



**WORD**

... "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 1:11**

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The Apostles' Creed teaches us that Jesus ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge both the living and the dead. This truth brings about a holy fear of the Lord, which should not be confused with fear as we normally understand it. Holy fear is inspired by love and respect. When we genuinely love God, we will take care not to displease Him. As God's children who have received the fullness of His love through Jesus, we can respond by walking in obedience and trust every day. Jesus' Second Coming is something that we can look forward to. In this lesson, we will learn more about what Jesus' ascension, Second Coming, and judgment mean for us.

**1 Jesus went up to heaven.**

*Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.* **1 TIMOTHY 3:16**

Jesus was taken up in glory and given supreme authority and rulership (Ephesians 1:20-23). He returned to heaven in a physical yet heavenly body, which is imperishable, unlike our human flesh (1 Corinthians 15:50). What should our attitude be, knowing that Jesus completed His earthly mission and gives us victory over sin and death (1 Corinthians 15:58)?

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**2 Jesus will come again.**

*Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.* **2 TIMOTHY 4:8**

Jesus came to earth as a humble suffering Servant. But when He returns, He will arrive as a conquering King. We can be assured of an eternal reward, not because of our good works, but because of what He has done. What will be given to those who eagerly await His return? Who will give this reward?

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**3 Jesus will judge the living and the dead.**

*I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom . . .* **2 TIMOTHY 4:1**

Paul reminds Timothy that it is Jesus who will judge each of us. Christ will certainly return, and we will all have to stand before Him to face judgment of either damnation or salvation. Thus, our primary concern should be Christ's Kingdom and His will. According to John 5:30, what kind of judgment does Jesus give?

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