

## **Jesus Christ: The Risen & Ascended One**

Hope Chapel Honolulu  
Luke 24:33-51, Acts 1:1-11

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:8-11, ESV)

### **Introduction**

One of the events that took place immediately after Christ was circumcised and a poor man’s burnt offering and sin offering (see Leviticus 5:7-11: “two pigeons or turtledoves”) was made, the Gospel of Luke records the prophecy of Simeon: “And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, ‘Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed’” (Luke 2:34-35, ESV). While ancient and modern Biblical commentators have proposed various interpretations of what these words meant to Mary, the crucifixion scene makes it clear that even if Mary knew what her firstborn son would have to endure, the scourging and crucifixion scene was almost more than she could bear. Yet, Christ would not just die for many but He would also rise again for many as well as ascend so that the Spirit of God might rest on all who believe just as the same Holy Spirit filled Him.

- 1. Christ the firstborn, risen and ascended One. (Luke 24:33-44)**
  - a) The resurrected Christ.
  - b) The nature of Christ’s resurrection and our own.
- 2. The mystery of the Suffering Servant prophecy. (Luke 24:45-51)**
  - a) The fulfillment of suffering servant prophecy of Isaiah (Isaiah 52:13-53:12).
  - b) The promise of the Father.
- 3. The Luke-Acts narrative and the liturgical season of Advent. (Acts 1:1-11)**
  - a) The Luke-Acts narratives of the Son and Spirit of God.
  - b) The fulfilled and promised Comings (*adventus/parousia*) of Christ.

### **Conclusion**

If we celebrate the Christmas holiday as merely a historically significant event from the distant past we miss both God’s intended significance and the opportunity He extends to us even today for both an abundant life here and eternal life with Him there. Luke’s historical narratives of the Son and Spirit of God were meant to preserve the personal testimonies of those who knew Christ personally and experienced the power, love and faithfulness of God the Holy Spirit in and through their own lives. Why were these personal testimonies so important to Luke? Because he knew that if we would put our faith in God, we would also experience the power, love and faithfulness of God in our own lives.

### **For our prayerful study, discussion and application:**

- 1) How does the resurrection and ascendance of Christ help us to understand our own future?
- 2) Read Luke 24:13-31. Discuss the experience of the two disciples and Christ’s appearance to them.
- 3) What do the First and Second Comings of Christ mean for the believer? For those yet to believe?

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