

ASCENSION & PENTECOST

The ascension of our Lord was His last visible act on earth. On that day, for the first time, Christ allowed His Apostles to worship Him. He had finished the mission given to Him and had overcome the enemies of God for mankind, and in so doing, all power was given unto Him in heaven and earth.

He, now, as the second Adam, had to bring about the creation of the second Eve. So as it was in the beginning, it could be at the end; to fulfil the word and plan of God. Through God's love, this woman, the Church, would be called from all nations, kindred and tongues of the world. All would be given the opportunity to be part of the Kingdom of God.

Psalm 68, Verse 18: *"Thou has ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the Lord God might dwell among them."*

Christ, from the throne of God, with all power, was to now set in place the way for this to happen.

This four-fold ministry, (Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and teachers), which Apostle Paul refers to, received the power of the Holy Spirit which was sent on the day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit was sent to direct and fulfil the work of this ministry.

Luke 24, Verse 47: *"And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."*

Matthew 28, Verses 19 and 20: *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."*

As recorded in the Book of Acts, on the day of Pentecost when Apostle Peter gave that first sermon, many were pricked in their hearts. Around three thousand Jews acknowledged, accepted, and took into their lives, that gift of grace to begin a new life and hope for the future Kingdom of God. Two thousand years on from that first sermon, we can still see how that command given by Christ has fulfilled, and still is fulfilling itself, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Our hearts should be full of thanksgiving that, through the Spirit, God has called us to acknowledge, accept, and take Christ and those gifts into our lives. This allows us, through these blessings, to reconcile ourselves back to God as rebellious men, so that we can make this preparation to be part of the Kingdom of God.

Psalm 68, Verse 19: *"Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation."*

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