

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

The Ascension



And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.

And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:

And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God.

Luke 24:49-53.

And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel.

Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Acts 1:9-11.

So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

Mark 16:19.

The glorious culmination of the Path toward Liberation as exemplified by the great Way-shower, Christ Jesus, comes in that sublime experience, the Ascension. At this time our indwelling Planetary Spirit, a Ray of the Cosmic Christ and the mightiest Archangel of the Sun Period, clothed in the radiant luminosity of a superlative spiritual vehicle and accompanied by the joyous anthems of hosts celestial, ascends into His own home world, the World of Life Spirit, and on to the very throne of God, the Father. There His powers are revitalized for His return to the earth in the fall, where He will again give of His very life substance to augment the process of liberating mankind from the bonds of materiality.

Each year since the great Sacrifice on Golgotha the Christ Spirit has made the journey from the heavenly realms into the earth and back again. At the time of the summer solstice in June He begins His downward pilgrimage, reaching the atmosphere of our planet at the time of the autumnal equinox in September. By the 24th of December He has reached the center of our planet, where He remains for three days. Then commences the withdrawal, which is completed at Easter. From that time our Savior passes through the higher worlds, entering the World of Divine Spirit again on the 21st of June.

As with the macrocosm, so it is with the microcosm. We are each a Christ-in-the-making, and as taught in the four formulae of initiation known as the Gospels, we must take the same steps that Christ Jesus took before finally reaching that peak of spiritual attainment: liberation from the cross of the physical body. By lives of purity, love, and service, we refine our vehicles, fashion the soul body, and ultimately rejoice in the high triumph of Spirit—complete liberation for service on a more comprehensive scale.

Love is the key, said Max Heindel: "The service we rendered or failed to render determines whether a new opportunity for greater service will give us added impulse heavenward; and it cannot be said too often that it is useless to expect liberation from the cross of matter until we have used our opportunities here and thus earned a larger sphere of usefulness. The "nails" which bound the Christ to the cross of Calvary will fetter you and me until the dynamic impulse of love flows out from us in waves and rhythmic swells like the tide of love which yearly enters the earth and imbues it with renewed life."