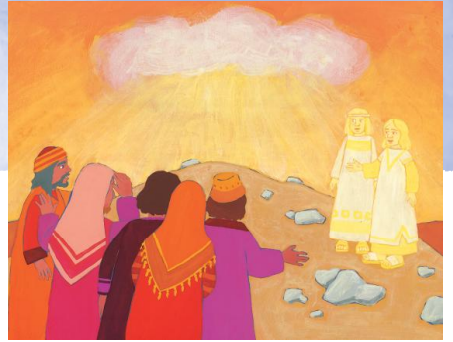


23 JESUS COMMISSIONS THE APOSTLES AND ASCENDS TO HIS FATHER



CHRIST'S ASCENSION

Luke 24:50–51; Acts 1:9–11

Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus Christ ascended to heaven from among His apostles. Beforehand, He commissioned the apostles to be His witnesses, right to the end of the earth (cf. Acts 1:8). This is to be interpreted geographically. In the Gospel according to Matthew, it says, "... even to the end of the age" (cf. Matthew 28:20).

Then Jesus Christ was taken away before the eyes of the apostles in a cloud. Two angels predicted His return to them. The apostles returned to Jerusalem, filled with joy.

EXERCISE 1



Between His resurrection and ascension, the Lord Jesus spoke to His apostles about their future mission.

Find the following verses in the Bible and write the Bible reference in the empty space below the text!

Matthew 28:19–20 – John 20:21 – John 20:23 – Acts 1:8

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19–20

“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’”

John 20:21



“If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

John 20:23

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:8



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EXERCISE 2



Allocate roles and read the following.

Jerusalem Morning News Interview of the Month

A highly relevant interview with Peter, Jesus of Nazareth's closest colleague and confidant.

Reporter: When did you last see the master, as you call Him?

Peter: Yesterday, exactly forty days after His resurrection.

Reporter: Where was that, and who else was there, apart from you?

Peter: It was on the Mount of Olives. His disciples, whom He had called to be apostles, were there.

Reporter: What exactly was discussed?

Peter: Our master commissioned us to bear witness of Him in Jerusalem, in all of Judea, Samaria, and right to the end of the earth.

Reporter: That's a big mission. What happened then?

Peter: Right in front of our eyes He was lifted up to heaven, as if by an invisible hand, and a cloud took Him away.

Reporter: That's quite inconceivable! Are you sure that your Jesus will not be here again tomorrow or next week? After all, somewhere or other He was seen again and again during the last forty days.

Peter: He certainly will return again. But for the time being He has ascended to God, His Father in heaven. Already before His crucifixion, He promised to return and take us to the place where He now is. He also promised to remain connected with us.

Reporter: I see. In any case, I thank you for this conversation and wish you much success in the future.



EXERCISE 3



In his first letter to the Thessalonians, Apostle Paul writes about Christ's return. Read the verses in sections and, as a group, try to formulate everything more simply and write it on the lines next to the Bible verses!

1 Thessalonians 4:14–18:

14. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.
15. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.
16. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.
17. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.
18. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

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