

Mark 16:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

After Jesus spoke to disciples, 'he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God' (ἀνελήμφθη εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ ἐκάθισεν ἐκ δεξιῶν τοῦ θεοῦ). The ascension completed Jesus' exaltation. The passive 'was received up' indicates the Father's action—Jesus returned to glory (John 17:5; Philippians 2:9-11). 'Sat on the right hand of God' fulfills Psalm 110:1 and Jesus' trial claim (Mark 14:62). The right hand signifies place of honor, power, and authority. Jesus now reigns as exalted Lord (Acts 2:33-36), intercedes for believers (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25), and will return in glory (Acts 1:11). The ascension wasn't disappearance but enthronement. Christ's session at God's right hand demonstrates His finished work, ongoing intercession, and sovereign rule. He governs creation and builds His church until His return.

Historical Context

The ascension occurred forty days after resurrection (Acts 1:3), from Mount of Olives near Bethany (Luke 24:50-51; Acts 1:9-12). Disciples witnessed Jesus rise into clouds, then angels announced His return (Acts 1:9-11). This bodily ascension demonstrated:

1. Jesus' physical resurrection (not mere spirit)
2. completion of earthly ministry
3. beginning of heavenly session.

Early Christian creeds affirm ascension (Apostles' Creed: 'ascended into heaven, sitteth on the right hand of God'). The phrase 'right hand of God' appears throughout Scripture (Psalm 110:1; Matthew 26:64; Acts 2:33-34; 5:31; 7:55-56; Romans 8:34; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3, 13; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2; 1 Peter 3:22). Christ's exaltation vindicates His earthly humiliation and establishes His universal lordship.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus' ascension to God's right hand signify about His authority, ongoing ministry, and completed atonement?
2. How does Christ's present session in heaven (not merely future return) provide assurance and empower mission?

Interlinear Text

Ὁ	μὲν	οὖν	κύριος	μετὰ	τὸ	λαλήσαι	αὐτοῖς
G3588	So	then	the Lord	after	G3588	had spoken	unto them
G3303	G3767	G2962	G3326	G2980	G846		
ἀνελήφθη	εἰς	τὸν	οὐρανὸν	καὶ	ἐκάθισεν	ἐκ	
he was received up	into	G3588	heaven	and	sat	on	
G353	G1519	G3772	G2532	G2523	G1537		
δεξιῶν	τοῦ	θεοῦ					
the right hand	G3588	of God					
G1188	G2316						

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 3:22 (References God): Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

Hebrews 1:3 (Parallel theme): Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Hebrews 12:2 (References God): Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Psalms 110:1 (References Lord): The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

Romans 8:34 (References God): Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Acts 2:33 (References God): Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

Hebrews 8:1 (Parallel theme): Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;

Colossians 3:1 (References God): If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Hebrews 6:20 (Parallel theme): Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

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