

God Redeems: Redemption  
God Sends: Mission  
God Reigns: Kingdom  
God Gathers: Church  
God Returns: New Creation

## Big Question: Where Is Jesus?

**Luke 24:51:**

***And while Jesus was blessing them, He left them and was carried up into heaven.***

One of our children loves bubble bath. I wonder if there is anyone in your household that loves it as well? A few years ago, one of our children wasn't satisfied with the number of bubbles they had. He thought the amount of bubble bath mixture I used was too insignificant. So, when my back was turned, they put in the whole bottle. Over the next 10 minutes chaos began. The bubbles grew and grew and grew and took over our whole bathroom, and even went into the living room. What my children needed to realise was something that seemed insignificant like a little bit of mixture would multiply over, and over again. And this is the same with the Ascension of Jesus. The thing that seems insignificant, means the mission of Jesus can multiply over, and over again.

The big question we are looking at today – is where is Jesus? Our passage tells us, that the disciples saw Jesus go up into heaven. This should be a huge encouragement to all believers because the ascension of Jesus has led to a multiplication in three ways.

First the multiplication of his rule. Jesus going up to heaven wasn't a form of space travel, but a continuation of his work from the resurrection. This Jesus had gone down to the depths of death, up to new life, and even further to the heights of glory. Today, Jesus is alive in heaven and sits at God's right hand. Which is a position of power and authority. Jesus is not just God's King in Jerusalem; Jesus is God's King ruling over all the people on earth.

Second, the multiplication of his presence on earth. When Jesus died, the disciples were sad because he had left, when he rose again, they were filled with joy because he was with them again. When he went up into heaven, they were sad again because it felt like he had left AGAIN – what a roller-coaster of emotions. When Jesus went to heaven, God sent the Holy Spirit to live in all believers. Now the presence of God wasn't just in Jerusalem with the disciples, Jesus is present with all believers, across the whole world. Every country that has even just one believer, Jesus is present with that person, and in that country. Jesus is in heaven which means he is ruling the whole earth, and he is present with all his people on earth.

And finally, his mission is multiplied. When Jesus went up to heaven, the disciples thought the mission had finished. They stayed in Jerusalem, worshipping in the temple, and praising Jesus. They weren't telling other people or going to other countries. They thought the mission of Jesus had finished. When Jesus went to heaven and sent the Holy Spirit they realised they need to go to Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth telling everyone about the forgiveness of sin. Jesus going to heaven meant his mission is multiplied. His mission is for all believers, to share the good news of Jesus across the whole world.

Friends, consider this. Jesus lived two thousand years ago in Israel. How can it be, that you and I believe in Jesus, 2000 years later, in the Central West of New South Wales? It's because Jesus is in heaven. Just like a little bit of bubble bath multiplies to fill the whole bath. The ascension of Jesus has multiplied his mission across the whole world. He rules the whole earth, he is present with all believers across the earth, and his mission continues around the earth. Be encouraged, and let's play our part in his mission today.

### **Living and Active Prayer**

Gracious Father,  
You have saved us with a wonderful and powerful salvation.  
Your Word is living and active. Today, we have heard you speak,  
So help us to not harden our hearts but to live it out.  
Forgive our failures, renew our wills, awaken our joy, and transform our lives.  
Make our faith living and active.  
In the name of your Son and by your Spirit, Amen

### **THREE QUESTIONS**

What comfort or encourage do you find in knowing that Jesus is alive, in heaven and ruling today?

If Jesus is ruling today, where is his kingdom on earth?

How can you play your part in his mission this week?

### **RESOURCES FOR THE WEEK**

Pray for two non-Christians this week, and consider when you can invite them to church.

Everything A Child Should Know About God: Part 9

The-ology: Chapters 41-51

PTC Course: Promise to Fulfilment

Tuesday

Acts 1:9-11

How does the ascension of Jesus and the promise of His return challenge you to live with urgency and focus? What distractions might be keeping you from fully engaging in the mission Jesus has left for His followers?

Wednesday

Colossians 3:1-2

In what ways do your daily thoughts and actions reflect a focus on heavenly things where Christ is? How might you shift your priorities or mindset to better align with this heavenly perspective?

Thursday

Hebrews 4:14-16

How does knowing that Jesus, fully understands and empathizes with your weaknesses and temptations, influence your willingness to approach God's throne of grace? Are there specific areas of your life where you struggle to bring your needs or failures before God, and how might this passage encourage you to seek His mercy and grace with greater confidence and trust?

Friday

Revelation 11:15

As you consider the future fulfillment of Christ's eternal reign, how does this vision of His everlasting kingdom affect your current perspective on worldly powers and systems? In what ways can you live more faithfully as a citizen of Christ's kingdom, anticipating His reign while engaging with the world around you?