

1

What specific words are used in these three verses that indicate that the Ascension was an actual physical and visible event, rather than a metaphorical use of imagery to describe Jesus' transition from the earthly to the heavenly realm?

2

Why might some readers take issue with the idea of the Ascension as a visible event? Why should we interpret the event as a literal ascension?

3

Jesus' ascension was a physical event and he took to heaven a physical body. The incarnation has lasting implications as the Son of God will be fully God and fully man for the rest of eternity. Why is it significant that Jesus did not discard his humanity at the Ascension?

4

If Jesus retained a physical body, how does this help us to appropriately understand the significance of our own physical bodies?

5

Jesus is taken up on a cloud (v. 9). What connections should we make with the appearance of the this cloud and Old Testament passages like Exodus 13:21, Exodus 40:34, 1 Kings 8:10, and Ezekiel 10:4?

6

How does Psalm 110:1 (and the NT passages that quote it, e.g. Matt 22:44, Acts 2:34, Eph 1:20-22, Heb 10:12-13) help us to understand where Jesus was going at the Ascension?

7

What does it mean for we who are in Christ that he is “seated at the right hand of the Father”? What does his posture and position indicate about what he has accomplished?

8

The angels (the two men clothed in white) chide the disciples for standing “looking into heaven” after Jesus ascends. How is gazing at the sky incompatible with their commission to go to the ends of the earth?

9

Do we ever have a tendency to be “sky-scanners” rather than focused on our earthly mission? How does this passage help us to shift our gaze?

10

The angels indicate that one day Jesus return “in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” How does Luke’s “orderly account” help us to see and understand our place in redemptive history? What role does the church have to play in the time between the Ascension and the Parousia (Christ’s return)?

