

Jesus' Ascension and the Spirit's Arrival Luke 24:46-53

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
~~He descended into hell~~
the third day He rose from the dead;

He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy ~~catholic~~ church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Review of Jesus' Last Message (John 13:31-16:33)

John 13:31: Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him.

John 14:2-3: In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

John 14:16-17: And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever -- ¹⁷ "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

John 14:28: You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming *back* to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I.

John 15:5: I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

John 16:28: I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.

Jesus made it clear that He was going to his Father and that He would come back again. Jesus' ascension into heaven was a part of the plan.

Jesus' Ascension into Heaven shows us:

1. Jesus, in His resurrected body of flesh and bones ascended into heaven. Luke 24:51
2. Heaven is a real place. Luke 24:51
3. Jesus has been exalted to the place of honor at the right hand of God; He reigns as King from Heaven with God the Father. Ps 110:1
4. He has prepared a place and a way for us; He is the Forerunner. Heb 6:19-20
5. His work on earth is finished and He is now working in Heaven as our high Priest. Heb 4:14-16
6. His ascension into heaven gives Him the place of authority over the church. Eph 1:22
7. His ascension was the prerequisite for the sending of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Luke 24:49-51

The disciples waited in Jerusalem for the promised Holy Spirit.

Counting the days until the Feast of Weeks:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SABBATH	
MONTH OF NISAN							
				14 <i>Passover</i>	15 <i>Feast of Unleavened Bread</i>	16	
17 <i>Feast of Firstfruits</i> April 28, 2024							Begin counting 7 SABBATHS/ WEEKS
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1st WEEK
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	2nd WEEK
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	3rd WEEK
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	4th WEEK
29	30	31	32	33	34	35	5th WEEK
36	37	38	39	40	41	42	6th WEEK
43	MONTH of SIVAN						7th WEEK
	44	45	46	47	48	49	
<i>Feast of Weeks</i> <i>*Shavuot*</i> June 16, 2024							
50							

Leviticus 23:16: Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD.

Numbers 28:26-31: Also on the day of the firstfruits, when you bring a new grain offering to the LORD at your Feast of Weeks, you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work. ²⁷You shall present a burnt offering as a sweet aroma to the LORD: two young bulls, one ram, and seven lambs in their first year, ²⁸with their grain offering of fine flour mixed with oil: three-tenths of an ephah for each bull, two-tenths for the one ram, ²⁹and one-tenth for each of the seven lambs; ³⁰also one kid of the goats, to make atonement for you. ³¹Be sure they are without blemish. You shall present them with their drink offerings, besides the regular burnt offering with its grain offering.

The 50th day – Pentecost – God sent His Holy Spirit who produces fruit in our lives.

Spring Feasts: Passover, Feast of Unleavened Bread, Feast of Firstfruits

Summer Feasts: Feast of Weeks

Fall Feasts: Feast of Trumpets, Yom Kippur, Feast of Booths

On the 50th day – the Feast of Weeks/ Shavuot – Pentecost:

Acts 2:5: And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.

Acts 2:1-4: When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ²And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:38-47: Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." ⁴⁰And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." ⁴¹Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*.

- The sound of wind was an indication that the Holy Spirit was coming in mighty power.
- The Holy Spirit was given through the visible manifestation of fire from heaven.

In the Old Testament, fire symbolized:

- **God's presence - Exodus 3:2:** And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.
- **God's light - Exodus 13:21:** And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.
- **God's cleansing - Isaiah 6:5-7:** So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts." ⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. ⁷ And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged."
- **God's protection - Zechariah 2:5:** For I, says the LORD, will be a wall of fire all around her, and I will be the glory in her midst.
- **God's approval - 1 Kings 18:37-38:** "Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again." ³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.

The Holy Spirit, poured out, through the appearance of tongues of fire, signified:

1. God's presence – the Holy Spirit indwelling believers
2. God's light – the Holy Spirit opens our eyes to see truth and to understand God's directions
3. God's cleansing – the Holy Spirit sanctifies and cleanses us from sin
4. God's protection – the Holy Spirit seals us and guarantees that we belong to God
5. God's approval – believers receive the Holy Spirit because they have trusted in the finished work of Jesus' death.

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Amen!