**Second Dimension – Christianity Experienced**

**Segment IV – *Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our Faith* Progressive Bible Concepts - #38 “The Gravity of Jesus – Part IV” The Ascension and The Second Coming**

**Segment IV – The Author and Perfecter of Our Faith (Concepts 33-43)**

* Concept 33 – “Fixing Our Eyes Upon Jesus”
* Concept 34 – “Eyes Upon the Lord”
* Concept 35 – “The Gravity of Jesus – His Preexistence and Prefiguration”
* Concept 36 – “The Gravity of Jesus – His Incarnation and Virgin Birth”
* Concept 37 – “ The Gravity of Jesus – Crucifixion and Resurrection”
* **Concept 38 – “ The Gravity of Jesus – Ascension and Second Coming”**

**Primary Imperative**

* *“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ o\_\_\_\_ e\_\_\_\_\_\_ on J\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* Heb 12:1,2

**The Gravity of Jesus is rooted in the following aspects of His Personhood:**

1. His Preexistence
2. His Prefiguration
3. His Incarnation
4. His Virgin Birth
5. His Crucifixion
6. His Resurrection
7. His A\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. His S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Ascension of Christ**

* *“So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.” Mark 16:19*
* *“And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. And it came about that while He was blessing them He p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ f\_\_\_\_\_\_ them. And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple, praising God.”* Luke 24:5-53
* “*And after He said these things, He was l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ u\_\_ while they were looking on, and a cloud r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Him out of their sight.”* Acts 1:9
* Referenced in e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ other NT books.
* The ascension was closely linked to, and was the l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ o\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the resurrection*.*
* It represented the c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus’ earthly ministry.
* Opposite His virgin birth at His earthly entrance which p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ his divinity and ensured his humanity, is the ascension at His earthly exit which c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ his divinity and Father’s good pleasure on His redemptive mission.

**Necessity of the Ascension of Christ**

* The nature of the Lord’s resurrection body necessitated it’s t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to heaven. He was no longer f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for life on earth.
* His unique personhood and holiness of life demanded such an h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ conclusion.
* His messianic work required such a s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ consummation of the high drama of redemption.
* His ascension paved the way for the d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit. John 7:39
* It d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ skepticism regarding His resurrection.

**Significance of the Ascension**

* Represented divine assurance that the Son had completed His Father’s will with d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* It was divine v\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of His deity.
* It represented divine i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ into His heavenly reign.
* We now have a representative in heaven who u\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the weaknesses of our humanity.
* It signifies his overwhelming v\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over Satan, sin, evil and death.
* Upon His ascension, all things are made s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to him. *“For He has put all things in subjection under His feet.”* I Cor 15:27

***Second Coming of Christ***

* *“And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was departing, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them; and they also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, Who has been taken up from you into heaven, will c\_\_\_\_\_\_ in just the s\_\_\_\_\_\_ w\_\_\_\_ as you have watched Him g\_\_ into heaven.” Acts 1:10,11*
* *“And the high priest arose and came forward and questioned Jesus, saying, “Do you make no answer to what these men are testifying against you?” But he kept silent and made no answer. Again the high priest was questioning Him and saying to Him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?” And Jesus said, “I am; and you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming with the c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” Mark 14:60-62*
* *“Behold He is c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him…I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “Who is and Who was and Who i\_\_ t\_\_ c\_\_\_\_\_\_, the Almighty.” Revelation 1:7,8*
* The fact that Christ’s Second Coming is mentioned \_\_\_\_\_\_ times in the \_\_\_\_\_\_ chapters of the NT attests to the important place it is assigned in the grand scheme of redemption.
* It would appear from the pages of the NT that the first century church thought more about the return of Christ than they did of d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or even h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The current church has become bogged down in details and finer points of this doctrine to the point of contention between ‘camps’ which o\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the simple fact of the Second Coming.
* The foolishness of predicting day and time of Christ’s return has created broad, cultural c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ toward the idea.

**What it is not:**

* The Lord comes at d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – Does He? If so where does it say that? At death, the believer goes to be with the Lord, not the other way around.
* The Lord came in descent at Pentecost – Do the plain statements of the Bible suggest that? If so, why are there so many statements in the Bible about His coming A\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Pentecost? The emphasis of Pentecost was on the coming of the Spirit, which is totally separate from His coming.
* The Lord came at the destruction of Jerusalem – John’s gospel, written a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the fall of Jerusalem, references the coming of Christ. John 21:21-22

**What it will be:**

* It will be p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – “*I will come q\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*.” Rev 22:7
* It will be p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – “*This Jesus, Who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the s\_\_\_\_\_\_ w\_\_\_\_ as you have watched Him go.”* Acts 1:11
* It will be v\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – *“Every eye shall s\_\_\_\_ Him…*”- Rev 1:7
* It will be p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – *“…they will see the Son of Man coming…with great p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…”* Matt 24:30
* It will be u\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – *“For the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do n\_\_\_\_ think He is coming…”* Matt 24:44
* It will be sudden – “*I will come q\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*.” Rev 22:7



**The Gravity of Jesus – Observations**

* No other person in all of history existed b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ they were born.
* The entrance of Jesus into history was so momentous that God took c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to set the stage and prepare the human heart.
* Multiple historical figures in the build-up each depicted a s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the complex personhood of Christ which projected a sketch of Him Who was to come.
* If it was momentous when man set foot upon the m\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but how much more momentous was it when God set foot upon the e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Jesus birth represented a unique development in human history – divinity and humanity m\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ into a single person
* The greatest i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of all time, in all of history, is that God the creator of life would on our behalf, t death.
* The resurrection of Jesus means that death is not the brutal, cruel termination of life, but rather the g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ into eternal life.
* Unlike the rest of humanity which passes from this life into the next through death, Jesus, having died for our sins and being resurrected, returned to heaven a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by way His ascension.
* Of all the notable events enacted on the world stage from creation onwards, the most remarkable and glorious is y\_\_\_\_\_ to c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ -the return of Christ.

***Primary Imperative***

* *“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ o\_\_\_\_ e\_\_\_\_\_\_ on J\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* Heb 12:1,2

**Conclusion - Portrait for Christ**

* In a letter published after his death, the poet Robert Browning cited several utterances of men and genius concerning the Christian faith, and among them was this one from Charles Lamb: “In a lighthearted conversation with some friends as to how they would feel if some of the greatest of the dead were to appear suddenly in flesh and blood once more—on the final suggestion, ‘And if Christ entered this room?’ he changed his manner at once and stuttered out as his manner was when moved, ‘You see if Shakespeare entered we should all r\_\_\_\_\_\_; if HE appeared, we must k\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.’” Such was his conception of the moral glory of Christ.

**Summary - Concept 38**

* The Ascension of Jesus began His session as our Advocate at the right hand of the Father and it will continue until His Second Coming.

**Next Week**

* Concept 39 – “The Identity of God”