

CHRIST & HIS KINGDOM ARE OUR CONFIDENCE

Part 3 of Understanding the Times. Revelation 11:15-19.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. May 21, 2023.

REVELATION 11:15-19

15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, **“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”** 16 And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying,

“We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,

who is and who was,

for you have taken your great power

and begun to reign.

18 The nations raged,

but your wrath came,

and the time for the dead to be judged,

and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints,

and those who fear your name,

both small and great,

and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.”

19 Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.

TODAY IS ASCENSION SUNDAY

- The ascension was the moment when the kingdom of Christ superseded all other powers IN A NEW WAY: It marked the beginning of the end of evil..

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ASCENSION

The ascension is exaltation.

Ephesians 1:20-22 (ESV) ... when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, ...

The ascension is vindication.

Colossians 2:15 (ESV) He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:57 (NLT) But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ

The ascension is demonstration.

Psalms 2:7-9 (ESV) ... The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. 8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

1 Corinthians 15:24-25 (ESV) ... 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

The ascension is intercession.

Hebrews 7:24-25 (ESV) ... he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

The ascension is protection.

Luke 22:31-32 (ESV) 31 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, 32 but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail.

Psalms 91:11-12 (ESV) For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. 12 On their hands they will bear you up ...

The ascension is anointing for service and mission.

Acts 1:8 (ESV) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses ... to the end of the earth.”

Ephesians 4:8 (ESV) When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.

The ascension is representation.

Already: Ephesians 2:4-7 (ESV) ... 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus ...

Later: Revelation 5:9-10 (ESV) ... 10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

Later: Revelation 20:4b (ESV) They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

The ascension is invitation.

- Look up Hebrews 4:16.

Hebrews 10:19-22 (ESV) Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us ... 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith,

The ascension is anticipation.

Acts 1:10-11 (ESV) ... This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

FINDING OUR CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST & HIS KINGDOM

I will fix my eyes on the King of heaven, not the chaos on earth.

- Look up Revelation 17:14.

I will remember my Friend in heaven when I meet my enemies on earth.

- Review the nine insights into the significance of the ascension.

I will pray for Christ's return from heaven to reign on earth.

- Look up 2 Thessalonians 1:3-7.

CORNERSTONE GROUPS - TALK IT OVER

Pick one or more of these questions to discuss this week.

Review Sunday's teaching on Revelation 11:15-19.

- Review Sunday's study guide or watch Peter's teaching on YouTube.
- What part of the teaching most impacted your thinking?
- Summarize the main ideas in your own words.

Prayerfully apply the insights of the teaching.

- Review the nine insights into the significance of the ascension of Christ. Which one(s) is most significant in helping you stand firm in the faith? Why?
- What signs do you see that the Kingdom of Christ is advancing in the world?
- Does it seem to you that the events announced in Revelation 11:18 are already taking place? Explain your answer.
- In what ways has knowing/applying Hebrews 10:19-22 influenced your life.?

Pray together. Be bold.

Lord Jesus Christ, we bow down in praise before you because you are the risen and exalted One. You have great power, and you reign over everything. Please help us to live every day in light of your ascension. Help us submit to you as our high King of heaven. Help us enter boldly into the throne room to pray. Help us trust in your love and protection. Help us serve and witness in the power of your Spirit. Come soon, King Jesus! Amen!

Preparation for Next Sunday

- Read Blessed, chapter 7.
- Watch Derek Prince's video series on spiritual warfare: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL_L1za0tEXFXNhigNVPTTo1ibq7hQiYoNn