

Luke 24:50

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Jesus leads them out: 'And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.' Jesus 'led them out' (ἐξήγαγεν αὐτοὺς ἔξω, *exēgagen autous exō*) 'as far as to Bethany' (ἕως πρὸς Βηθανίαν, *heōs pros Bēthanian*), a village on the Mount of Olives. There 'he lifted up his hands' (ἐπάρας τὰς χεῖρας αὐτοῦ, *eparas tas cheiras autou*) 'and blessed them' (εὐλόγησεν αὐτούς, *eulogēsen autous*). This priestly gesture of blessing (Numbers 6:22-27, Leviticus 9:22) indicates Jesus' ongoing care. Though ascending to heaven, He doesn't abandon His people but blesses them. The location (near Bethany, on Olivet) fulfills Zechariah 14:4, which predicted Messiah's feet would stand on the Mount of Olives.

Historical Context

Bethany was Jesus' frequent lodging during His final week (Luke 19:29, 21:37) and home to Mary, Martha, and Lazarus (John 11:1). That He ascends from there suggests fulfilling ministry where He'd been welcomed. The Mount of Olives has rich biblical significance: David fled there during Absalom's rebellion (2 Samuel 15:30), and Zechariah 14:4 prophesied it would be the site of Messiah's final appearance. Jesus' ascending blessing establishes His role as heavenly High Priest who continually intercedes and blesses His people (Hebrews 7:25, Romans 8:34). Though physically absent, He remains spiritually present through His blessing and intercession. The church ministers under His benediction.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What is significant about Jesus ascending from Bethany on the Mount of Olives?
2. How does Jesus' blessing gesture indicate His priestly role and ongoing care?
3. How does Christ's ascension blessing relate to His ongoing heavenly intercession?

Interlinear Text

Ἐξήγαγεν	δὲ	αὐτούς	ἔξω	ἕως	εἰς	Βηθανίαν	καὶ
he led	And	them	out	as far as	to	Bethany	and
G1806	G1161	G846	G1854	G2193	G1519	G963	G2532
ἐπάρας	τὰς	χεῖρας	αὐτούς	εὐλόγησεν	αὐτούς		
he lifted up	G3588	hands	them	and blessed	them		
G1869		G5495	G846	G2127	G846		

Additional Cross-References

Acts 1:12 (Parallel theme): Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.

Matthew 21:17 (Parallel theme): And he left them, and went out of the city into Bethany; and he lodged there.

Genesis 49:28 (Blessing): All these are the twelve tribes of Israel: and this is it that their father spake unto them, and blessed them; every one according to his blessing he blessed them.

