

# Back to the Basics

## Knowing My Savior (8)

### Jesus Ascended to Heaven

Memory Verse:  
Hebrews 4:15

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He gave final instructions to His apostles. The Gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, all record these final instructions.

#### Matthew's account:

*And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing 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." Amen. (Matthew 28:18-20)*

#### Mark's account:

*And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." (Mark 16:15-18)*

#### Luke's account:

*Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." (Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:4-8)*

After Jesus gave His apostles these final instructions, He ascended to heaven. Mark writes, "So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and

confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.” (Mark 16:19-20; cf. Luke 24:50-53) Luke, in the book of Acts, goes into greater detail. Luke wrote:

*Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”* (Acts 1:9-11)

The Holy Spirit did not leave us wondering the whereabouts of Jesus. According to the inspired writings, we know that Jesus is in heaven, at the right hand side of the Father. Consider the following passages:

*“Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. “For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, (Acts 2:33-34) {Peter, in his sermon on the day of Pentecost following Jesus death, burial, and resurrection. }*

*The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. (Acts 5:30-31) {The apostles’s, in their statement to the council. }*

*“But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, “Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” (Acts 7:55-56) {Stephen, his vision just before the Jews stoned him. }*

*. . . that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. (Ephesians 1:18-21) {Paul, in his letter to the saints in Ephesus. }*

## Jesus: Our King

Now that we have seen Jesus in heaven, sitting at the right hand of His Father, we will address the question of Jesus’s role. According to the scriptures, we understand that Jesus is reigning from heaven. Consider Paul’s letter to the church in Corinth:

*Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. For “He has put all things under His feet.” But when He says “all things are put under Him,” it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. Now when all things are made subject to Him,*

*then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all. (1 Corinthians 15:24-28)*

Jesus is currently reigning in heaven. He is reigning over everyone and everything, except for the Father, the one who gave Jesus this position. The writer of Hebrews wrote, *“You have put all things in subjection under his feet.” For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him.”* (Hebrews 2:8) Later, in chapter ten, the writer says concerning Jesus, *“But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.”* (Hebrews 10:12-13) Let us not forget about 1 Peter 3:22, where Peter also wrote concerning Jesus, *“who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.”*

The fact that Jesus is reigning shows that He is King over His kingdom. Consider Jesus’s statement to Pilate: *“My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”* (John 18:36) When Pilate asked Jesus, *“Are You a king then?”*, Jesus answered, *“You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”* (John 18:37) In 1 Timothy 6:15, Paul referred to Jesus as *“the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords.”*

## Jesus: High Priest

Not only is Jesus our King, but he is also our High Priest. Hebrews 3:1,2 reads, *“Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house.”* Again, in chapter four, we read, *“Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.”* (Hebrews 4:14)

How did Jesus become our High Priest? The Father in heaven appointed Jesus as our High Priest. Hebrews chapter five explains this fact.

*For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.* (Hebrews 5:1-4)

According to verses 1-4, every high priest came from men and was appointed by God to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. The high priest could have compassion on those ignorant and going astray, since he was also subject to weaknesses.

Let us continue in Hebrews chapter five:

*So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You." As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek"; who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek," of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. (Hebrews 5:5-11)*

According to the inspired writer, Jesus Christ did not glorify Himself to become our High Priest. Instead, God the Father said to Jesus, "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You." (v 5) The Father also said, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek." (v 6) This Jesus, whom God appointed as our High Priest "learned obedience by the things which He suffered." (v 8) Having been perfected, Jesus "became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him" and was "called by God as High Priest." (v 9-10)

Now, a student of the Old Testament, the Law of Moses, might question Jesus's right to serve as High Priest. Under the Law of Moses, as given by the Lord, only descendants of Levi could serve as priests and high priests. Since Jesus was of the tribe of Judah, it would seem that Jesus could not have served as high priest. As if to answer this objection or question, the writer of the book of Hebrews explains why Jesus is able to serve as our High Priest. Consider Hebrews 11:7-13.

*Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron? For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law. For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. (Hebrews 7:11-13)*

Jesus could serve as our High Priest because God changed the priesthood and the law. The law given by Moses on Mount Sinai. That old law was not designed to take away the sins of man. Hebrews 7:18-19 reads, "For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God." (See Hebrews 8:7-13) The law of Moses was annulled and a better hope was established. This better hope was made possible by Jesus Christ. Jesus became a surety of a better covenant. "And inasmuch as He was not made priest without an oath . . . by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant." (Hebrews 7:20-22) This new covenant (new law) took effect when Jesus died on the

### Hebrews 4:14-16

*Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

cross. Hebrews 9:15-17 reads, “*And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.*”

With the introduction of a new covenant and a new priesthood, Jesus brought a great blessing to man. Jesus Christ, our High Priest, serves as intercessor in our relationship with the heavenly Father. Hebrews 7:25 reads, “*Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*” The Greek word translated as “make intercession” is *entunchano*. *Entunchano* is defined as follows: “. . . primarily ‘to fall in with, meet with in order to converse’; then, ‘to make petition,’ especially ‘to make intercession, plead with a person,’ either for or against others; . . .” (Vine’s complete expository dictionary of Old and New Testament words (electronic ed.) (Vol. 2, Page 330)) Jesus’s role as High Priest is to make intercession for His people. He makes petition of the Father on our behalf. He pleads for us.

What enabled Jesus to be so qualified to make intercession for His people? Jesus’s qualifications are seen in the fact that He lived without sin and was the perfect sacrifice. Consider Hebrews 7:26-28:

*For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.*

Consider also Hebrews 4:15:

*For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

One final thought regarding Jesus serving as our High Priest: Jesus has sanctified those who will follow Him. Consider again from the book of Hebrews:

*But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,” then He adds, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin. (Hebrews 10:12-18)*

Jesus Christ made possible our redemption and the remission of our sins. He was the one time sacrifice to end all other sacrifices for sin. Now, all who will turn to Jesus and follow Him will have Jesus as their great King, High Priest, Mediator, and Intercessor.

## Ten Questions

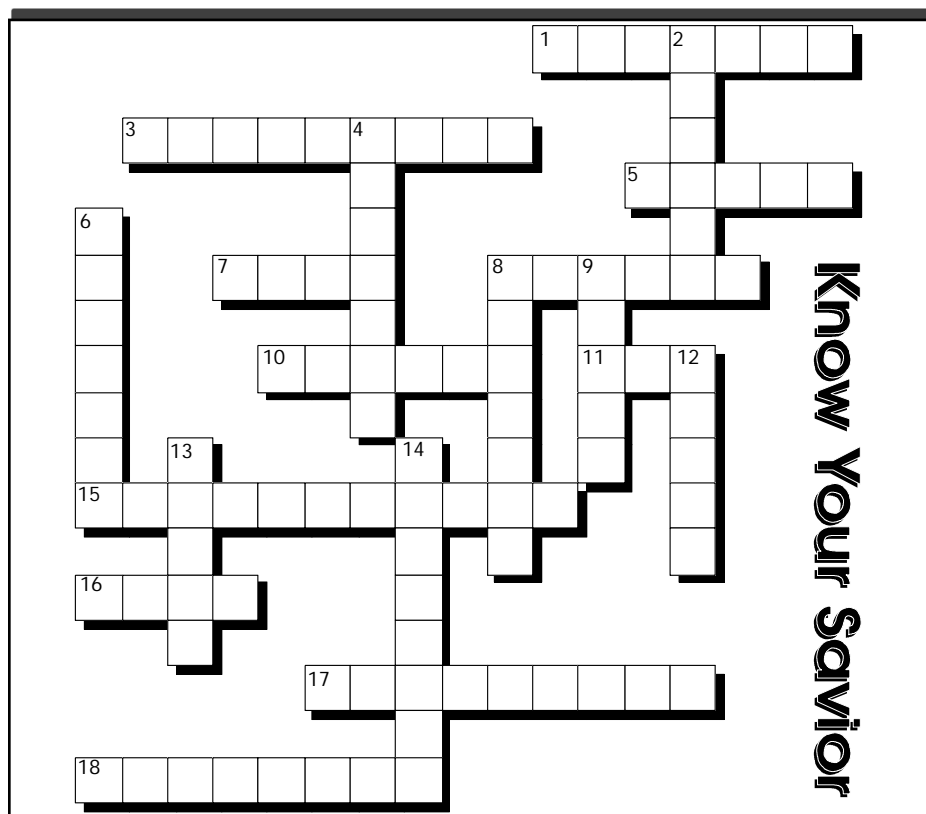
1. Which gospel account reads, “. . . and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, . . .”? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who wrote, “Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.”? \_\_\_\_\_
3. From where is Jesus reigning? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Which Bible passage reads, “. . . who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.”? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Jesus is our High \_\_\_\_\_.
6. What did Jesus learn by the things He suffered? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Why did the Lord annul the “former commandment” or the old law? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Who appointed Jesus as our High Priest? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Who became a surety of a better covenant? \_\_\_\_\_
10. In order for there to be a testament, “there must also of necessity be the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.”

## True or False

1. T or F : Stephen gazed into heaven and saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God.
2. T or F : Jesus told Pilate that His kingdom was of this world.
3. T or F : Peter referred to Jesus as “the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords.”
4. T or F : God the Father appointed Jesus as our High Priest.
5. T or F : Jesus was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin.
6. T or F : The Father said of Jesus, “You are a priest forever according to the order of Methu-selah.”
7. T or F : God annulled the old law given by Moses to the Israelites on Mount Sinai.
8. T or F : Jesus is the mediator of the new covenant.
9. T or F : Jesus serves as our intercessor.
10. T or F : The scriptures teach, “. . . I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them, . . .”

## A Little Fun

(Use the lesson text to answer these questions.)



### Across

1. Jesus "was in all points \_\_\_\_\_ as we are, yet without sin."
3. Jesus told His apostles to tarry in this city until they were endued with power.
5. This man was exalted to the right hand of God.
7. "I will put my \_\_\_\_\_ into their hearts, . . ."
8. ". . . by so much more Jesus has become a \_\_\_\_\_ of a better covenant."
10. To whom did Jesus say, "My kingdom is not of this world.?"
11. "The \_\_\_ of our fathers raised up Jesus . . ."
15. "You are a priest forever according to the order of \_\_\_\_\_."
16. Who referred to Jesus as "the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords."
17. ". . . the blessed and only \_\_\_\_\_, the King of kings and Lord of lords."
18. "And for this reason He is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the new covenant, by means of death, . . ."

### Down

2. "So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High \_\_\_\_\_, . . ."
4. ". . . consider the \_\_\_\_\_ and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, . . ."
6. When the end comes, Jesus will deliver this to God the Father.
8. This man saw Jesus in heaven standing at the right hand of God.
9. Jesus "sat down at the \_\_\_\_\_ hand of God."
12. "The last enemy that will be destroyed is \_\_\_\_\_."
13. "Now when He had spoken these things, . . . He was taken up, and a \_\_\_\_\_ received Him out of their sight."
14. "For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the \_\_\_\_\_."

## Passages in this Lesson

Matthew 28:18-20 .....	pg 59	Hebrews 4:14-16 .....	pg 62
Mark 16:15-16 .....	pg 59	Hebrews 4:15 .....	pg 63
Mark 16:19-20 .....	pg 60	Hebrews 5:1-4 .....	pg 61
Luke 24:44-49 .....	pg 59	Hebrews 5:5 .....	pg 62
Luke 24:50-53 .....	pg 60	Hebrews 5:6 .....	pg 62
John 18:36 .....	pg 61	Hebrews 5:8 .....	pg 62
John 18:37 .....	pg 61	Hebrews 5:9-10 .....	pg 62
Acts 1:4-8 .....	pg 59	Hebrews 5:5-11 .....	pg 62
Acts 1:9-11 .....	pg 60	Hebrews 7:18-19 .....	pg 62
Acts 2:33-34 .....	pg 60	Hebrews 7:20-22 .....	pg 62
Acts 5:30-31 .....	pg 60	Hebrews 7:25 .....	pg 63
Acts 7:55-56 .....	pg 60	Hebrews 7:26-28 .....	pg 63
1 Corinthians 15:24-28 .....	pg 61	Hebrews 8:7-13 .....	pg 62
Ephesians 1:18-21 .....	pg 60	Hebrews 9:15-17 .....	pg 63
1 Timothy 6:15 .....	pg 61	Hebrews 10:12-13 .....	pg 61
Hebrews 2:8 .....	pg 61	Hebrews 10:12-18 .....	pg 63
Hebrews 3:1,2 .....	pg 61	Hebrews 11:7-13 .....	pg 62
Hebrews 4:14 .....	pg 61	1 Peter 3:22 .....	pg 61