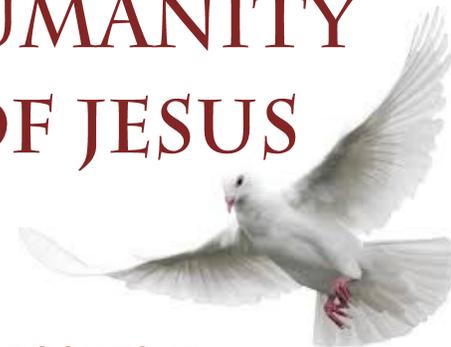


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THE HUMANITY OF JESUS



BOOK FOUR

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it is literally a geographical location, for Stephen saw Christ there. *Acts 7:56, “Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”* True, it is difficult to localize the eternal God but it can be done. The ascension was visible, not secret. It was seen and witnessed by the apostles. Jesus Christ left personally, visibly and bodily and in like manner will He return in the Second Coming to this earth.

THE NECESSITY OF THE ASCENSION

Heaven was His home and it was logical that when His work was complete that He would return home again. *John 14:28, “I am going to the Father.”* Prophecy had to be fulfilled. He said that He would return to the Father and He did, *John 16*. The Divine plan was that the Holy Spirit would not come to indwell believers until after the ascension of Christ. The ascension must precede Pentecost. *John 16:7*, Jesus talking, “*I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.*” The ascension of Christ was a prerequisite to His further work of preparing mansions. *John 14:2-3, “²In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And*

5. Is this not unfair to make the innocent suffer for our sins against His will? It would be unfair if Jesus were forced to suffer for our sins against His will. However, Jesus volunteered to die for us. It was His own desire to choose to do so.

6. Could God not just forgive the sinner without the terrible death on Calvary? Sin has been committed against God. Why couldn't God just blot it out? He could not, for the law of God must be satisfied. *Genesis 2:17, “but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”* *Ezekiel 18:4, “The soul who sins shall die...”* *Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death.”* Repentance does not remove the need for punishment for sin. Sin has been committed and sin must be dealt with according to God's own precepts. The justice and honor of God are at stake and must be preserved. The holiness of God demands the death penalty for sin.

7. Is it not impossible to transfer guilt from a guilty one to an innocent one? Human courts punish only the guilty one, but they could punish a substitute if such were desired, for the substitute voluntarily assumes the guilt of the other. *Isaiah 53:4, “Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;”* *Isaiah 53:5, “But He was wounded for*

THE DEATH OF CHRIST

NOTES:

INTRODUCTION

The two doctrines most opposed by fallen man are Incarnation and Expiation. "These two doctrines show the marvelous, inconceivable, infinite love of God to poor sinful humanity." - Dr. Adolph Saphir

Substitution is the great doctrine of Peter, Paul, James and Philip in Acts.

"There is not a ray of hope for man outside of substitution." - D. L. Moody

Death was the supreme work of the Lord Jesus here on earth. We come to live and death ends our work. Jesus came to die. His purpose could be gained in no other way. Sin involves the death penalty. Someone must bear it, either the sinner or a suitable substitute. There is no possibility of bribery here at heaven's court. The atonement is the heart of Christianity. Atonement settles the sin question.

It is said that C. H. Spurgeon the "Prince of Preachers" chose a text and made a bee-line for Calvary. Sin and the blood atonement is the central Biblical issue. The red line of blood passes right through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

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our transgressions. 1 Peter 2:24, "who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed."

8. If each sin requires eternal death, how could Christ suffer an innumerable number of deaths in the few short hours of Calvary? It was not the amount of suffering that counted but the justice of God that had to be satisfied. The fact that a holy sinless One suffered, made the difference. The One who suffered was not a mere man. He was the God-man, *1 Timothy 2:5. Isaiah 52:14, "... so His visage was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men;"* This verse suggests a death so horrible that God pulled down the curtain of darkness at Calvary lest men see that marred face, *Luke 23 :44.*

CONCLUSION

The death of Jesus Christ is sufficient for every sinner. He died for the sins of the whole world. He died for our sins and particularly for your sins.

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THE ASCENSION OCCURRED FORTY DAYS AFTER THE RESURRECTION

Jesus delayed going back to His Father to remain on earth for several reasons.

1. To prove beyond the shadow of a doubt that He had actually risen from the dead. This was essential for the establishment of the faith of the believers.
2. He tarried in order to give the disciples more instructions in the Christian faith. In the post-resurrection period Jesus was able to explain much of His past teaching in the light of that which occurred—His own death, burial and resurrection. *Acts 1:3, "... to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God."*

THE MANNER OF THE ASCENSION

Luke 24:51, "And it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven." Jesus Christ is now seated at the right hand of the Father. *Ephesians 1:20, "... which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,"* Some think this expression, "God's right hand," is figurative meaning power. However,

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We should worship and serve this Christ who defied the laws of gravity and ascended bodily. We should prepare to welcome Him soon as He returns bodily and visibly.

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THE ASCENSION WAS PROPHESED AND TAUGHT IN THE SCRIPTURES

Psalm 68:18, "You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive;..."

Psalm 110:1, "The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.'" After the ascension He sat at the Father's right hand.

Luke 9:51, "Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem," The ascension was in God's plan.

John 6:62, "What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before?"

John 14:28, Jesus saying, "I am going away and coming back to you."... "I am going to the Father, for My Father is greater than I."

John 20:17, "Jesus said to her, 'Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'"

The Old Testament spoke of it and Jesus taught freely of His ascension. Likely the disciples didn't understand it any more than they understood the precious truths of His death, burial and resurrection.

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THE DOCTRINE OF HIS DEATH

A. Foretold by God. *Isaiah 53:8, "For He was cut off out of the land of the living;" Daniel 9:26, "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself..."*

("Cut off" here is a prophecy of death.) Zechariah 13:7, "... Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered;"

B. His death was appointed by God. *Isaiah 53:6, "... And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:10, "Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, ..."*

Acts 2:23, "Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;"

C. The meaning of His death.

1. Atonement. Used 77 times, means a covering for sin. It is an Old Testament word that only occurs once in the New Testament and that is in *Romans 5:11*.
2. Propitiation. This carries the thought of a mercy seat. *1 John 2:2, "And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, ..."*
3. Substitution. This is the idea of one taking the place of another. The innocent takes the punishment for the

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THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

INTRODUCTION

The doctrine of the resurrection is the foundation doctrine of the New Testament. The resurrection is mentioned 104 times in the New Testament. Christianity is the only religion with a living originator. Buddha is dead; Brahma (Hinduism) is dead; Mohammed is dead; Marx (Communism) is dead. The boast and glory of Christianity is the empty tomb. Jesus is risen. On the cross Jesus cried, "It is finished," and the Father said "Amen" by resurrecting the Son from the dead. If Jesus did not rise from the grave, we are of all men most miserable, for we are yet in our sin; we are lost; eternally lost; *1 Corinthians 15:16-19*. Jesus said that He would die and rise again from the dead the third day, *Matthew 16:21*. If the resurrection is true, then Jesus is indeed the Son of God. This is the miracle on which all other miracles stand or fall. If this, the greatest of miracles is true, then it is easy to believe all the rest.

EVIDENCE OF THE RESURRECTION

1. The empty tomb. *Matthew 28:6, "He is not here: for He is risen,"* as He said. "Come, see the place where the

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guilty. *John 10:11*, "The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep."

4. Redemption. The sinner in bondage is brought back by God with a certain purchase price. *1 Peter 1:18-19*, "... knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ,..."

5. Reconciliation. God and man were enemies but have now been made friends. *Romans 5:10*, "For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son,..." Jesus' death on Calvary reconciled God to man.

6. Ransom. The price paid for the release of a prisoner (the one kidnapped by sin). *Matthew 20:28*, "...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." See *John 19:18*.

D. The mode of His death. He died by crucifixion, *Matthew 27:35; Mark 15:24; Luke 23:33*. It was prefigured to be on a pole, lifted up; *Numbers 21:8; John 3:14*. It was an ignominious death. *Hebrews 12:2*, "...endured the cross, despising the shame." It was an accursed death. *Galatians 3:13*, "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law,

Lord lay." *Luke 24:3*, "Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus."

2. The testimony of angels. *Matthew 28:6* (above), also *Luke 24:5-7*, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'"

3. People who talked to Him after the resurrection, Peter, Mary, Cleopas and Thomas.

4. Jesus ate and drank, showed His wounds, etc., to friends after the resurrection.

5. By the 500 who saw Him at one time, *1 Corinthians 15:6*, "After that, He was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some are fallen asleep."

6. By His appearance to Stephen at his martyrdom, *Acts 7:56*, "...and said, 'Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!'"

7. By His appearance to Paul on the Damascus road, *Acts 9:5*, "Then the Lord said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'"

Positionally we are seated with Him today in the heavenlies. *Ephesians 2:6*, "...and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus," He ascended that He might fill all things *Ephesians 4:10*, "He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things." Now that He has ascended, angels, authorities and powers are subject to Him. *1 Peter 3:22*, "... who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him." His ascension became a coronation. Ascension becomes one of the six articles of the mystery of godliness, *1 Timothy 3:16*.

CONCLUSION

Because of the exaltation of Jesus Christ, one day every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. *Philippians 2:9-11*, "Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST

INTRODUCTION

The life of Jesus Christ can be told as four great miracles: Incarnation, resurrection, ascension and second coming. Today we study the third of these miracles. The ascension is that event in which Christ departed visibly and returned to heaven, He came to earth as a humble baby. He left the earth as the exalted conqueror. When His earthly work was complete He entered into His heavenly ministry of preparing the Mansions and the High Priestly work of intercession.

THE STORY OF THE ASCENSION

Acts 1:9-11, "Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹ who also said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.'" The description can be summarized in two words: He ascended visibly and bodily.

Hebrews 6:20, "... where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus." Jesus ascended to prepare our heavenly abode, John 14:2; to be our High Priest, Hebrews 9:21-24; and to take His appropriate seat, Hebrews 10:12-13.

THE RESULTS OF THE ASCENSION

He gave gifts to men. Ephesians 4:8, "When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive and gave gifts unto men." What gifts? Verse 11 says Apostles, prophets, etc. Because He ascended the Holy Spirit descended, John 16:7 and Acts 2:33. He demonstrated that sins were purged by sitting down, showing completed action. Hebrews 1:3, "... when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high," Because of His ascension now we can come boldly to the Lord in prayer, Hebrews 4:14-16. Because He has ascended He can now save to the uttermost, Hebrews 7:25. He can lift a sinner from the cesspool of sin to the highest heaven to be with Himself. His presence in the heavenlies causes us to "... let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience..." Hebrews 10:22. He stands now on the portals of heaven beckoning us to look "unto Jesus" Hebrews 12:2. He stands as the goal at the end of the journey.

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resurrection from the dead."

3. It means that salvation is an accomplished fact. Jesus said that salvation was completed when He died on the cross and the resurrection confirms it.
4. The resurrection guarantees that everyone else shall rise to the righteous unto life eternal or the unrighteous to face an angry Judge and be condemned forever.
5. It prepares Him to fulfill His next promise, John 14:3, "I will come again."
6. The "power of His resurrection" (Philippians 3:10), is an experience that we may enjoy now. It means living in newness of life that comes to us by the resurrected Christ living His life anew through our bodies.

CONCLUSION

The resurrection is the greatest power in the world. The resurrection surpasses the power of the atom, hydrogen, cobalt or uranium (U2-35). They have the power to destroy; the resurrection has the power to give life to the dead. The resurrection is the basis on which Christianity stands or falls. Today we triumphantly say, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" 1 Corinthians 15:55. We serve a risen Savior.

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having become a curse for us "(for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree')." "

E. His death was voluntary. He volunteered to die for us. He was not forced to do it. John 10:18, "No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself (Jesus)..." "

F. The reason for His death. Why did the Lord Jesus, the sinless One, have to die? We can understand how a guilty person would have to die as a result of sin. Jesus took our sin and died to satisfy the justice of a Holy God in heaven. Sin demanded a payment, the death penalty. Only Christ could pay it in full. All the attributes of God must be in harmony to make salvation possible. God's loving nature could not forgive sin until His legal nature was satisfied. In Calvary all the attributes of God found a perfect solution.

G. The result of His death. Salvation to all mankind that accept Him as a substitute. 1 Timothy 4:10, "... because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe."

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8. By the testimony of millions who have proved Him to be a living Savior. By many infallible proofs, Acts 1:3, "... to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days..." "

EXPLANATIONS OF JESUS' RESURRECTION

1. The fraud theory—that the whole story is a hoax; a deliberate imposture. History and the Scripture flatly deny such a ridiculous theory.
2. The swoon theory—that Jesus only fainted, the soldiers did not kill Him. The cool tomb and spices caused Him to revive and come back to life. On the contrary, the spices were poisonous and would have killed Him instead.
3. The hallucination theory—The disciples wanted to see Jesus and thought that He would rise so they in their imaginations imagined that they saw Him. The Scriptures tell us that the disciples were steeped in unbelief and would scarcely believe after seeing Him. Thomas wouldn't believe without touching Him. The disciples were incredulously unbelieving, for which Jesus rebuked them, Luke 24:25.
4. The ghost theory—They only saw His ghost and

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OBJECTIONS TO THE SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH OF CHRIST

1. Cannot man suffer for his own sins? Yes, but the full penalty is eternal death and eternity will not be long enough to pay the complete debt.
2. Can man atone for his own sin? No. Eternal suffering is not enough. *Hebrews 9:22, "And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission."* Only death can satisfy the demands of God and the soul never succeeds in dying in hell. (Someone has defined hell as dying forever and never being able to die.)
3. The doctrine of the atonement was invented by Paul. No, it was preached by our Lord Jesus Christ Himself while He was still on the earth. *Matthew 16:21, "... Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things ... and be killed, and be raised the third day."* *John 12:24, "... unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain."* Jesus was the corn about to die.
4. Will this doctrine not make men feel hopeless and sin even more? No. The cross teaches God's great hatred for sin. See *Romans 6:1-2*

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thought that it was Jesus. A ghost does not have flesh and bones or can not eat and drink. *Luke 24:39,43, "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."* *"...And He took it and ate in their presence."*

5. The myth theory—It was a wild story handed down by the ancients without truth. The whole canon of Scripture shows the lie to this theory.
6. The true explanation—That Jesus Christ rose bodily from the grave as He said that He would. *Acts 2:24, "... whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it."*

HIS RESURRECTION BODY

1. It had flesh and bones, *Luke 24:39, "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me, and see; for a spirit does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."*
2. It was a glorious body, *Philippians 3:21, "... who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body,..."*
3. It was an immortal body, one that will never die, *Romans 6:9, "... knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him."*

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if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." It would have been wonderful if Jesus could have lived on earth forever in His post-resurrection power but that was not the plan of God for the Church.

1. Jesus ascended to complete the redemptive work that was required, *John 20:16-17.*
2. Jesus' ascension enabled His followers to do the promised greater works, *John 14:12.*
3. Jesus ascended to enter into the ministry of intercession at God's throne.
4. Jesus' ascension makes His ministry worldwide, not localized in Palestine, *Matthew 28:18.*
5. The ascension becomes a strong proof and explanation of the resurrection body.

THE PURPOSE OF THE ASCENSION

Jesus ascended to glorify the Father. *John 17:1, Jesus spoke these words, "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,"* Jesus ascended to become a Prince and a Savior. *Acts 5:31, "... Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins."* Jesus ascended as a forerunner, opening the pathway for us.

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4. It was a spiritual body, *1 Corinthians 15:44, "It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body."*
5. The spirit body has the ability to pass through a solid wall, *John 20:19, "Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst,..."*

HOW DID JESUS RISE FROM THE DEAD?

1. By the power of the Father, *Acts 2:23-24, "... you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; ... whom God raised up,..."* Also *Acts 3:15; Acts 5:30.*
2. By the power of Christ Himself, *John 2:19, Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."* Also *John 10:18.*
3. By the power of the Holy Spirit, *1 Peter 3:18, "... being put to death in the flesh, but made alive by the Spirit."*

RESULTS OF THE RESURRECTION

1. It proves the existence of God. If there is no God, how did Christ rise from the dead? He rose because a living God resurrected Him.
2. It proves the Deity of Christ. *Romans 1:4, "... and declared to be the Son of God with power by the*

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