

## **Ascension & Mission: Martyrs to the ends of the earth!**

- **Where were you on the morning of the first day of the week?**
  - #1 - Song of Solomon 3:1-4
  - #2 - John 20:1 & 11-18
    - Compare with Gen. 2 & 3
    - Notice what she calls him
      - Do we blame her?
      - Comfy...
      - Reminds us of #3 - Matt. 17:1-8
      - It's NOT business as usual anymore!
    - Don't hold me... I've NOT YET ascended
    - GO & be my messenger to my brothers!
      - Gift & Task
- **He stayed with his brethren 40 days... teaching them about the Kingdom of God!**
  - #4 - Acts 1:4-11
    - He eats with them. vs 4 (also Salt)
      - Reminds us of Matt. 5:13
        - "You are the salt of the earth"
        - Salt PRESERVES food
          - Preserving the Body of Christ... which is the Church
          - Which IS the Eucharist

■ **Will you restore the Kingdom of Israel...**

- They are thinking like Mary in the Garden or Peter on top the mountain...

- #5 - John 18:33-38

- His Kingdom is NOT of this world

- Unlike ALL other Kings,,, who sit on earthly thrones, and rule in imperfection....

- Jesus is the King of Kings who will sit on a throne FAR above the Heavens and principalities of Creation...

- #6 - Eph. 1:20-23

- The Son of Man will ascend to the great Throne Room of the Father...

- The “one that was ancient of days..” (Dan. 7:9)

- To sin as judge over the kingdoms and nations of the earth....

- #7 - Dan. 7:13-14

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- Psalm 2:4–6 (RSVCE)
  - 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs;
  - the Lord has them in derision.
  - 5 Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
  - and terrify them in his fury, saying,
  - 6 “I have set my king
  - on Zion, my holy hill.”
- Hebrews 12:22–24 (RSVCE)
  - 22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, 23 and to the assembly of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to a judge who is God of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks more graciously than the blood of Abel.

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- Jesus truly is both the Son of David & the Son of God (Luke 1:32&33)
- Through his just reign... the Kingdom & power will be given to the saints!
  - #8 - Dan. 7:26&27
  - #9 - Eph. 2:4-7
    - or 3:10&11
  - The Ascension is the Royal Enthronement of our King, Our Lord, Jesus Christ who in the “fullness of time”, united, “all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth!” - Eph. 1:9&10
- **BUT....They stand there looking up instead of moving out!**
  - What were they called for?
    - Matthew 28:19–20 (RSVCE)
    - 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”
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- How often do our Brothers & Sisters in Christ...
  - Stand motionless... looking up?
  - Looking for the coming?
    - Rapture?
  - Looking for the Anti-Christ?
  - When we should be going out?
- Didn't Jesus say...
  - Acts 11:7 "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons?"
    - OR
  - Matthew 6:34 "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day."
- What arrogance to think that you even have a tomorrow...
  - Just the other day... 2 people shot dead within 5 min. from my house.
    - A young mother of 3
    - A handicap man
      - Almost in the same spot in the same day
- **You are called to be Christ' Martyrs!**
  - Greek word for Witness'
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- You're given the gift of his presence,,, his parousia,,, his daily coming in the Eucharist!
- NOW... you're given the task of going to HIS brethren and sharing the GOOD NEWS of His Resurrection & Ascension!
- **Revelation 1:6 (RSVCE)**
  - 6 and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.
- **Exodus 19:6 (RSVCE)**
  - 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”
- **#10 - Eph. 2:12-22**
  - You are called to be the messenger that brings in ALL of God's children...
    - From Jerusalem, to Judea, to Samaria... to the ends of the earth!
- **In the darkness of the early hours....**
  - Whom do you seek?
  - When you find him, do you lay hold of him, seeking the comfort of here and now?
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- Or do you relish His presence, his Gift, and accept the task to be his Martyr... Light in a dark world?

- **You want a better tomorrow?**

- Then live for Christ NOW!

- Learn your faith

- Live your faith

- Share your faith with all the world!