



Wayne's Words

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Up, Up and Away! An Ascension Day Reflection

The Ascension of Jesus is a strange event to modern eyes and ears. We know that Heaven is not

a physical place 'up there' but a spiritual reality or dimension, and that God is everywhere 'omnipresent', though we are given pictures in Revelation, in Job, Daniel and the psalms of God on the throne surrounded by the courts of heaven. There is much symbolism and metaphor used of these heavenly realities that would otherwise be beyond our comprehension.

Yet we are told that in the same way Jesus went to God, so he shall return, and every eye shall see him.

What is the significance of Jesus now being at 'the right hand of God'? And what is Jesus doing?

The 'right hand' is the place of authority. 'All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me' Jesus said (Matt 28:18). Therefore, we can pray to Jesus with confidence that he has full authority to act on behalf of those seeking to do his will. Jesus is also interceding to God the Father for us, having sympathy as a human being for our weakness. (Hebs 4:15,7:25) As High Priest, his blood shed for us eternally intercedes on our behalf for our cleansing from sin. (Hebs 9:11-14) It is from this place of authority that Jesus pours out the Holy Spirit upon believers, empowering them for God's work in the world.

It is to Jesus, exalted by God to God's right hand, who we give worship, and as those who are 'in Christ' we are given authority on earth as God's representatives to proclaim his message and bring deliverance to those held captive by sin and injustice.

All this is grounds for great confidence for us in approaching God, knowing that through Christ we have full and intimate access to the Father in his mercy and grace toward us. (Hebs 10:19-23)

Let us grasp this access with both hands and all our hearts on behalf of those for whom we pray and for the strength to persevere in the work and life that God has entrusted to us.

God bless, *Wayne*