

Sunday April 29th
After the Resurrection – Part Three
Above the Earth

1). Mt 16:21 ¶ *From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.*

a). As we have seen in past weeks it is in Matthew Chapter 16 that the Lord first mentions His Church that is to be built on the revelation from above that He is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

b). And because the bringing into being of this Church would require a Divine act of creation, after the type of Adam being put into a deep sleep, He begins to focus the disciples attention on His suffering at the hands of the religious leaders, His death that would follow, culminating in His resurrection on the third day.

c). Although the religious leaders of Israel had crossed a line from which there really was no return, recorded in Matthew Chapter 12 when they attributed the work of the Holy Spirit to the power of Satan, the statement concerning the Kingdom of the Heavens being taken from them and given to a new nation is not made until the final week of the Lord's earthly ministry.

d). Mt 21:43 *"Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.*

e). The statement is not made until this point to allow for the events that unfolded on the day we know as Palm Sunday.

2). The Lord's entrance into Jerusalem on that day paralleled the coronation day of David's son, Solomon – the one whose kingdom was a picture of the splendor and glory of the Millennial Kingdom.

a). 1Ki 1:32 ¶ *And King David said, "Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada." So they came before the king. 33 The king also said to them, "Take with you the servants of your lord, and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and take him down to Gihon. 34 "There let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel; and blow the horn, and say, 'Long live King Solomon!' 35 "Then you shall come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne, and he shall be king in my place. For I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and Judah."*

b). Christ, the greater son of David, you will remember enters Jerusalem on a donkey to the cries of –

c). Mt 21:9.....*"Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' Hosanna in the highest!"*

d). Mr 11:10 *Blessed is the kingdom of our father David That comes in the name of the Lord!*

e). Lu 19:38...*'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD!' Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"*

f). Joh 12:13*"Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' The King of Israel!"*

g). The echo of the promises made to David in 2 Samuel 7 and the words of the Messianic Psalm 118 would have been resounding in Jewish ears.

h). There was the potential on this day for national repentance on the part of Israel, for the High Priest to have anointed Him King over Israel – for the horn to be blown and the declaration made – ‘Long live King Jesus’.

i). This, however, did not happen, but the events were the fulfillment of the prophecy given in - Zec 9:9 ¶ *"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.*

j). We may remember that the word ‘lowly’ means to be poor and afflicted – Jesus, although born King of the Jews, did not enter Jerusalem this day with the attributes of regality, but with the attributes of the suffering servant.

k). He had not come to Jerusalem to be crowned – He came as the Passover Lamb to be tested and slain as the sinless sacrifice. In accordance with that recorded in Isaiah 53.

3). The events as they unfolded over this last week of the Lord’s life were not tragic in the sense of God’s plans being thwarted – this was God’s plan and it was being fulfilled to the letter - Lu 24:26 *"Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.*

a). That which was about to happen on the third day following His crucifixion was the most marvelous sign that was given to Israel. One that they have not yet understood, but will in the day they look upon the One they have pierced.

b). Mt 12:39 *In reply Jesus told them: "An evil and faithless generation seeks a sign, and no sign will be given them except the sign of the prophet Jonah.*

c). Jonah we will remember, as a result of refusing to take the word of the Lord to Nineveh, was cast into the raging sea and swallowed by a great fish

d). Jon 1:17 *Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.*

e). This is a picture of Israel, who over the centuries had refused to be obedient to the word of God thereby preventing the blessing that was to flow to all of the families of the earth through them as God had promised Abraham - Ge 22:18 *"In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."*

f). This is Israel cast into the sea, cast into the Gentile nations, during the great tribulation, who will cry out to the Lord from the place of death resulting in their being placed back in the land, taking the word of God to the Gentile nations, thereby pouring out God's blessing on those nations when they hear His voice a second time. All this taking place on the third day.

g). Jon 2:1 ¶ *Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the fish's belly. 2 And he said: "I cried out to the LORD because of my affliction, And He answered me. "Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, And You heard my voice.9 But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD." 10 ¶ So the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.*

h). We would note that Jonah is a dual type – his three days in the fish's belly portending Christ's three days in the belly of the earth, with resurrection taking place on that third day.

4). And so in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten first born Son, on the third day, we have a sign, as in Jonah, pointing to the resurrection of God's adopted first born son, Israel on the third day following the two days, the two thousand years, allotted to their dispensation – just as scripture says

a). Ho 5:15 *I will return again to My place Till they acknowledge their offense. Then they will seek My face; In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me." 6:1 ¶ Come, and let us return to the LORD; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. 2 After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight.*

i/ Jesus told the nation - Mt 23:39 *"for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'"*

ii/ When the nation speaks these words again Christ will not enter Jerusalem as the suffering servant, but as the Lion of the tribe of Judah.

b). In that Day Israel will be back in the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, at the head of the nations – those nations receiving God's blessing through Israel - Zec 8:23 *"Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."'"*

c). For Israel of course this relates exclusively to the earthly portion of the Kingdom as the Heavenly portion as we have seen was taken from Israel to be given to the new creation in Christ – those who are the seed of Abraham through faith.

d). Although the resurrection of Christ is not a sign for us in the same way that it is for Israel, it does make absolutely certain the coming of the Kingdom. As it will be following the two days, the two thousand years allotted to the church when God is - Ac 15:14 *"Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name.*

- that those comprising the new man in Christ will be raised either by resurrection or rapture on the third day and those found worthy from this group at the Judgment Seat, will be adopted as first born sons to be co-heirs with Christ.

e). Relating of course to rulership from the heavens over the Gentile nations on the earth, the double portion of the inheritance.

5). Forty days after His resurrection we have recorded the Lord's ascension, that time when He leaves the earth to be above the earth - Ac 1:9 *Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."*

a). So that we shouldn't miss it – it will be the same Jesus, the One who died on the cross and was resurrected who will come again in like manner to His departure, in exactly the way the scriptures speak of.

6). We can also find commentary on this event in - Heb 1:1 ¶ *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who*

being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 ¶ having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

a). Christ sitting at the right hand of the Majesty on high, the place of power, as with His words on the cross – ‘It is finished’ – point to the fact that all of God’s work, finished from the foundation of the world, to bring about the fulfillment of His plans and purposes with respect to the rulership of this earth now exist in a completed state within the boundaries of time.

b). All that remains is waiting for the appointed time – the completion of the six thousand years of man’s day, and then the 7th Day will be ushered in. And we will note with regard to this day that the Lord is heir of all things and has by inheritance a better name than the angels.

c). Continuing in Hebrews Chapter 1 - Heb 1:5 *For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"? 6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him." 7 And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire."*

d). It is for the Day of the Lord, the Age to come, the Millennial Kingdom that Christ was begotten – this is not when Christ came into existence as He has always existed, but He went through the process of being born through the womb of His creation for the purpose of ruling with His redeemed companions during the seventh day, when all the angels will worship Him.

e). Continuing again in Hebrews - Heb 1:8 *But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom. 9 You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions." 10 And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. 11 They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; 12 Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail." 13 But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? 14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?*

f). Of the many things we could note let’s identify two in particular

i/ Following His ascension He is to sit at the father's right hand 'Till' – again we see a specific termination point to His sitting as spoken of throughout scripture - Ac 3:21 *"whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.*

ii/ And the angels are sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation, a salvation that can only be inherited because of the Lord's resurrection – remember - 1Pe 1:3 ¶ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,*

g). All of this will be manifest because of Christ's resurrection and ascension to the right hand of power.

7). And in connection with our inheritance let us put a few of the pieces together that we might not ordinarily connect.

a). Look at this the Lord says concerning events above the earth following His resurrection - Joh 16:7 ¶ *"Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.....12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. 15 "All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.*

b). Now please notice this – unless the Lord goes to be at the right hand of the Father the Helper, the Holy Spirit, will not come.

c). Without the resurrection and Christ ascending above the earth, there would be no present ministry of the Holy Spirit.

d). Also notice what the function of the Helper is to be – to guide Christ's disciples into all truth – to speak what He hears – to tell of things to come – to take what is Christ's and declare it.

8). And then in Christ's post resurrection ministry - Ac 1:4 *And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me;*

9). And as we know this takes place on the Day of Pentecost –
Ac 2:1 ¶ *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

a). What might we conclude then from the record of this event? – That Christ did indeed ascend to the father, above the earth, following His resurrection fulfilling His promise to send the Helper. The Helper would not come apart from His ascension and His ascension could not happen apart from His resurrection.

b). And the role of the Helper, amongst those who are already redeemed, is the same as that of Abraham's oldest servant – to seek out a bride for the Son from amongst the family – revealing to the prospective bride what would be her inheritance if she chose to go with the servant.
Ge 24:53 *Then the servant brought out jewelry of silver, jewelry of gold, and clothing, and gave them to Rebekah.*

Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

c). And this of course is exactly our experience. The Holy Spirit does this through the written word, by taking that word and guiding us into all truth in respect of that word – something He will do for any eternally redeemed person who has a desire to see.

10). Now we have seen previously that signs are for the Jews – now just look at this for a moment - 1Co 1:22 *For Jews request a sign, and Greeks (Gentiles) seek after wisdom;*

a). So let's look at just a few things scripture says about wisdom –
Pr 24:3 ¶ *Through wisdom a house is built, And by understanding it is established;*

b). Pr 24:14 *So shall the knowledge of wisdom be to your soul; If you have found it, there is a prospect, And your hope will not be cut off.*

c). Pr 3:18 *She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who retain her.*

d). 1Co 2:7 *But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory.....13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*

e). Col 2:2 *that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

f). Col 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom*

g). The sign is for the Jew pointing to that which remains yet future and yet is guaranteed through the demonstration of the sign itself.

h). Wisdom on the other hand is for the Gentile, the group from which the majority of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is taken – not wisdom in a general sense, but the hidden wisdom of God, that comes from above, ordained before the ages for our glory.

i). Wisdom that is imparted by the Spirit of truth as He guides us into all truth. And the revelation of this hidden wisdom is also our absolute guarantee of the fulfillment of that which is revealed.

j). 2Co 1:21 *Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, 22 who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.*

k). 2Co 5:4 *For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. 5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.*

l). Eph 1:13 *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.*

11). As a result of Christ ascending above the earth to the Father we have, through the work of the Holy Spirit who in dwells each one of us the absolute guarantee that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

a). That He, as the Second Man, the Last Adam, has proved Himself worthy to redeem that which was forfeited by the first man, the first Adam. Re 5:5 *But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." 6 ¶ And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain,*

b). That we have a heavenly calling and have the choice to become part of the Bride of Christ.

c). That Satan's head will be crushed, that the present system of rulership will be overthrown and that Christ and His coheirs will rule from the heavens and Christ and Israel from the earth - Ps 2:1 ¶ *Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, 3 "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us." 4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision. 5 Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: 6 "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion." 7 ¶ "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. 8 Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'" 10 ¶ Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. 11 Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.*

d). Heb 12:22 *But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel. 25 See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, 26 whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." 27 Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. 29 For our God is a consuming fire.*

12). Church this we know and are absolutely certain of – even now the Holy Spirit within us testifies of the voracity of the word of God that causes our hearts to burn within us.

a). Surely we could not turn away from Him who speaks from heaven?

b). If we have truly heard all that the Spirit of God has testified to us we will choose to do all that God has shown us in order that we may be found worthy.

c). Remember, the first generation of Israel did not enter the land and receive their inheritance because they did not believe what God had said. Let us pray that there is not any evil heart of unbelief in any of us that we should fall away from the living God.

d). Christ is risen indeed and has ascended to the Father, according to the scriptures, and all things now await the day of His power.