

WHAT the BIBLE TEACHES about GOD and JESUS CHRIST

Lesson 8 - Part 4

THE ASCENSION AND EXALTATION OF JESUS CHRIST

The work of Jesus Christ after His exaltation

1. Because Jesus Christ was exalted:

- He is crowned with _____ and _____
- He has a _____ body.
- He is at the _____
- He has a _____
- Angels and authorities _____

2. Jesus Christ was exalted. He is crowned with glory and honour. He has a glorious body. He is sitting at the right hand of God. He has a name which is above every name. Angels and powers must obey Jesus Christ.

In this lesson we want to look at the work Jesus Christ did and is doing because He is exalted.

- He is our great High Priest.
- He is the Head of the church.
- He sent the Holy Spirit.
- He gives gifts.

In the next two lessons we will learn more about the work of Jesus Christ. However, in this lesson we want to see just a bit of His work. When Jesus Christ lived on earth, He had a certain work to do. That work He finished. He said so on the cross and also in His prayer (John 17:4; 19:30).

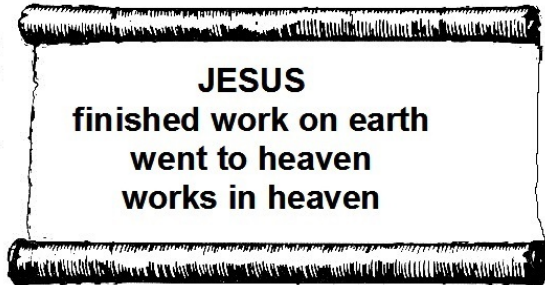
When we go to school, we have certain work to do. We study and learn how to do things. This is also called “preparing for our life work.” When we finish school, we use what we learned in school to do the work we had planned to do.

Did Jesus finish the work on earth He came to do?

How do we know?

3. Jesus Christ finished the work He came to do on earth. We know because He said so in His prayer in John 17:4; and again on the cross before He died. He finished His work on earth.

After Jesus went to heaven, He began the work He is doing now. He had to go to heaven first before He could do His present work.



He made His offering for sin while on earth. In heaven He can do His work as our High Priest.

Hebrews 9:28

So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

How many times did Jesus make the offering for sin?

4. Jesus made this offering for sin once.

Hebrews 4:14

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.



Hebrews 4:14 (KJV)

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

Hebrews 9:24

For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence.

Where did Jesus go?

5. Jesus entered into heaven. He is called a great High Priest. To be this great High Priest, He had to first go to heaven.

Hebrews 8:4

If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already men who offer the gifts prescribed (asked for) by the law.

Where did Jesus have to go to be a great High Priest?

6. Jesus had to go to heaven to be our great High Priest.

What is one work Jesus can do because He was exalted?

7. One work Jesus Christ can do because He was exalted is to work as a great High Priest.

If Jesus had stayed on earth, He would have had to stay pretty close to one area of work. Maybe He could have been the leader of a few local churches. Now He is in heaven and He is everywhere and fills the world.

Ephesians 4:10

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

Where is Jesus present now?

8. Now Jesus is present everywhere. Instead of being the leader of only a few churches, He is the leader of all churches. He is called the Head of the church. The head is important in a body. The brain in the head controls the body, the thinking, the planning, and the choosing. Jesus is called the Head of the church. He controls the church, plans, and makes

decisions for it.

Colossians 1:18

And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy (first place in everything).



What is Jesus to the church?

9. Jesus is the Head to the church. Because He is in heaven, He is the Head of the church.

What two works can Jesus do because He is exalted?

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10. Jesus is a great High Priest and the Head of the church.

Jesus said it was important that He go away so that he could send the Holy Spirit.

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.



Whom would Jesus send after He went to heaven?

11. Jesus would send the Counselor, the Holy Spirit. Pentecost, a feast of the Jews, was ten days after Jesus ascended. The believers and the disciples were gathered together. **Read** Acts 2:1-4.

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 filled the believers that day?

12. The Holy Spirit filled the believers that day.

What are three reasons why it was important for Jesus to go to heaven?

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13. It was important for Jesus to go to heaven so that He could be a great High Priest, that He could be the head of the church, and that the Holy Spirit could come. In the time Jesus lived, leaders of countries would go out to fight. They wanted to rule many countries. Sometimes countries were tired of having a ruler from another country over them. When this happened, they would not pay taxes to their ruler. The ruler would come with his army and have another war.

If the ruler won, he would return to his own country. Behind him were captives or prisoners. These prisoners were chained together and paraded through the streets. At this time the ruler gave gifts to the people in his own country.

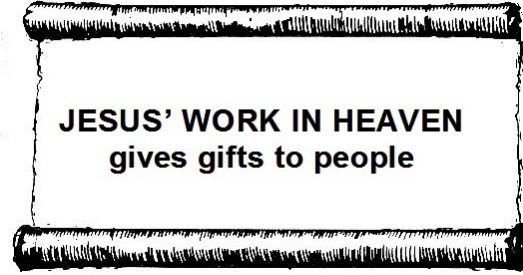


What did the ruler give to the people in His own country?

14. When the ruler came back from winning a war, he gave gifts to the people in his country. When Jesus entered heaven, He was exalted. He had won the victory over the devil, sin, and death.

Ephesians 4:8

This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men."



What does Jesus give to men?

15. Jesus gives gifts to men. We will learn more about these gifts in the Lesson 9. Jesus had to first go back to heaven before He could give gifts to men.

Can you write out Philippians 2:9?

16. What are four things Jesus does because He has been exalted?

- He is our
- He is the
- He sent
- He gives

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