *When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?*

7 *And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.*

8 *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

9 *And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.*

My remarks this morning will be with respect to verses 9-11. Let me say a few things by way of **introduction**. Jesus had risen from the dead. He had appeared to many who had told others. Many who were told did not believe even though Jesus had told them plainly that he would arise on the third day. He also had told them that it was necessary for Him to go away, but that He would not leave them alone but send the Holy Spirit.

Through the apostles Jesus would teach the church by the Holy Spirit both a doctrine and a government. It is wicked to live in rebellion to either the doctrine or the government, as though we are wiser than God. We will return to this theme again and again as we go through Acts. Today, we speak of the Ascension and the Exaltation of Christ, and will look at several Scriptures to learn what the Ascension and Exaltation of Christ means.

I want to speak of three things today: Where Jesus is now; What He is doing there; and What we are to do because of it. **Where? What? And So What?**

**I. Where?**

- A. Mark 16: 19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. 20 And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.
- B. Luke 14: 51 “And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven”.
- C. Acts 2:29-33. He is exalted to the right hand of God

D. Ephesians 1: 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.

#### E. Observation

1. Where? in Heaven on the throne of power. Not the Father's throne, but the Mediator's throne, the throne of David.
2. He is above every name: every Being, except His Father: Phil 2: 8ff And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
3. He is exalted; the time of His humiliation is over: see Rev. 1:12-18

## II. What?

A. He is carrying on Spiritual Warfare.

1. Back to Acts 2:34-36
2. Heb 1:13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?
3. Heb 10:13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool
4. 1Cor. 15:24-28 turn and read.

B. Psalm 110 all.

C. Matt 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

D. This spiritual warfare is of two kinds:

1. Delivering the elect from the power of the devil and sin and misery. The Gospel is preached to the whole world, because we do not know who they are.
2. To overcome and put down everything that is in opposition to Christ:
  - a. hence, the Gospel is preached to all: a savor of life unto life, and a savor of death unto death, for the Gospel both calls the elect; and hardens and reveals the children of the devil who are destroyed by the Gospel, the two edged sword that proceeds from the mouth of Christ.
  - b. This is spoken of Ephesians 1:10: 10 “That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him”: We will see the wicked of angels and men removed to utter destruction and eternal misery for the praise of the Glory of God, and all things purified and made right and the godly shall shine as stars in the firmament forever and ever; in the new heavens and the new earth.
  - c. This is also what Christ is doing now, and the preaching of the Gospel and the calling of the elect is an integral part of this redemption.

### III. So What?

- A. We do not need to know the times or seasons or know the purpose for everything we see or hear, for we walk by faith and not by sight. Christ will return when it is time for Him; when the iniquity of the world is filled up and all the elect believe. Then comes the end.
- B. The positive thing we are to do is to bear witness of the rightful claim of Christ to all things; bringing every thought captive to Christ. We are to use our pound for the glory of God; or our talents. The first speaks of our equality; the second of our inequality.
- C. We must bear hardships as good soldiers of Jesus Christ.
  1. Speaking blessings to the world, to all who come to Christ in faith.
  2. Warning of the wrath to come on the ungodly.
  3. Undergoing the wrath of the devil,
    - a. He does not want to lose his subjects.
    - b. He does not want to hear his doom and the doom of those who follow his lies.
- D. What a glorious things it is to know that our labor is not in vain:
  1. On the one hand, we will be successful in calling the elect.
  2. On the other hand, no weapon that the devil forms against us shall prosper.May God Bless you. Amen and Amen.