

# Day of Ascension

Today we remember the return of Jesus Christ back to heaven. It is national holiday in Indonesia.

There are two passages of Scripture that tell us about the ascension of Jesus Christ.  
Luke 24:25-53 and Acts 1:6-8

**Luke 24:25-53**, "Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. **While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.** Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God."

**Acts 1:6-11**, "So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

**After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going,** when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

## **According to the Scriptures, what is Jesus doing now in heaven?**

John 14:1-14, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and **prepare a place for you**, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."  
Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

**Several things Jesus Christ is explaining in these verses:**

1. We must trust in God and trust also in Jesus Christ.
2. There are many rooms in heaven
3. He is preparing places for the believers in heaven now
4. Jesus Christ is coming back again to the world
5. The believers will be taken up to heaven by Jesus Christ
6. Jesus is explaining the way to heaven. He says "I am the way, the truth and the life."
7. Jesus is stating that He and the Father are One.
8. Jesus is in the Father and the Father is in Jesus.
9. Any one who has faith can do the same Jesus did and even do greater things.
10. Jesus will do whatever we ask in His name
11. We may ask for anything in His name and He will give it.

Hebrews 7:23-27, "Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but **because Jesus lives forever**, he has a permanent priesthood. **Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.**"

Such a high priest meets our need--one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.

**In this Scripture we learn:**

1. Jesus lives for ever
2. He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him
3. He always intercedes for the believers. Intercedes means to mediate.
4. He is our High Priest and our Mediator. This is why we pray in the Name of Jesus when we come to God in prayer.
5. Jesus is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.
6. He sacrificed His own life for the sins of the people.
7. There is no more need for sacrifices today.
8. Jesus died for us so that we may be saved and spent eternity in heaven.

**Praise His Matchless Name!**

May the Lord bless you richly,