



The Church in Acts

Week 1: The Ascension of Christ

Acts 1 ESV

Young Adults Pastor David Wright - Reston Bible Church - Sunday, January 5, 2025

“So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.’

Acts 1:6-11 ESV

And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’”

Acts 1:6-11 ESV

The Ascension of Christ

Prophet: Empowered Mission

Priest: Continual Intercession

King: Universal Reign

Prophet: Empowered Mission

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Acts 1:6-8 ESV

Prophet: Empowered Mission

“And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven...”

Acts 1:9-11 ESV

Prophet: Empowered Mission

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Acts 1:9-11 ESV

“The remedy for unprofitable spiritual stargazing lies in a Christian theology of history... to remember that between the ascension and the *parousia*, the disappearance and the reappearance of Jesus, there stretches a period of unknown length which is to be filled with the church’s worldwide, Spirit-empowered witness to Him. We need to hear the implied message of the angels: ‘You have seen Him go. You will see Him come. But between that going and coming there must be another. The Spirit must come, and you must go – into the world for Christ.’”

John Stott

Priest: Continual Intercession

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“So he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.”

Hebrews 7:25 ESV

“Christ Jesus is the one who died – more than that, who was raised – who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”

Romans 8:34 ESV

The Ascension of Christ

King: Universal Reign

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“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.”

Daniel 7:13-14 ESV

King: Universal Reign

“So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom **to Israel?**’ He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**’ ”

Acts 1:6-8 ESV