

## **BACK WHERE HE CAME FROM**

**Acts 1:10-11      Hebrews 9:24**

**Introduction:** God made man, man sinned and became separated from God, but God still loved man and in God's time, God sent His Son, Jesus, into man's world as a complete, total human being. Living with man, Jesus revealed God's love and compassion for mankind but was rejected and put to death. However in God's plans, Jesus was to become the sacrifice needed to pay for the sins of mankind. Thus when on the cross, all the sins of man were put on Jesus and upon His death, the penalty for mankind's sin was paid for. Jesus' human body was buried in a tomb and His earthly life was done, His heavenly mission completed but God raised Jesus from the grave and Jesus walked once again among those who had followed Him. However God still was not through for there was another thing He was to do with Jesus and that was to bring Him back to His heavenly Home. Jesus ascended back into heaven as His followers watched.

### **I. JESUS ASCENDED BACK TO HEAVEN**

1. What a welcome Jesus must have received.
  - He had been gone some 33 human years from His home in glory and had been born through a virgin, lived a human life as no One had ever lived before while glorifying God, the Father and showing mankind the loving and caring heavenly Father.
  - His human body was marred and scarred by His treatment by men as they put Him to death on a cross.
2. His body of flesh and bones was a silent witness to what He had endured at the hand of those He had come to help.
  - Heaven had never received or welcomed such a One as Jesus.
3. The heavens reverberated with the shouts and praises of countless heavenly beings upon the arrival of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

### **II. JESUS WAS WELCOMED BACK IN GREAT EXALTATION**

1. God, the heavenly Father, awaited the return of His Son that He might give to Him the highest honor, to exalt Him to the greatest power, to give Him a name above every name and to crown Him Lord of all.
2. Being exalted meant being enthroned.
  - The Son who have voluntarily emptied and humbled Himself to redeem mankind is now exalted to the throne of God with all power in heaven and upon earth given to Him.
  - The crucified Son of God, savior of mankind, is now LORD OF ALL.

### **III. ALTHOUGH WORK ON EARTH DONE, JESUS IS STILL AT WORK IN HEAVEN**

1. The believer HAS been saved, the believer IS being saved, and the believer SHALL be saved.
  - A moment came when the person believed in Jesus and was saved and day by day that believer is continued to be saved and there is coming a day when the believer will stand before God with his/her salvation becoming finalized.
2. Jesus continues His work for mankind as Divine-Human Mediator.
  - There is but one way to approach God and that is through Jesus Christ.
  - The sinner comes through Jesus to be saved.
  - The believer (saint) comes through Jesus to be forgiven of daily sins.
  - Whatever a person wants from God, all comes through Jesus Christ.
  - The believer's eternal inheritance lies in Jesus.
  - All blessings promised come through Jesus.
  - The One who died on the cross as sinful man's substitute is the One who still intercedes for sinful man.
3. Jesus continues His work for mankind as the Great High Priest.
  - Jesus was THE sacrifice for the sins of mankind.
  - Before Jesus, sacrifices were made by a priest in the Temple at the Holy of Holies for the sins of a person.
  - Jesus is now the High Priest who became the sacrifice necessary for the sins of mankind and both offered the sacrifice and WAS the sacrifice.
  - In order for sacrificial blood to be offered properly, a God-appointed high priest is needed. Such a Great High Priest Jesus became.
  - Jesus is the believer's representative before God, the Father.
4. Jesus is the believer's sympathetic Advocate.
  - Whenever a believer sins, fellowship with God is broken and the sinner can no more restore him/herself than he/she can save him/herself.
  - As a sinner needs a Savior to open the way to God, so the believer needs an Advocate to keep/restore fellowship when sin happens.
  - The believer needs an Advocate who understands the awful power of sin and has felt the tremendous pressure upon body, soul and Spirit, yet who never yielded in any way.
  - The believer needs an Advocate to have constant, immediate access to God and one who has a solution to offer God for what He wants to make right.
  - Such a righteous and effective Advocate the believer has is Jesus Christ.
  - As the sinner is cleansed once and for all from the guilt of sin through the precious blood of Jesus, so the believer/saint in the same way is cleansed daily from the awfulness of sin.

5. Jesus is the believer's faithful Intercessor.

- God wanted to deliver sinful mankind from sin and Satan and is not content to deliver man from sin and Satan but God wants to be able to exalt that saved sinner to the highest spiritual life possible and has accomplished that through Jesus being the faithful intercessor for the sinning believer.

- ***Romans 8:34    Hebrews 7:25***

- The intercession of Jesus was made possible by what He did on the Cross for mankind.
- He came to mankind, now mankind can go to Him.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. The ascension and exaltation of Jesus Christ has made it possible for those who believe in Jesus to have constant access to God, the Father.
2. God made man, loved man, but man sinned and God had to separate Himself from sinful man. Through Jesus, God's Son, God lived among mankind and revealed Himself but mankind rejected Him and put Him to death. Through the death of God's Son on the cross, God took the sins of mankind and put them upon His Son, Jesus, with Jesus being the sacrifice necessary to pay for the sins of mankind. God raised His Son from the dead and Jesus walked once again among mankind. God then brought His Son back to Heaven from where He had left. Jesus has been given Heaven's greatest honors and recognition and now intercedes for the believer, being the only means by which a person may approach God.
3. God's salvation for mankind is through Jesus Christ, His Son. God has done all that is necessary for a person to spend eternity in a place not prepared by human hands, living in an eternal lasting body among the heavenly host of Heaven.
4. Whether a person spends eternity in Heaven or not rests with that person. We have but only to believe with all the heart and soul, Jesus has done all the rest. What will you do?