

Acts 1:9-11

The Ascension: Proof Positive That Christianity Is an Out of this World Reality

CONTEXT

The Prologue of the Book of Acts 1:1-3

Luke's Introduction to His Second Book (Luke = Volume I; Acts = Volume II)

From the Resurrection to the Ascension 1:4-11

Christ's 40 Day Ministry

From the Ascension to Pentecost/the Bday of the Church 1:12-26

The Apostles 10 Day Wait

CONTENT

The Awesome Ascension 1:9

after He (Jesus) had said these things

that is, the things He said in 1:6-8

He was lifted up

this is a form of the verb *επαίρω* used for lifting something up generally or in Acts 27:40 for hoisting a sail on a ship. It is passive in voice, which means the subject (Jesus) was the recipient of the action (God the Father as the initiator)

a cloud received Him out of their sight

and at that point, Peter said "Did that really just happen?!?" while John whispered "I thought I'd seen everything..."

This cloud is a display/expression of the glory of God, as seen after the construction of the Tabernacle, the dedication of Solomon's temple, the Transfiguration and will be seen in the 2nd Advent (Matt 24:29-31; Rev 1:7)

The Angelic Aftermath 1:10-11

two men in white clothing

this accurately describes what the scene looked like, but it does not affirm the “two men” were human beings! How does that work?!? Principle: The Bible does not mean what it says, it means what it means by what it says/the way it says it in context! This is an example of “phenomenological language” which describes something the way it looks to the eyes (// “sunrise”). These two angels looked like men/they were human in their visible appearance.

men of Galilee

Galilee-was the less influential/sophisticated portion of NT Israel. Principle: It is not our ability but our availability that determines how God uses believers

This Jesus [somebody tell The History Channel that the “Jesus of History” and “the Christ of Faith” is the same Person], ***who has been taken up from you into Heaven, will come*** [again/return] ***in just the same way as you have watched Him go into Heaven*** [visibly/physically, supernaturally and undeniably].

At this point, a sense of loss might have paralyzed the 11. In response, they were given the promise of seeing/being with Jesus again in the future. Having “lost” Jesus at the cross, then to have Him back with them by resurrection and being able to enjoy this reality for forty days...the ascension APART from this promise of reunion might have crushed the Apostles! Principle: the reality of the risen Jesus in Heaven changes everything about the nature of reality!

In the ministry of Jesus, God entered into the human condition on Earth. In the Ascension, perfect humanity (in the God-man Jesus) entered into the abode of God in Heaven as our Representative, Redeemer and Advocate. And because He is there, believers will be too, in God’s time (John 14:1-6) so watch and work!

Take This To Heart: The Ascension: Proof Positive That Christianity Is an Out of this World Reality > The Now

- 1: It Fulfilled Major OT Prophecy about the Messiah (Psalm 110/Psalm 2)
- 2: It Anticipates the Ultimate Fulfillment of All Biblical Prophecy in the Advent of Messiah as the Lion of Judah (Zechariah 14:1-4; Matthew 24:29-31)