



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look Listen – May 18, 2023

The Lord be with you.

Do you know what today is? Yeah, I know it's Thursday. But you know what day this is that makes this one of the most important days on the calendar, one of the most important days in all of human history, the history of the whole cosmos, why my father would have called this a red letter day. This day has huge implications for you and me today and for all eternity, this is ascension day. It is precisely the 40 days after our Lord Jesus' resurrection. The day that Jesus, the God man who forever took on our humanity, the day that Jesus ascended to heaven to be enthroned at the Father's right hand, the place of all authority and power.

This is a day of great significance, a day worth celebrating a day worth remembering. It is significant that early Christians thought that Jesus ascension to glory, that it was of equal importance with his resurrection. We see this in the apostles' creed that puts it like this on the third day, Jesus rose again, he ascended into heaven. He is seated at the right hand of God now because this is such an important day for us as Christians and, and really for the whole world, I, I wanna take the next few moments to reflect on the meaning of this day.

First, this day means that the Jesus whom we love, the Jesus in whom we put our trust, the Jesus on whom we have staked our very lives. That Jesus is given the place of highest honor and authority in heaven and on earth, he rules over all as all authority is granted to him. On this day, the Apostle Paul describes Jesus ascension in Philippians chapter two, we after talking about Jesus humbling himself, taking on human form in the form of a servant and taking all of our sins to himself.

In Philippians chapter two, Paul says, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name so that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bend in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God. The Father, the New Testament uses three words to describe Jesus ascension. On this day. It uses the words Jesus is exalted. Jesus is glorified. Jesus is enthroned and that's the Jesus whom we love the Jesus in whom we have put our trust for today and for all eternity, we have a friend in high places.

The second thing that Jesus ascension means for you and me. It means that right now, right now, Jesus is interceding for us. I mean, this touches our everyday lives. The Apostle Paul describes Jesus interceding for us. In Romans chapter eight verse 34 where he writes it is Christ Jesus who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God who indeed intercedes for us at that place of highest power and authority. Jesus is praying for you because Jesus lived here on earth, he endured deep suffering. Jesus knows what you're going through today and he's interceding for you.



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He's praying for you. He's cheering you on. He was out. The book of Hebrews chapter four verse 14 describes the meaning of Jesus intercession and his ascension. Since then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens. Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession for we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with us in our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are yet without sin. The ascended Jesus knows what you're going through today and he's able to help you in your struggles.

And finally, what this day means for you and me. I mean, there's so much more that we could say. But, but finally, Jesus ascension to heaven means that he has taken us there with him. Spiritually, the apostle Paul speaks of this meaning for us. And Jesus ascension in Ephesians chapter two verse four where he writes, but God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which He has loved us. Even when we were dead through our trespasses, he made us alive together with Christ by grace, you have been saved and raised up with him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

That is our position with Christ right now, made a life together with Christ and raised with him and seated with him in the heavenly places. When Jesus ascended to heaven, he took with him, our glorified humanity, the risen physical glorified body of Jesus is in heaven right now, which means that someday when our bodies are raised from the dead, we will be with Him at the right hand of God. The right hand of power and glory here is how the message version translates this verse, God took our sin, dead lives and made us alive in Christ.

He did all this on his own with no help from us. Then he picked us up and set us down in highest heavens in company with Jesus, our Messiah. On this extension date I want to conclude with a stanza from that great hymn, crown hymn with many crowns, crown him, the Lord of Love, behold his hands inside those wounds yet visible and above in beauty glorified no angel in the sky can fully bear that sight, but downward bends his burning eye.

At mysteries so bright and with that, I wish you a blessed joyous ascension day.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thank you for listening. Until next time.