

Acts 1:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

A cloud received him out of their sight—The visible, bodily ascension confirmed Jesus' return to heavenly glory, echoing the cloud of God's presence (Shekinah) in Israel's wilderness wandering and Ezekiel's visions. Luke emphasizes the physical reality: disciples watched until Jesus disappeared, precluding allegorical interpretations. The ascension validates Christ's completed work, current heavenly intercession (Hebrews 7:25), and coming return. This 'cloud' recalls Daniel 7:13's 'Son of Man' coming with clouds—reversed at ascension but to be repeated at the Second Coming.

Historical Context

Occurred on Mount of Olives forty days after resurrection (Acts 1:3). The bodily ascension was witnessed by the eleven apostles plus other disciples. This location connects to Zechariah 14:4's prophecy of Messiah's feet standing on the Mount of Olives at his return.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' bodily ascension affect your understanding of his current ministry as High Priest?
2. In what ways should Christ's promised return shape your daily priorities?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ταῦτα	εἰπὼν	βλεπόντων	αὐτῶν	ἐπήρθη
And	these things	when he had spoken	beheld	him	he was taken up
G2532	G5023	G2036	G991	G846	G1869

καὶ	νεφέλη	ὑπέλαβεν	αὐτῶν	ἀπὸ	τῶν	ὀφθαλμῶν	αὐτῶν
And	a cloud	received	him	out of		sight	him
G2532	G3507	G5274	G846	G575	G3588	G3788	G846

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 7:13 (Parallel theme): I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

Mark 16:19 (Parallel theme): So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

Acts 1:2 (Parallel theme): Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

Exodus 19:9 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever. And Moses told the words of the people unto the LORD.

Isaiah 19:1 (Parallel theme): The burden of Egypt. Behold, the LORD rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it.

John 6:62 (Parallel theme): What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?

Luke 21:27 (Parallel theme): And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Revelation 11:12 (Parallel theme): And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

Psalms 68:18 (Parallel theme): Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them.

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