

# JESUS CHRIST: FILLING HEAVEN AND EARTH



*We continue to examine the exaltation of Christ.*

**A** CHRISTIAN and a Mohammedan were comparing their religions. "We believe that Jesus is the Son of God Who came to earth to pay for our sins," said the Christian.

The Mohammedan replied, "We, too, believe in another great prophet sent by Allah for all mankind: his name is Mohammed."

"We believe," the Christian continued, "that by trusting in Jesus we have eternal life."

The Mohammedan answered: "We, too, teach that by following the example which the great Mohammed set for us that we shall reach an eternal paradise."

Finally the Christian said, "We believe and teach that Jesus Christ arose from the dead after His crucifixion, and then ascended bodily into heaven."

At this the Mohammedan hung his head and replied sadly, "Mohammed also died, but we do not know for certain what has happened to him since that time."

Jesus Christ is the only God-man to have suffered death, risen again from the grave, and ascended back into heaven.

## ICON KEY



Introduction



Important point



For further reading

1. *List at least three differences between Christianity and Islam revealed above:*

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## Between His Resurrection and Ascension

What did Jesus do during the forty days after He arose from the grave on Easter Sunday? The following passages tell us.

2. According to Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus gave His disciples and His Church (that's you and me!) a blessed assignment. *What is that assignment?*

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"LEARN FROM ME"

3. Read John 21:15-17. *What assignment did Jesus give Peter (and us)?*

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*What do you think He meant by those words?*

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4. Read Acts 1:1-8, which is an account of what took place just before Jesus' ascension back into heaven. From the *first* half of verse 3, *what did Jesus do to strengthen His disciples' faith?*

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5. From the *second* half of verse 3, *what did Jesus talk to them about before His ascension?*

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6. From verses 4-5, *what event could the disciples expect to take place in just a very few days?*

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7. From verse 8, *what job would Jesus give the disciples (including you and me!) to carry out?*

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## The Ascension of Christ, and Following

Read the accounts in Luke 24:50-51, and Acts 1:9-11. Continuing with His plan to make us his blessed servants, Jesus gave His disciples the work that they were to do. Then, as they watched, the very Man they had seen for 40 days after His resurrection began to rise up into the sky. The disciples watched until they could no longer see beyond the clouds. Then they noticed two angels standing with them. The angels told them that they would see Jesus when he came back again. He would come in the same way he went: in person, in His body. Who could ever have guessed God's wonderful plan to save mankind?

8. Now there are several new things to learn about God's plan of salvation. While on earth (in His state of humiliation), Jesus laid aside the full use of His powers as God. For instance, He was only present at one place at one time. But read Ephesians 4:10. *What does the ascended Jesus now do?*

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9. Though Jesus left the earth with His visible presence at the time of His ascension, *what promise does he make to us believers in Matthew 28:20?*

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10. Jesus now sits at the right hand of the Father in heaven. Read John 17:24. *What desire does our Savior express in this verse?*

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## Seated on the Right Hand of God

What sort of activities is our Savior engaged in, now that He has ascended back into heaven? In other words, what is Jesus Christ DOING from His place of power, that is, at God's right hand?

11. Heads of state and heads of corporations are very busy people. Read Ephesians 1:20-22. *What is CHRIST the head of?*

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12. Look up Romans 8:34. *What is a very important service Christ provides for us from His throne in heaven?*

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13. Read Ephesians 4:8-12. *Especially from verses 11-12, what other work is our Lord engaged in?*

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14. Look up Hebrews 10:12-13. *What is Jesus doing about the ENEMIES of his Church?*

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15. Read I John 2:1-2. Using another name for *mediator*, *in verse one the Apostle calls Jesus our...*

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*How does the Bible sum up the purpose for which Jesus Christ came to earth and ascended back into heaven?*

16. Answer from Luke 1:74-75: \_\_\_\_\_

**"LEARN FROM ME"**

17. Answer from John 3:16:

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18. Answer from II Corinthians 5:15

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19. Answer from Revelation 5:9:

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## **Additional Bible Readings**



You may wish to do some further Bible reading in connection with this lesson. Please read I Corinthians chapter 15 and Ephesians chapter 1.