

Ascension of Jesus Christ

I. Description

- 1 Ascension of JESUS CHRIST- the Ascension of JESUS CHRIST is one of the most vital experiences of JESUS CHRIST yet filled with difficulties. The Ascension of JESUS CHRIST is one of the most dramatic events in human history, on the same level as God becoming man--the Christmas story, birth of JESUS CHRIST. The Spiritual Death of JESUS CHRIST on the cross and the Resurrection of JESUS CHRIST and now the Ascension of JESUS CHRIST. For the record, the next event is the final event on the same level as the birth, death, resurrection and Ascension and that the Session of JESUS CHRIST –being seated at the right hand of God on the throne of God. The Birth of JESUS CHRIST is God becoming man. The Death of JESUS CHRIST is His spiritual death on cross. The Resurrection of JESUS CHRIST from the dead, the Ascension of JESUS CHRIST —first human to ascend to throne of God, the Session of JESUS CHRIST –a member of human race sitting on the Throne of God.

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2. The Ascension of JESUS CHRIST is JESUS CHRIST leaving Planet earth and ascending to His place of origin—to take His seat at the right hand of God.
3. The Ascension of JESUS CHRIST is directly related to three other events... all of which are necessary and interdependent: Death—Resurrection—Ascension—Session of JESUS CHRIST.

These make up the Glorification of JESUS CHRIST.

II. Greek words used to describe or refer to the Ascension of JESUS CHRIST

1. **Analepsis** to receive up used only once in a rather interesting way **Luke 9:51 When the days were approaching for His ascension, He was determined to go to Jerusalem**
If you have a NASV with marginal notes you will note that in the margin they translate this: **taking up**

NIV

As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.

New Living Translation

As the time drew near for him to ascend to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem

Berean Literal Bible

And it came to pass in the completing of the days of His ascension, that He steadfastly set the face to go to Jerusalem.

KJ

And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,

Jubilee Bible 2000

And it came to pass when the time was come that he should be received up, he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem

Darby Bible Translation

And it came to pass when the days of his receiving up were fulfilled, that he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem

Young's Literal Translation

And it came to pass, in the completing of the days of his being taken up, that he fixed his face to go on to Jerusalem

Kenneth Wuest

Now, it came to pass when the days were being fulfilled with reference to His being taken up, that He Himself set His face steadfastly to be proceeding to Jerusalem

Strick Greek reading

and it came to pass, in the to be fulfilled the days, of the assumption of him, and he, his face set to go to Jerusalem

In this verse there are two key words:

were approaching and ascension

Were approaching Articular infinitive—expressing the time when something will occur. Of the verb—*to be filled completely*
Referring to the days prior to Ascension of JESUS CHRIST.

Ascension receiving up; His being received by God at His Throne: So, knowing what all had to occur JESUS CHRIST set His direction towards Jerusalem to be ill-treated by the religious crowd and killed by Romans so that He might hasten to His return to God the Father.

This is a turning point in the Gospel of Luke.

Before verse 51 is the Transfiguration of JESUS CHRIST — verses 28-35

Now look down at 43-44

Then we come to verse 51, which intro all that follows in Gospel of Luke leading up to the crucifixion.

What is interesting here in verse 51 is the way it is worded...

as the days of His ascension were approaching

Not the days of His betrayal or His crucifixion...but day of His Ascension. His Ascension back to His father was extremely important to JESUS CHRIST

Get a picture of JESUS CHRIST looking over several hills toward a higher mountain;

hills... upper room, garden of gethsemane;

betrayal, trials, crucifixion, burial, resurrection and

He sees His Ascension.

Luke 9:51-19:28 record of events on His Journey to Jerusalem

Read Luke 19:28

28 After He had said these things, He was going on ahead, going up to Jerusalem

The Triumphal Entry is the next event.

Back to Luke 9:51 which begins His departure from Galilee toward Jerusalem.

Now look at the first phrase of verse 51.

When the days were approaching you will recall that I read several translations; a few which included the concept of **days being fulfilled** most carried the idea of set-times;

Read them again

Now with these verses in mind look at Galatians 4:4

4 But when the fullness of time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under Law.

These two events –**Incarnation** and **Ascension**– get involved with **Predestination!**

The Calvinistic view of Predestination is that everyone and everything is Predestined by God. That is God predestines who will believe and who will not believe and therefore who will go to heaven and who will go to the Lake of Fire is predestined by God.

The Truth is that there is only one who is Predestined by God, and that is JESUS CHRIST... and when we believe in JESUS CHRIST we share His predestination.

But here, God has planned the Ascension of His Son and the Ascension of JESUS CHRIST is in the Will of God. He planned the departure of His Son out of heaven and He planned the return of His Son back to Him.

The last phrase of Luke 9:51 **He was determined to go to Jerusalem**
KJ has this correct: **He set His face to go to Jerusalem**

This is an idiom from the Hebrew—note Ezekiel 6:2

2 Son of man Set your face toward the mountains of Israel and prophesy against them.

Here is means determination to fulfill a task.

A Second Greek word used for Ascension is found in Luke 24:51

51 while he was blessing them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven.

This is one of those difficult verses of the Bible. Both of these verbs could refer to the Ascension, Students of the Greek are divided on which verb actually describes the Ascension with some cleverly pointing out that both verbs are used to describe the Ascension. The first verb says He separated Himself from them.

This is the Greek word **diisteme** prefix **dia** –denoting separation + **hiarimi** to stand = to separate, to place asunder; Intransitive, to separate oneself, to go away... to depart. Now note the second verb **was carried up**. This is the imperfect of the verb **anaphero** you will recall the previous word in Luke 9:51 was **analepis** the **ana** prefix means –up- in Luke 9:51—to receive up; while here in Luke 24:51 we have same prefix –**ana**- up + to carry or bring up;

So, this word fits the ascension concept of JESUS CHRIST going up.

Luke 24:51

51 **while he was blessing them, he departed from them**

if both words are used to describe two aspects of the Ascension –picture JESUS CHRIST standing there and in their presence. He departs from them and the next verb describes the direction in which He went **and was carried into heaven** if we flow from verses 50–51 and 52-53 record the immediate result of His Ascension. If this is what Luke is describing does not conflict but goes along with Luke’s description in Acts 1:8—then 9-11—then verse 12.

So, we have three Greek words so far.

1.

Analepsis to receive up; used only in Luke 9:51

2.

Diisteme to depart from them

3.

Anaphero to carry up

4.

Next, we come to the 4th Greek word used for Ascension: This one is used in the Gospel of John 3:13 **“No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man.**

John 6:62

62 What then if ye should behold the Son of man ascending where he was before?

John 20:17

17 Jesus saith to her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended unto the Father: but go unto my brethren, and say to them, I ascend unto my Father and your Father, and my God and your God.

All three of these verses use the same Greek word: but let us note three things we learn of the Ascension from these 3 verses:

- (1) He ascended into heaven.
- (2) He ascended where He was before.
- (3) He ascended to the Father.

The 4th Greek Word is also in John: John 7:33 **Therefore Jesus Said “For a little while longer I am with you, then I go to Him who sent me.**

Hupago: to go away Here, He goes away to the One who sent Him—God the Father. And again, with the same verb the Gospel of John 8:14; and 13:3.

I hope you are beginning to see just how important His Ascension to God the Father was to JESUS CHRIST and how He was constantly looking forward to His ascension back to God the Father.

And again I hope this begins to characterize your life –to complete your mission but ever on the front of your mind is your returning to God the Father.

Note again Gospel of John 13:33 and 36.

5.

The 5th **Greek word** found in Gospel of John 13:1 This is an interesting word.

metabaino the prefix *meta*-denoting change of place or condition + **baino** to come or to go – to pass or go from one place or state to another.

What is interesting here is that we want to be sure when we think of the Ascension of JESUS CHRIST —two parts—

departs out of this world into heaven—with God the Father

6.

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The **6th Greek word** found in the Gospel of John 14:2 **...for I go** we might expect the verb we have seen ‘to go’ in John 7:33 but now JESUS CHRIST uses a rich word here ***poreuomai*** to go from one place to another

7.

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The **7th Greek word** is found in Gospel of John 16:7 **...I go away**
aperchomai Ok, once again we have the simple translation—**go away** this is the third time and here we see the richness of the Greek and inadequacy of English
John 7:33**...I go to Him who sent me**
John 14:2**...I go to prepare a place for you**
and now
John 16:7**...that I go away...if I do not go away**

and we have three different Greek words:

7:33 ***Hupago*** 14:2 ***poreuomai*** 16:7 ***aperchomai***

each translated **to go away** in the English.

7:33 **Therefore Jesus said “For a little while longer I am with you, then I go to Him who sent me** here JESUS CHRIST says He goes away, under cover—out of sight—not just to another town but to another heavenly location.

14:2 **In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.**

here JESUS CHRIST uses a verb meaning to go from one place to another—I leave earth and go to another place—My Father's dwelling

16:7 **But I tell you the truth it is to your advantage-spiritually that I go away, for if I do not go away** here JESUS CHRIST uses a rich verb that has deep meaning: to transfer from one state to another strictly to change by separation therefore to break up an existing connection and set the one into a different state or a different relation.

So, what JESUS CHRIST is saying is that He must leave His current relationship with the disciples and actually change their relation from Him to His Spirit whom He will send.

So you can see how rich it is to know the original language.

Three different words all translated ***to go***

Note again in 17:7 where JESUS CHRIST uses another word for Ascension:

16:7 **But I tell you the truth it is to your advantage-spiritually that I go away, for if I do not go away the *paracletos* in margin of NASV –referring to the Holy Spirit **will not come to you but if I go****

This is not the same Greek word used twice already,

KJ attempts to show this is a different word –**but if I depart** and this is the same Greek word we have already noted in ***poreuomai*** to go from one place to another

While here note John 16:27 **for the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came forth from the Father.**

28 I came out from the Father, commission and am come into the world: incarnation again, I leave the world, and go unto the Father. This is the same Greek word we had in 14:2...to go.

8.

The **8th Greek word for Ascension** This one is in the Lord's Prayer in John 17 where JESUS CHRIST is addressing God the Father John 17:11 **And I am no more in the world, result of the ascension and these are in the world, and I come to thee.** This is our 9th word: ***erchomai*** which simply means to come or to go **Holy Father,** and we are to be holy as He is Holy...and the only way is by God imputing His perfect Righteousness to everyone who believes in JESUS CHRIST as Savior **keep them in thy name which thou hast given me, that they may be one, even as we are.**

Note down at verse 13 **But now I come** JESUS CHRIST uses the same verb He just used in verse 11 **to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy made full in themselves.**

9.

The **9th Greek word for Ascension** Acts 1:11 **who also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye looking into heaven? this Jesus, who was received up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye beheld him going into heaven.**

first: **was received up** this is ***analambano*** you are familiar with the prefix ***ana*** meaning up; + the verb to take... to take up.

But also note at the end of the verse **going** this is the same verb we had in John 14:2.

Note: Ephesians 4:8 **Wherefore he saith, When he ascended on high, he led captivity captive, And gave gifts unto men.**

this is the same Greek word used in John 20:17; note here He Ascended on High.

1 Timothy 3:16 **by common confession great is the mystery of godliness; He who was revealed in the flesh, vindicated or Justified by the spirit, Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, taken up in glory.** same word we just noted in Acts 1:11

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The 10th and final Greek word for Ascension

Hebrews 4:14 **Therefore, since we have a great high priest, who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.**

Has passed *dierchomai dia*—through + the verb to come or go –has come or gone through the heavens Specifically the first and 2nd heaven to the third.