

This article was written by Olivia Ibrahim from St. Mark's in Phoenix, Arizona.



The word *ascension* comes from the Latin word “*ascendo*”, which is defined as “*to mount, ascend, and rise.*” This word is used namely in reference to the Lord Jesus Christ’s Ascension to the Father in Heaven. The first reference to the Lord Jesus’ Ascension can be found in the Holy Gospel of St. Mark 16:19. “***So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into Heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.***” Another reference can be found in the Holy Gospel of St. Luke 24:50-51. “***And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into Heaven.***”

A third reference can be found in the Holy Gospel of St. John 20:17. When the Lord Jesus Christ said to Mary Magdalene, “***Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’***” However, perhaps the most descriptive reference to the Lord Jesus’ Ascension can

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The Ascension

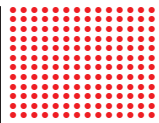
A Comprehensive Look.

be found in the Holy Book of Acts 1:9-11...

“Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward Heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into Heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into Heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into Heaven.’”

Perhaps the most important thing for us as Christians is to realize, that the Lord Jesus’ Ascension was part of God’s plan for our Salvation. As the Lord Jesus Christ said in St. John 3:16, “***For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.***” The Lord Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary, He suffered, was crucified, and died for us at the hands of Pontius Pilate, He was resurrected after three days, and finally He ascended into Heaven.

He promised however that He would not leave us, His children, without guidance. He sent us the Holy Spirit. As the Lord Jesus said in St. John 14:26 “***But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things;***



and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." For further clarification, the word resurrection comes from the Latin word, "resurgo" which means "to rise up again, appear again". This references the Lord Jesus' rising from the dead after three days.

Now, that we have discussed the Glorious Ascension we should also address the meaning of the word *Assumption*. *Nota Bene*: The words *Ascension* and *Assumption* although similar do not carry the same meaning. The word *assumption* comes from the Latin prefix "-ad" combined with the Latin word "sumo" meaning to "take to oneself". In the church, we recognize the Assumption of The Virgin Mary into Heaven. Upon her death, the Virgin St. Mary's body and soul were taken to Heaven. The Lord Jesus Christ loved His mother so much, He did not allow for her body to remain on earth. This is different from the Lord Jesus' Glorious Ascension. The Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, could ascend to Heaven without any assistance. The Virgin Mary had to be taken up to Heaven by her only begotten Son.

What we must keep in mind when we think of the Lord Jesus Christ is that He is

> ...God loved us so much He became human to die for us.

God Incarnate, which is that God loved us so much He became human to die for us. After all the Lord Jesus said, **"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."**
John 15:13.



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