

Christ's Commission And Ascension

(Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1:1-11)

Intro: The Easter story does not conclude with the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Easter concludes forty days after Christ's resurrection with His bodily ascension back to heaven. Christ's ascension marks the conclusion of His earthly ministry, and return to His eternal throne of glory at His Father's right hand (Luke 24:50-53 and Acts 1:9-11). Equally important is the Commission that Christ issued to His disciples to go forth as His witnesses beginning in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth (Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:18-20).

I. Christ's Appearance To His Disciples (Luke 24:44-49)

A. Christ provides understanding: "*He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures*" (vv. 44-45; cf. v. 27)

1. Old Testament scriptures pertaining to Christ

Deuteronomy 18:15, 18-19—*Prophet like Moses*

Isaiah 52:13–53:12—*Suffering Servant*

Psalm 16:8-11—*Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension*

2. New Testament predictions by Christ of His death, resurrection, and ascension
(Luke 9:22, 44; 17:25; 18:32-33; 24:17)

B. Christ commissions His disciples to be His witnesses (vv. 46-48; Matt. 28:18-20)

1. They witnessed His death

2. They witnessed His resurrection

3. They were to proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem (Matt. 28:18-20 Acts 1:8)

C. Christ promises to send the Holy Spirit (v. 49; Acts 1:4)

1. The coming of the promised Holy Spirit (v. 49a; John 14:16, 26; 16:7; Acts 1:4-5)

2. The command to stay in Jerusalem to await the Holy Spirit's coming (v. 49b; Acts 1:4)

II. Christ's Ascension Back to His Father (Luke 24:50-51 and Acts 1:9-11)

A. Christ's final goodbye to His disciples (vv. 50-51; Acts 1:9-11)

B. The disciples' great joy and worship (vv. 52-53)

Conclusion: Salvation in, and service to the resurrected Christ brings us great joy and peace of heart. The indwelling Holy Spirit equips us with power to live a life that glorifies God, and benefits one another. The heart of the Easter message is Jesus' command for all of us to go tell others that He is alive! What GREAT NEWS. May God help us to start living it and sharing it!

More Love, More Power

More Love, More Power,
 More of You in my life.
More Love, More Power,
 More of You in my life.
I will worship You
 With all my heart.
I will worship You
 With all my mind.
I will worship You
 With all my strength.
For You are my Lord.

More Love, More Power,
 More of You in my life.