



Major Bible Themes

52 VITAL DOCTRINES OF THE SCRIPTURE
SIMPLIFIED AND EXPLAINED

Lewis Sperry Chafer

REVISED BY

John F. Walvoord

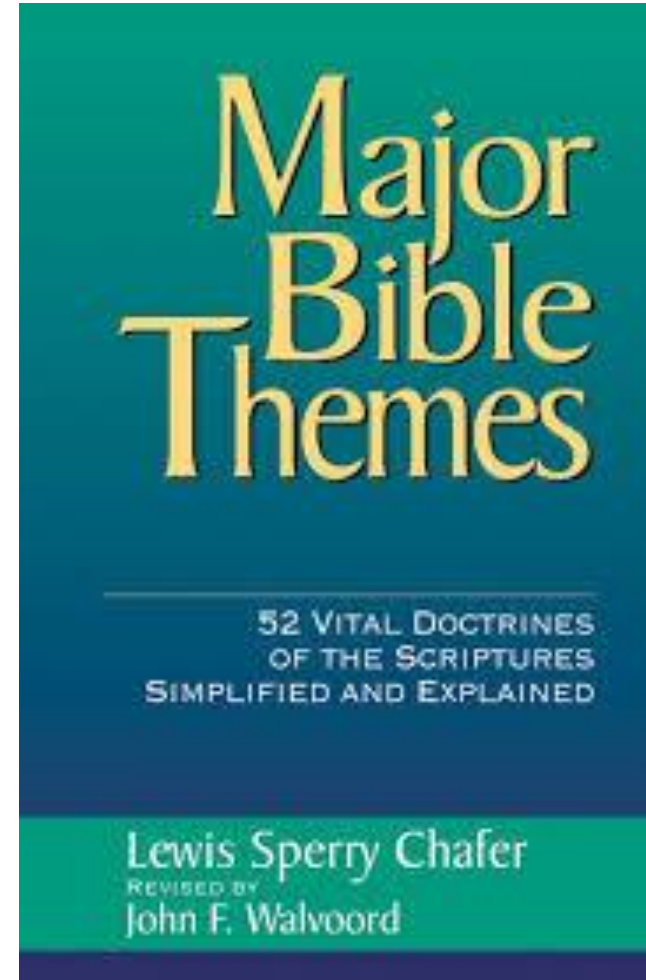
Chapter Eleven: God the Son:

His Ascension and Priestly Ministry

MBT Chapter Eleven Outline

Step # One

Find the Outline



God the Son: His Ascension and Priestly Ministry

A. The fact of the Ascension

B. Evidence for His arrival

C. Meaning of the Ascension

D. Present Work of Christ in Heaven

E. Present Work of Christ on Earth

Understand It



MBT Chapter Eleven Outline

A. The fact of the Ascension

Since the resurrection of Christ is the first in a series of exaltations of Christ, the ascension of Christ to heaven may be considered the **second** important step.

The question has been raised whether Christ ascended to heaven prior to His formal ascension. The word of Christ to Mary Magdalene is often cited:

John 20:17 *Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.*

MBT Chapter Eleven Outline

Understand It



A. The fact of the Ascension

The present tense "I ascend," is a future tense. The expressions in Hebrews that Christ entered heaven with His blood is also used as a proof that Christ ascended prior to His formal ascension but is better translated "by His blood" or "through His blood."

A further question has been raised whether the ascension in Acts 1 was a literal act. The passage fully supports the fact that Christ literally went to heaven,

Understand It



MBT Chapter Eleven Outline

B. Evidence for His arrival

Although the evidence for His ascension from earth to heaven is complete, the fact that Christ is repeatedly said to have arrived in heaven confirms the fact of His ascension. Many passages testify that Christ is seen in heaven after His ascension

Understand It



MBT Chapter Eleven Outline

C. Meaning of the Ascension

The ascension marked the end of His earthly ministry. As Christ had come, born in Bethlehem, so now He had returned to the Father. It also marked the return to His manifested glory which was hidden in earthly life even after His resurrection. His entrance into heaven was a great triumph, signifying the completion of His work on earth, and an entering into His new sphere of work at the right hand of the Father.

Understand It



MBT Chapter Eleven Outline

C. Meaning of the Ascension

The position of Christ in heaven is one of universal lordship while awaiting His ultimate triumph and His second coming, and Christ is frequently pictured at the right hand of the Father. The throne which Christ occupies in heaven is the Father's throne, not to be confused with the Davidic throne which is earthly. Earth yet awaits the time when it will be made His footstool and His throne will be set up on earth. His present position is, of course, one of honor and authority, and in keeping with His position as Head of the church.

Understand It



MBT Chapter Eleven Outline

D. Present Work of Christ in Heaven

In His position at the right hand of the Father, Christ fulfills the seven figures relating Him to the church: (1) Christ as the last Adam and head of the new creation; (2) Christ as the Head of the body of Christ; (3) Christ as the Great Shepherd of His sheep; (4) Christ as the True Vine in relation to the branches; (5) Christ as the Chief Cornerstone in relation to the church as stones of the building; (6) Christ as our High Priest in relationship to the church as a royal priesthood; (7) Christ as the Bridegroom in relation to the church as the bride. All of these figures are full of meaning in describing His present work. His chief ministry, however, is as our High Priest representing the church before the throne of God.

Understand It



MBT Chapter Eleven Outline D. Present Work of Christ in Heaven

Four important truths are revealed in His work as High Priest.

1. As High Priest over the true tabernacle on high, the Lord Jesus Christ has entered into heaven itself there to minister as Priest in behalf of those who are His own in the world
2. As our High Priest Christ is the bestower of spiritual gifts.
3. The ascended Christ as Priest ever lives to make intercession for His own.
4. Christ now appears for His own in the presence of God

MBT Chapter Eleven Outline

E. Present Work of Christ on Earth

Christ is also at work in His church on earth while He is bodily at the right hand of God in heaven. In numerous passages Christ is said to indwell His church and to be with His church He also abides in His church in the sense that He is the giver of eternal life to His church. In addition to Christ's own ministry to the church, He has sent His Holy Spirit to accomplish a present work in the believer, and indwells all believers in this age. It may be concluded that the present work of Christ is the key to understanding God's present undertaking, that of calling out a people to form the body of Christ, and the empowering and sanctifying of this people to be a witness to Christ to the ends of the earth. His present work is preliminary to that which will follow in the events related to His second coming.

Understand It



God the Son: His Ascension and Priestly Ministry

A. The fact of the Ascension

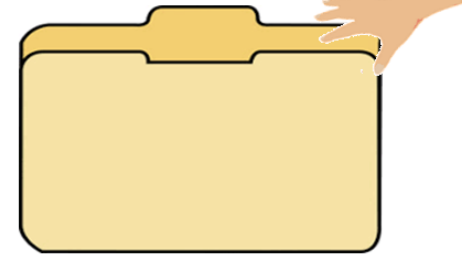
B. Evidence for His arrival

C. Meaning of the Ascension

D. Present Work of Christ in Heaven

E. Present Work of Christ on Earth

To file it...



Write it Down



Underline Main
Words...



MBT Chapter Eleven Outline

Memorize it



God the Son: His Ascension and Priestly Ministry

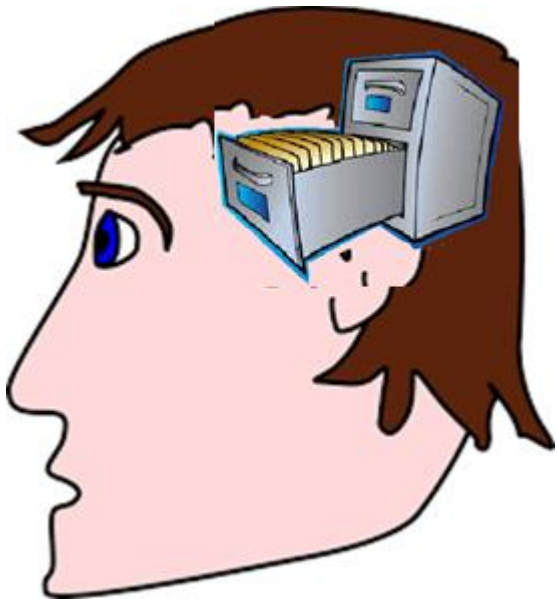
A. The fact of the Ascension

B. Evidence for His arrival

C. Meaning of the Ascension

D. Present Work of Christ in Heaven

E. Present Work of Christ on Earth



Step # Two

Read the Section and look up the passages
<https://www.calvarylancaster.com/>



God the Son: His Ascension and Priestly Ministry

A. The fact of the Ascension

Mar 16:19 *So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was **received up into heaven**, and sat on the right hand of God.*

Luk 24:51 *And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and **carried up into heaven**.*

Act 1:9-11 *And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, 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; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*

A. The fact of the Ascension

John 20:17 *Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am **not yet ascended to my Father**: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.*

Heb 9:12 *Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he **entered in once into the holy place**, having obtained eternal redemption for us.*

Heb 9:24 *For Christ is not **entered into the holy places** made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:*

B. Evidence for His arrival

Act 2:32 *This Jesus hath God **raised up**, whereof we all are witnesses.*

Act 3:20-21 *And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the **heaven must receive** until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.*

Act 7:55 *But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and **Jesus standing on the right hand of God**,*

Act 9:3-5 *And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light **from heaven**: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, **I am Jesus** whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.*

B. Evidence for His arrival

Rom 8:34 *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.*

Eph 1:20 *Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,*

Eph 4:8 *Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.*

Php 2:9-10 *Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;*

B. Evidence for His arrival

1Th 1:10 *And to wait for his **Son from heaven**, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.*

1Th 4:16 *For the **Lord himself shall descend from heaven** with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

1Ti 3:16 *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, **received up into glory.***

Heb 1:3 *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;***

B. Evidence for His arrival

Heb 1:13 *But to which of the angels said he at any time, **Sit on my right hand**, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?*

Heb 2:7 *Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst **set him over the works of thy hands**:*

Heb 4:14 *Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is **passed into the heavens**, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*

Heb 6:20 *Whither the **forerunner is for us entered**, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.*

B. Evidence for His arrival

Heb 7:26 *For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and **made higher than the heavens;***

Heb 8:1 *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;*

Heb 10:12 *But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, **sat down on the right hand** of God;*

Heb 12:2 *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.*

B. Evidence for His arrival

1Jn 2:1 *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an **advocate with the Father**, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

Rev 1:7 *Behold, **he cometh with clouds**; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.*

Rev 5:5 *And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.*

Rev 7:10 *And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which **sitteth upon the throne**, and **unto the Lamb**.*

B. Evidence for His arrival

Rev 14:1 *And I looked, and, lo, a **Lamb stood on the mount Sion**, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.*

Rev 19:11 *And I saw **heaven opened**, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.*

C. Meaning of the Ascension

Pictured at the right hand of the Father

Psa 110:1 *A Psalm of David. The LORD said unto my Lord, **Sit thou at my right hand**, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.*

Mat 22:44 *The LORD said unto my Lord, **Sit thou on my right hand**, till I make thine enemies thy footstool?*

Mar 12:36 *For David himself said by the Holy Ghost, The LORD said to my Lord, **Sit thou on my right hand**, till I make thine enemies thy*

Rom 8:34 *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.*

Eph 1:20 *Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and **set him at his own right hand** in the heavenly places,*

C. Meaning of the Ascension

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

Heb 1:3 *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;***

Heb 8:1 *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;*

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

Mat 25:31 *When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he **sit upon the throne** of his glory:*

D. Present Work of Christ in Heaven

As High Priest over the true tabernacle on high

Heb 8:1 *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;*

Jesus is reigning

Rev 11:15 *And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and **he shall reign** for ever and ever.*

Psalm 2:6 *Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.*

D. Present Work of Christ in Heaven

Is not now establishing that kingdom rule in the earth

John 18:36 *Jesus answered, **My kingdom is not of this world**: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.*

He will build again the tabernacle of David which is fallen down

Act 15:16 *After this I will return, and will **build again the tabernacle of David**, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:*

Mat 25:34 *Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, **inherit the kingdom** prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

D. Present Work of Christ in Heaven

King-Priest according to the Melchizedek type

Heb 5:10 *Called of God an **high priest** after the order of Melchizedek.*

Now ascended to be "head over all things to the church, which is his body"

Eph 1:22 *And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the **head over all things to the church,***

As our High Priest Christ is the bestower of spiritual gift

Eph 4:7-8 *But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, **and gave gifts unto men.***

D. Present Work of Christ in Heaven

The ascended Christ as Priest ever lives to make intercession for His own

Heb 7:25 *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to **make intercession for them.***

Luk 22:31-32 *And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: **But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not:***

D. Present Work of Christ in Heaven

Christ now appears for His own in the presence of God

Heb 9:24 *For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:*

Rev 12:10 *And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which **accused them before our God day and night.***

1Jn 2:1 *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have **an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:***

E. Present Work of Christ on Earth

Indwells His church and to be with His church

Joh 14:20 *At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and **ye in me, and I in you.***

Col 1:27 *To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory:***

The Father, likewise, indwells all believers in this age

Joh 14:23 *Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and **my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.***

Step # Three

Memorize one Passage per section

Learn general and specific later.

- Highlight key words
- Understand difficult words and the meaning



Read out loud 5 times what you are trying to memorize



Write the verse on paper or put the verse into you phone



Step # Four Take the Test at the end of the chapter

God the Son: His Ascension and Priestly Ministry

1. How does the ascension of Christ relate to His exaltation?

Since the resurrection of Christ is the first in a series of exaltations of Christ, the ascension of Christ to heaven may be considered the second important step.

2. Discuss the question of whether Christ ascended on the day of His resurrection.

The question has been raised whether Christ ascended to heaven prior to His formal ascension. The word of Christ to Mary Magdalene is often cited.

The present tense "I ascend," is a future tense. The expressions in Hebrews that Christ entered heaven with His blood is also used as a proof that Christ ascended prior to His formal ascension but is better translated "by His blood" or "through His blood."

3. What evidence may be offered to prove that the ascension in Acts I was a literal 'ascension'?

Although the evidence for His ascension from earth to heaven is complete, the fact that Christ is repeatedly said to have arrived in heaven confirms the fact of His ascension. Many passages testify that Christ is seen in heaven after His ascension

4. To what extent does Scripture testify to the arrival of Christ in heaven after His ascension?

Many passages testify that Christ is seen in heaven after His ascension

5. How does the ascension of Christ relate to His earthly ministry?

The ascension marked the end of His earthly ministry. As Christ had come, born in Bethlehem, so now He had returned to the Father. It also marked the return to His manifested glory which was hidden in earthly life even after His resurrection.

6. In what sense was the ascension of Christ a triumph?

His entrance into heaven was a great triumph, signifying the completion of His work on earth, and an entering into His new sphere of work at the right hand of the Father.

7. Distinguish the throne of Christ in heaven from the Davidic throne.

The throne which Christ occupies in heaven is the Father's throne, not to be confused with the Davidic throne which is earthly. Earth yet awaits the time when it will be made His footstool and His throne will be set up on earth

8. Name the seven figures relating Christ to His church.

(1) Christ as the last Adam and head of the new creation; (2) Christ as the Head of the body of Christ; (3) Christ as the Great Shepherd of His sheep; (4) Christ as the True Vine in relation to the branches; (5) Christ as the Chief Cornerstone in relation to the church as stones of the building; (6) Christ as our High Priest in relationship to the church as a royal priesthood; (7) Christ as the Bridegroom in relation to the church as the bride.

9. What is the significance of Christ now being seated on the Father's throne?

The position of Christ in heaven is one of universal lordship while awaiting His ultimate triumph and His second coming, and Christ is frequently pictured at the right hand of the Father. The throne which Christ occupies in heaven is the Father's throne.

10. How is Christ as our High Priest related to the bestowal of spiritual gifts to men?

He has authority to give gifts to men

11. Contrast the priestly intercession of Christ with the priests of the Old Testament.

Christ never dies and His intercession is always effective

12. Describe the work of Christ as our Advocate in heaven

As the Devil accuses us at the throne, Christ as our advocate pleads His blood

13. To what extent is Christ also working on earth during the present age?

Christ is also at work in His church on earth while He is bodily at the right hand of God in heaven. In numerous passages Christ is said to indwell His church and to be with His church He also abides in His church in the sense that He is the giver of eternal life to His church. In addition to Christ's own ministry to the church, He has sent His Holy Spirit to accomplish a present work in the believer, and indwells all believers in this age.