



YOUTH INSTRUCTION CLASS

LESSON II: JESUS THE CHRIST: HIS EXALTATION (PART 2)

Opening

- What do we mean when we speak of the *exaltation* of Jesus?

He Ascended Into Heaven



Read the Bible account of Jesus' ascension into heaven in Acts 1:1-12.

- *When* did the ascension happen?
- *Where* did it happen?
- *How* did it happen?
- *Why* did Jesus ascend into heaven?

John 14:2-3 (683)

Jesus' ascension into heaven did not mean He was no longer with His people (Matthew 28:20b). It only meant that they could no longer see Him. He is with us today too (still as both man and God) even though we cannot see Him.



He Sits At the Right Hand Of God

This "step" in Jesus' exaltation describes for us what Jesus is doing right now.

God the Father does not have a physical "right hand" (See John 4:24). So when the Bible says Jesus is sitting at God's right hand, it is a figure of speech. Look at the Bible passage below:

Ephesians 1:20-22 (684)

- What then does it mean that Jesus is sitting at God's right hand?

Christ has ascended . . . above all heavens, and also truly fills all things, and being everywhere present, not only as God but also as man, rules from sea to sea to the ends of the earth. . . . The right hand of God . . . is no fixed place in heaven, as [the Reformed] assert without any ground in the Holy Scriptures, but nothing else than the almighty power of God, which fills heaven and earth.

How is Jesus carrying out His work at the right hand of God for us?

As HIGH PRIEST . . .

As PROPHET . . .

As KING . . .

(Hint: Looks back at Lesson 7 in your notes or some of these Bible passages: Rom 8:34; Heb 7:23-25; Jn 20:19-23; Eph 4:8-14; Jn 10:27-28; Gal 2:19-20; 2 Tim 4:18.)

He Will Come Again To Judge

This step in Jesus' exaltation still remains in the future.

Matthew 25:31-46

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

Jesus will come again on the Last Day. We do not know when that day will be. We cannot predict it. Many have tried and (of course) failed. William Miller, a founder of Seventh Day Adventism, predicted that Jesus would return in 1843 or 1844. Jeane Dixon predicts that Jesus will return between 2020 and 2037.

● Events Leading Up to the Last Day

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

In these verses and others in the Bible describes things that will happen before the end comes. Everything that Scripture says will happen before the end has already happened. The end could come at any time.

Matthew 24:36-39

Jesus will return when life on earth is in its usual daily activities.

● When Jesus Returns He will Judge

John 5:26-30

The dead will be raised.

Acts 17:31 (690)

Christ will judge the people.

- How will the nations be judged on that day?

Matthew 16:27

James 2:24

- IMPORTANT NOTE: At first, James 2:24 sounds like we are saved by what we do, but we know from other Scripture verses this cannot be the case. The thoughts, words, and deeds of men give evidence either of their faith in Jesus Christ or their lack of faith. Thus a person is saved not by “how good” he is but because of trust in Jesus. *On the Last Day Jesus will look for the outward evidence of our faith in Him.*
- The result of Christ's judgment will be everlasting life for the believers and everlasting death (separation from God in hell) for the unbelievers. See Mark 16:16 and also Jesus' description of the Last Day in Matthew 25.
- We can be sure that Jesus will come again:

Matthew 24:35

His prophecy never fails.

Other things Jesus predicted have already come true like the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD (Mt 24:1-24) and the coming of the Antichrist/Papacy (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12).

2 Timothy 3:1-7

The things Jesus has said would happen before the end have happened and are happening.

- "It is also taught among us that our Lord Jesus Christ will return on the last day for judgment and will raise up all the dead, to give eternal life and everlasting joy to believers and the elect, but to condemn ungodly men and the devil to hell and eternal punishment."
- **The Last Day is not a day of terror for those who believe in Jesus!** We look forward to Christ's coming! Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

Our Response to His Redemption

Jesus redeemed us to be *His own*:

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

(698)

Titus 2:14

(700)

In our study of the second article, we have learned of many wonderful things Jesus has done for us and will do for us. What are some of them? How does Martin Luther say we ought to respond to His great love? (two things)

Review Questions

1. What do we mean when we refer to the exaltation of Jesus?
2. Which “step” in Jesus’ exaltation has not come yet?
3. How can we get ready for Jesus to come again?
4. How will we be judged on the Last Day?

In Your Catechism

- Study questions 160-168.
- Review the Second Article of the Creed with Luther's explanation (p. 112).