

“SKY GAZERS”
Acts 1:9-11
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INTRODUCTION

Tarry for the promise of the Father? (v. 4)

Baptism of the Spirit—all believers have it! (v. 5)

It is not for you to know the times or the seasons (7)

You have power to be witnesses (v. 8): The special power of the apostles which we cannot imitate.

Jesus now ascends into Heaven, and the apostles stare at Him while He departs.

JESUS WOULD NOT HAVE US TO BE “SKY GAZERS”, BUT _____ GAZERS
(See John 4:35)

I. THE ASCENSION (9)J

A. Jesus is “taken up”.

B. Received by a _____

Note the Shekinah (Cf. Ex. 40:34)—Dignity and majesty of the divine person.

Three successive manifestations of His Glory:

- Transfiguration cloud (Mk. 9:26; Lk. 9:24)
- Ascension
- Parousia—Dan. 9:13; Mt. 24:30 (Olivet discourse); 26:64 (reply to high priest); Rev. 1:7)
- We will meet Jesus in the clouds at the “Rapture” (I Thes. 4:17)

Luke purposefully placed the account of Jesus’ ascension at the beginning of Acts—it is the preparation for Pentecost.

The Ascension is:

- The sequel to the resurrection
- The preparation for His present life and _____ in Heaven as the Great High Priest
- The precursor to the _____ of Jesus—His *parousia*.

II. THE AMAZEMENT (10)

- Their eyes are **riveted upon** Jesus as He was going—“as they were gazing intently”
Maybe they were expecting his reappearance like at the Transfiguration.
It was as if their “eyes and hearts go with Him into Heaven.”
- There were angelic visitors: “Behold”—a startling experience. They are here called “two men” for that is what they looked like to the apostles.
 - Angelic visitors announcing His _____ (Lk. 1:26; 2:9, 13)
 - Angelic visitors at His _____ (Mt. 4:11)
 - Angelic visitors at His tomb when He _____ (Lk. 24:4)

- They were wearing white garments—cf. Lk. 24:4—“dazzling”; Mt. 28:3; Jn. 20:12; Mk. 16:5—“white”

III. THE ADVENT (11)

A. The Address of the Angels: “Men of Galilee”

These men were of lowly origin; but they had past association with Jesus—therefore significant!

B. The Question: “Why do you stand looking into the sky” (heaven)?

Compare the question to the women at the tomb—“Why do you look for the living among the dead?”

Jesus had told them in advance of His ascension (Jn. 6:62; 20:17)

C. The Assurance—“This same Jesus, who is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him go into Heaven.”

Notice that it is “The same Jesus”.

- Evidence of His **abiding humanity**
- He is a personal friend, yet a divine Savior
- 1. He was “taken from” them—forcefully! They did not want Him to go.
- 2. He will return to them—“In like manner” What does this mean?
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____—yet gradual
 - _____
 - _____

CONCLUSION

He is coming! But, there is an interval during which He is absent from us.

The Holy Spirit is the pledge of His coming.

When Jesus comes it will be the consummation of His glory (and we receive new bodies also—Eph. 1:4).

But, Jesus is still present! (Mt. 28:20)

He has ascended that He might “fill all things.” (Eph. 4:10)

DON’T STAND GAZING—BE GOING (1:8).

Which are you doing—Gazing or going?

Are you ready for Him when He comes?