

**WHAT the BIBLE TEACHES about GOD and JESUS CHRIST**

**Lesson 8 - Part 2**

**THE ASCENSION AND EXALTATION OF JESUS CHRIST**

**Why Jesus Christ ascended to heaven**

1. Before Jesus died, who said He would ascend to heaven?

How did Jesus go to heaven?

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Who saw Jesus in heaven?

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2. Before Jesus died, He said He would ascend to heaven. When He went to heaven, He was seen going up. He went slowly, He went bodily, and a cloud took Him up. Stephen and Paul saw Jesus at the right hand of God in heaven.

In this lesson we want to learn some reasons why Jesus went back to heaven. Jesus returned to heaven:

- Because His work on earth was finished.
- To end the time of His limitations (restrictions, restraint).
- To prepare a place for us.
- So all people can worship Jesus anywhere and anytime.
- So the Holy Spirit could come.

Jesus came to this world to die for sinners and to show people what God is like. He came to earth to do a work and He finished this work.

John 17:4

*I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.*

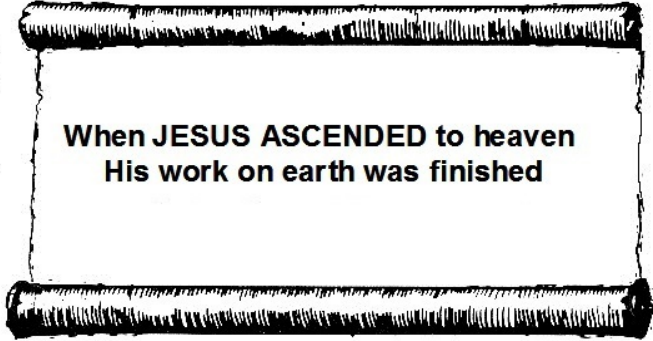
What did Jesus finish?

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3. Jesus finished the work God gave Him to do.

John 19:30

*When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*



What did Jesus say just before He died?

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4. He said, "It is finished." He paid for the sin of all people.

Hebrews 9:26

*Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.*

How did Jesus put away sin?

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5. Jesus put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. Jesus had finished the work God gave Him to do. Now He was ready to go back to heaven where He had been before.

What is one reason Jesus went back to heaven?

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6. One reason Jesus went back to heaven is that His work on earth was finished.

While He was on earth, He gave up the glory He had before. He could be in only one place at one time. He had to sleep and eat like people. He was tired at times.

John 17:5

*And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.*

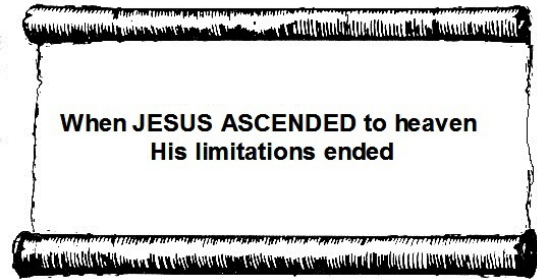
What did Jesus ask God to give Him at this time?

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7. He asked God to give Him the glory which He had before. When He went back to heaven, it was the end of the time of limitations or restrictions. When He went back to heaven, He was no longer limited in what He could do. It ended the times of tiredness, and living like people live.

1 Timothy 3:16

*Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated (proved spotless and pure) by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.*



Where was Jesus taken?

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8. Jesus was taken up to glory.

Why did Jesus go back to heaven?

- He His work on earth.
- To end the time of His

- To prepare a place for us.
- So all people can worship Jesus anywhere and anytime.
- So the Holy Spirit could come.

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9. Jesus went back to heaven because His work on earth was finished; and it ended the time of His limitations. Jesus has gone to heaven to prepare a place for the believers. He is the One who has gone ahead to a place where the believers will follow.

John 14:2,3

*In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.*



Why did Jesus go back to heaven?

Where will the believers go?

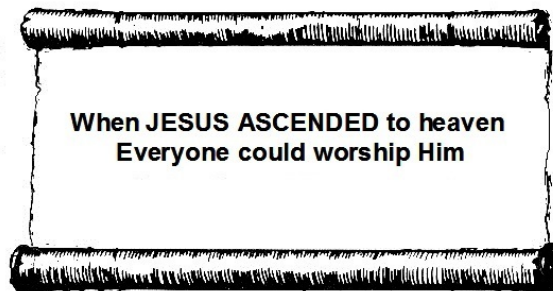
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10. Jesus went back to heaven to prepare a place for the believers. He went into heaven first and the believers will follow Him there.

If Jesus had stayed on earth, people would have had to go where He was to worship Him.

Ephesians 4:10

*He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.*



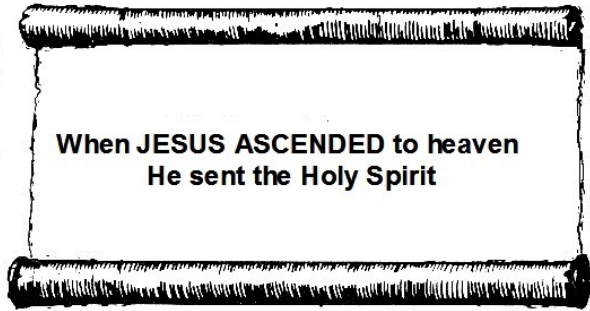
Now that Jesus has gone to heaven, He is everywhere. We learned from Matthew 28:20 that He is with His followers all the time. Because of this, everyone can worship Him anywhere and anytime.

Why did Jesus go back to heaven?

- Because His work
- To end the time
- To
- So all people can
- So the Holy Spirit could come.

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11. Jesus went to heaven because His work on earth was finished. It ended the time of His limitations (restrictions). He has gone to prepare a place for the believers. All people can worship Him anywhere and at anytime.



Jesus told us of another reason why He had to go back to heaven.

John 16:7

*But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.*

Who would come after Jesus went away?

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12. Jesus said the Counselor would come. The Counselor (Comforter) is the Holy Spirit. **Read** Acts 2:1-4 to see what happened at Pentecost.

Acts 2:4

*All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

Who came on the day of Pentecost?

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13. The Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost. It happened as Jesus said it would happen.

Why did Jesus go back to heaven?

- Because His work
- To end the time
- To
- So all people can
- could come.

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