

Jesus' ascension to heaven

Acts 1:1-14

OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, JESUS APPEARED TO HIS DISCIPLES AND MANY OTHER WITNESSES. THEN HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN.

Where??
Where??
I can't see him!!



ASCENSION DEFICIT
DISORDER

What happened?

- close of 40 days of resurrection appearances
- visual language vv 9-10
- an event in space-time history



**What does Jesus'
ascension mean?**

Jesus' coronation

- Jesus is now at the Father's right side 2:33

In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was **one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven**. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshipped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Daniel 7:13-14

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Jesus' coronation

- Jesus is now at the Father's right side 2:33
- he acts with power from heaven
 - Saul of Tarsus 9:5, 8
 - Aeneas 9:34
- we can approach Jesus with confidence 9:14, 21

Guarantee of Jesus' return

- he will return in the same way
v 11
- 'Heaven must receive [Jesus] until the time comes for God to restore everything' 3:21
- we can look forward to Jesus' return with confidence

Enables the Spirit's coming

- twofold promise of the Spirit
vv 5, 8

'I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.

He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

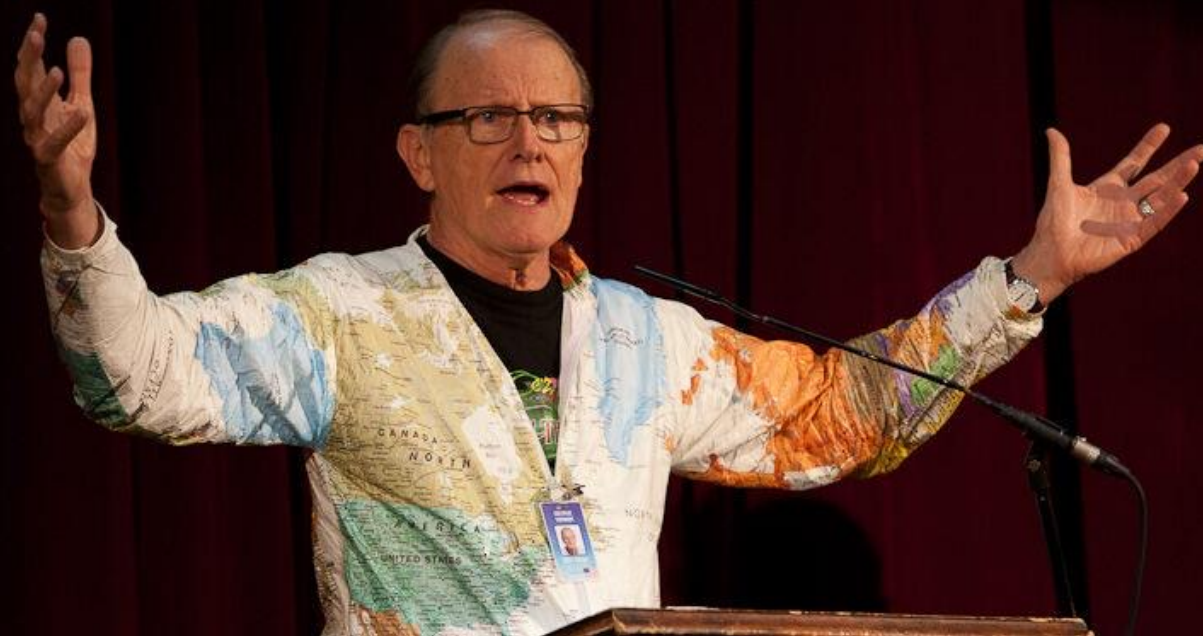
Luke 3:16

Enables the Spirit's coming

- twofold promise of the Spirit
vv 5, 8
- the disciples called to wait vv 4-5
- they wait v 14
- fulfilled at Pentecost 2:33
- we can pray for the Spirit's power
with confidence

Jesus welcomes believers home

- Stephen 7:55-56, 59-60
- only use of 'the son of man' outside the Gospels
→ Daniel 7:13-14
- Jesus standing to welcome Stephen



‘Please ask people not to pray for total healing as I really am looking forward to heaven. Ask for prayer for grace for the rough journey that daily will be ahead.’
George Verwer



‘All death can do to Christians is make their lives infinitely better.’

Tim Keller

Jesus welcomes believers home

- Stephen 7:55-56, 59-60
- only use of 'the son of man' outside the Gospels
→ Daniel 7:13-14
- Jesus standing to welcome Stephen
- we can face death with confidence

Jesus' ascension means...

- we can approach Jesus with confidence
- we can look forward to Jesus' return with confidence
- we can pray for the Spirit's power with confidence
- we can face death with confidence

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