

In Like Manner

4th - 6th Grade
Lesson 13

The Ascension of Christ

After Jesus rose from the dead, He spent 40 days with His disciples. The disciples must have been amazed to spend time with someone who overcame death!

Jesus taught the disciples many things before He was crucified. Sometimes they did not understand them. After His resurrection, the disciples began to understand what Jesus was saying to them.

In this lesson, we are going to learn about when Jesus went back to Heaven to be with His Father, God. We call this the ascension of Christ.

And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

—Luke 24:44-47

The Day He Was Taken Up

Most of the main events of Jesus' life happened in the dark. When Jesus was born, the angels came to the shepherds at night to tell them that He had been born. When Jesus died on the cross and saved the whole world from sin, darkness covered the earth. When Jesus rose from the grave, it was in the early morning, when it was still dark. But when Jesus went back to be with His Father, it was during the day. He went back to Heaven when He and the disciples were on a mountain in front of many people.

Do you remember when we learned that Jesus' birth was prophesied in the Old Testament? Jesus' ascension was also prophesied in the Old Testament.

Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive.

—Psalm 68:18a

The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

—Psalm 110:1

Jesus also told His disciples that some day He was going to ascend into Heaven to go back to be with His Father.

The Way He Was Taken Up

And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

—Luke 24:51

When Jesus left this earth, the Bible says that He “blessed them.” He lived His whole life as a blessing to people, and one of the last things He did was bless people.

The Way He Will Return

Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

—Acts 1:11

Many religions do not believe that Jesus rose from the dead. They do not believe that He went back to Heaven to be with His Father. However, the Bible tells us that Jesus did indeed return to Heaven after He rose from the dead. The Bible also tells us that Jesus will return in like manner—just like He left.

When Jesus went back to Heaven, many people watched Him go. They were amazed to see someone going up into Heaven in the cloud! The Bible says that when Jesus comes back, every eye shall see Him. It is going to be wonderful to finally see Jesus!

Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

—Revelation 1:7

The Day He Will Return

Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

—Matthew 25:13

It is exciting to know that Jesus is going to come back! When He comes back, He will reign here forever. His time on earth after He returns will be very different from the time He was born here on earth. Do you remember what we learned about Jesus’ birth? Not very many people came to see the Baby Jesus, even though He was the King. But when He comes back, everyone will worship Him as the King!

Sometimes “soon” seems like a long time. Sometimes it is hard to wait for an exciting event to come to pass. According to the Bible, no one knows when Jesus will come back. However, we need to always remember that His return could be just any moment.

Conclusion

Jesus promised us that He would come back soon. Because we don’t know exactly when He’s coming but we do know that it could be any time, we need to work every day to see people saved and live our lives to please our Savior.