

April 8, 2018

**“Redemption’s Song:  
The Gospels in Perfect Harmony”  
It’s a Song of Anticipation: The Ascension  
“Go into all the world and preach the Good News  
to everyone.” Matthew 16:15**

*Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:14-20; Luke 24:50-53 Acts 1:1-11*

**A. 40 days later...**

*“In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach until the day He was taken up to heaven after giving His chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. During the forty days after He suffered and died, He appeared to the apostles from time to time, and He proved to them in many ways that He was actually alive. And He talked to them about the Kingdom of God. Once when He was eating with them, He commanded them, ‘Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift He promised, as I told you before. John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’” Act 1:1-5*

1. Jesus spent 40 days proving He was really alive!
2. Jesus spent 40 days talking about the Kingdom of God.
3. Jesus spent 40 day eating with them and instructing them about His promises of the Holy Spirit.

**B. Jesus led them to Bethany...**

1. The Mount of Olives was the place where the Triumphal Entry had started, the prayer in the (extra space) Garden of Gethsemane happened, and where Jesus will triumph at the Second Coming!

*“As Jesus and the disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to the town of Bethphage on the Mount of Olives.” Matthew 21:1*

*“Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile.” Acts 1:12*

*“On that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem. And the Mount of Olives will split apart, making a wide valley running from east to west. Half the mountain will move toward the north and half toward the south.” Zechariah 14:4*

2. Jesus gave them their purpose and the plan for reaching the world with the Gospel.

*“Jesus came and told His disciples, ‘I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.’” Matthew 28:18*

3. Jesus gave the Great Commission to His disciples.  
*“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.” Matthew 28:19-20a*

- a. “Go”
- b. “Make disciples”
- c. “Baptizing them”
- d. “Teach” them to obey.

4. Jesus gave the promise that He would be with them.  
*“And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:20b*

5. Jesus promised the power to equip them.  
*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be My witnesses, telling people about Me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8*

6. Jesus ascended!  
*“After saying this, He was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see Him.” Acts 1:9*

**C. What did His ascension accomplish?**

1. Jesus had to continue the work He had begun...  
*“In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach...” Acts 1:1a*

2. Jesus had to leave to send the Holy Spirit.  
*“Then, after doing all those things, I will pour out My Spirit upon all people...” Joel 2:28a*

*“And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as My Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.” Luke 24:49*

*“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you.” John 14:16*

3. Jesus was to be placed as King at the right hand of God.  
*“When the Lord Jesus had finished talking with them, He was taken up into heaven and sat down in the place of honor at God’s right hand.” Mark 16:19*

*“Now He is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God’s right hand. And the Father, as He had promised, gave Him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today.” Acts 2:33*

*“But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily into heaven and saw the glory of God, and he saw Jesus standing in the place of honor at God’s right hand.” Acts 7:55*

4. Jesus had to return to the Father.

*“Yes, I came from the Father into the world, and now I will leave the world and return to the Father.” John 16:28*  
*“Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that His hour had come to leave this world and return to His Father. He had loved His disciples during His ministry on earth, and now He loved them to the very end.” John 13:1*

*“Jesus knew that the Father had given Him authority over everything and that He had come from God and would return to God.” John 13:3*

5. Jesus became our mediator.  
*“For, there is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus.” 1 Timothy 2:5*

*“Therefore He is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through Him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf.” Hebrews 7:25*

*“Here is the main point: We have a High Priest who sat down in the place of honor beside the throne of the majestic God in heaven.” Hebrews 8:1*

*“My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous.” 1 John 2:1*

6. Jesus had to go...so He could come again!  
*“‘Men of Galilee,’ they said, ‘why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday He will return from heaven in the same way you saw Him go!’” Acts 1:11*

**D. So, what should we do now?**

1. Don’t stand still and stare around!  
*“why are you standing here staring into heaven?”*
2. Don’t get sidetracked on what is really important!  
*“So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking Him, ‘Lord, has the time come for You to free Israel and restore our kingdom?’ He replied, ‘The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know.’” Acts 1:6-7*

3. Get busy!  
*“And you will be My witnesses, telling people about Me...” Acts 1:8*  
*“Go...make disciples...baptizing them...” and “teach these new disciples to obey...” Matthew 28:19-20*

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