

# Understanding the Ascending of Jesus Christ

## Questions Christians Ask

1 December 2023

What does it mean when the bible says that Jesus ascended into heaven? Jesus said in John 3:13 **“No man hath *ascended* up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the son of man which is in heaven.”**

**John 16:28** Jesus came from the Father, entered the world, departed Earth, and returned to the Father.

**John 10:1-3** Jesus is the Shepherd that the porter opens the door for. Wherever the Shepherd goes, the sheep follow (**Vs. 27**). You can't get to the Father any other way (**John 14:6**).

**Ascend:** To move upward. To go up or to rise, whether in air or water or upon a material object.

**“No man hath ascended up to heaven...”**

- Enoch was taken up by God (Genesis 5:24).
- Elijah was taken up in a chariot of fire (2 Kings 2:11).
- The Church will meet the Lord in the air, and then be taken up to heaven by Him (1 Thes. 4:16-17).
  - No man can ascend into heaven by his own power or his own merits.
  - If you found a way to get to heaven on your own, the porter wouldn't open the door for you.

**“...but he that came down from heaven.”** Jesus is the only One who came down from heaven to Earth. When He finished His work on Earth, He went back to heaven where He came from.

**Prov 30:4** Old Testament saints know that God ascends and descends between heaven and earth, He gathers the wind, binds the waters, established all the ends of the earth. But they would not know that God has a Son.

- Do you know the name of God's Son? Then you know more than Solomon knew.

**Josh 6:5** God instructed the Israelites at Jericho when the walls fell: **“the people shall ascend up...”**

**Psalms 24:1-4** This verse gives the qualifications for entrance to God's holy place. No man qualifies. No man can ascend to God's holy place. Only Jesus Christ qualifies. You need Him to take you to heaven on His merits.

- You must have clean hands.
- You must have a pure heart.
- You must have never given your life to vanity (meaningless activity).
- You must have never deceived or lied to anyone.

You may think you're good enough to ascend to heaven. You don't realize that you don't make the rules. The Lord makes the rules. If you want to ascend into the hill of the LORD, you must have clean hands, a pure heart, etc., and nobody does.

**Isa 14:12-15** Lucifer was the first to believe he could ascend to heaven. Instead, he'll end up in hell.

- Anyone who attempts to ascend to heaven without Christ will end up in hell.

**Acts 2:31-36** David had God's forgiveness (Psalm 32) and he trusted the Lord (Psalm 51) and is a picture of New Testament salvation. Yet the bible says, "**David is not ascended into the heavens.**"

- The greatest man in Israel's history was not good enough to get himself to heaven.
- Jesus will be glad to take you to heaven, but you can't get there without Him.

**John 6:60-62** When Jesus taught His disciples, they were upset because they couldn't understand the teaching. Jesus told them they'll be more upset when they see Him go back up to heaven, leaving all their problems unsolved.

**Acts 1:9-11** The men of Galilee watched as Jesus ascended up to heaven. The angels said He would return the same way he left, by His own power.

**Acts 3:19-21** The heaven MUST receive Jesus Christ. Heaven does NOT have to receive you. But when you receive Jesus Christ as your Savior, you can enter with Him on His merits.

- Knowing that Jesus Christ is the only One for whom the doors will be opened, and knowing that He wants you to go with Him, why don't you trust Him?

**1 Tim 3:16** The great mystery of Godliness is that God was manifest in the flesh (that's Jesus Christ), He was seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

- When Jesus went back up to heaven, He was received.
- Anyone else who might try to ascend up to heaven will not be received.
  - You must receive Jesus Christ as your Savior for entrance to heaven.
  - Satan wants you to devote yourself to a religion that encourages you to try to earn your way to heaven on your own merits, but results in you going to hell.

**John 14:1-11** Jesus promised those who believed on Him that He would come again and receive them so they can be with Him.

- Believe Jesus and you'll see the Father. If you don't believe Him, you won't see the Father.