

# “TAKEN UP IN GLORY”

## ASCENSION SUNDAY 2021

Pastor Matt Jones, Del Rey Church

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### I. THE PROPHECY

(Psalm 110:1, 68:18 [cf. chapters 2,18,20,21,45, 61,72,89]; Matthew 25:14, 26:64; Luke 9:51; John 3:13, 7:33-36, 8:21-23, 14:1--29, 15:26-29, 16:5-7, 16:28, 20:17; Acts 1:9-11).

### II. THE PARTING

(Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9–11, 5:30-32)

### III. THE PRESENT

(Acts 7:55-56; Philippians 2:9; 1 Timothy 3:16; 1 Peter 3:21-22; and Revelation 1-3)

### IV. THE PURPOSES

(John 14-16; Hebrews 10:12–13, 12:1-2; Ephesians 1-4; Colossians 3)

- a. Paraklētōs
- b. Predestined
- c. Praise
- d. Place
- e. Potentate
- f. Priesthood
- g. Power

### V. THE PAROUSIA

(Hebrews 6:20, 9:28; Philippians 3:20; 1 Corinthians 15; 1 Thessalonians 4-5; Daniel 7:13-14; Revelation 19-20)

## COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

### Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group

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1. In the western Christian calendar this week Ascension Day was celebrated. If you were raised in the church or had a Christian upbringing (or perhaps attended a Christian private school), did you or your family ever observe Ascension Day? If so, share about it and the church tradition where you learned of this holiday.
2. In our sermon this Sunday we explored the doctrine of the ascension of Christ in various texts of the Bible. That said, please get a Bible and read together Ephesians 1. What does this chapter say about Jesus, His heavenly ascension, and our relationship to God in Christ? Read and discuss
3. Building from the above question, please turn to Ephesians 2 and read together verses 1 - 6. How does the reality of what we read in verse 6 concerning our position as believers united to the ascended Lord strike you? According to this biblical text, you are now seated with Christ in the heavenly places. How should this impact our daily lives in prayer, spiritual warfare, mission, worship, and unity with Christ's church? Discuss.
4. Please go through the fourth point on the sermon outline and discuss each of the purposes of Christ's ascension. What biblical truths were unpacked on these points and how do they inform our faith and mobilize our mission? If you still have Ephesians opened from question 2 and 3, try to tie the points on the outline to Ephesians 1-4 as Paul weaves the ascension into his letter.
5. Think about and discuss the following questions from theologian Wayne Grudem, who asks: "When you think of Christ now in heaven, does it cause you to focus more attention on things that will have eternal significance? Does it increase your assurance that you will someday be with him in heaven? How do you feel about the prospect of reigning with Christ over the nations and over angels as well?" (Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, Leicester, England: Zondervan Pub. House, 2004, 621).