

The Ascension, the Kingdom and the Mission of the Church!

Intro Song: Go Out In the World by John Angotti

Prayer:

- For peace & forgiveness... may the Holy Spirit assist us in seeking the Justice God rather than of Man.
- For my wife, and all other pregnant mommies... may the Holy Spirit be with her as she delivers our daughter... may the delivery go well and our daughter be healthy and happy.
- For the Church... may she continue to proclaim the truth and share the life of the trinity with all the world!
- OUR FATHER...

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The Ascension of the Son of Man!

Daniel 7:

[13] I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days

and was presented before him.

- **The Kingdom both NOW and YET-TO-COME**

- When the Son of Man is presented before the Ancient of Days
 - [14] And to him was given dominion
 - and glory and kingdom,
 - that all peoples, nations, and languages
 - should serve him;
 - his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
 - which shall not pass away,
 - and his kingdom one
 - that shall not be destroyed.
 - Think of this in light of the prophecy of the Messiah King in Psalm 2

Psalm 2

[6] "I have set my king
on Zion, my holy hill."

[7] I will tell of the decree of the LORD:
He said to me, "You are my son,
today I have begotten you.

[8] Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.

[9] You shall break them with a rod of iron,
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

- **So the OT outlook of the Kingdom and the King would include:**

- The Spirit, in the form of a cloud, a chariot, carrying the King to His throne in Heaven
- ALL Dominion, ALL Power, ALL Authority
- An EVERLASTING Kingdom
- Subjects going out to the ends of the world
 - The NATIONS shall be a possession
 - Think of Abraham here...

Genesis 17:

[4] "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations.

[5] No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.

- **Now let's look at the Account in Matthew....**

Matthew 28:

[16] Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

[17] And when they saw him they worshiped him; but some doubted.

[18] And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

[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."

- **The Elements:**

- We see his disciples worshiping him!
- He has been given ALL Authority in Heaven & Earth!
- He commands THOSE men to go out into ALL nations to
 - Make disciples
 - to Baptize in the Father, son and Holy Spirit
- He commands THOSE men to TEACH ALL that HE has COMMANDED THEM!
 - What is the job of the successors to the Apostles?
 - To make deciples
 - to baptize
 - to catechize
 - How are they to accomplish this?
 - With the presence of Christ with them always!

- **Let's look at Luke's account:**

Acts 1:

[1] In the first book, O The-oph'ilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach,
[2] until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.
[3] To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God.
[4] And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me,
[5] for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."
[6] So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"
[7] He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority.
[8] But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Sama'ria and to the end of the earth."
[9] And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

▪ **Notice one of the OT elements?**

- The Cloud/Charriot
 - As in Daniel 7 who took the Son of Man to Heaven
 - This is the same cloud that covered Jesus, Moses & Elijah in Luke 9:29-36
 - The Father spoke from the Cloud
 - The same Cloud that Led the People out of Egypt & defended upon Siani in Exodus
 - The Father also spoke from this cloud
 - The same Cloud that hovered over the waters of creation in Gen. 1 & the water of NEW creation & Jesus in John 1.
 - Which the Father spoke from!

▪ **Is it time for the Kingdom?**

- Here's a point on the translation in Acts that might shed more light on

the coming Kingdom!

(From Dr. John Bergsma: "God Mounts His Throne with Shouts of Joy: The Readings for Ascension Day", at <http://www.thesacredpage.com/2011/06/god-mounts-his-throne-with-shouts-of.html>)

"Like most English translations, the one used in Mass does not adequately translate the Greek word *sunalizomenos* in verse 4. Above it is rendered "while meeting with them," but literally it is "while taking salt with them," which is a Greek idiom meaning "sharing a meal." This is the usual meaning of *sunalizomenos*; the only justification I have seen in the lexicons (e.g. BAGD) for rendering it "spending time with" rather than "eating with" is that "eating with" supposedly doesn't make sense in the context of Acts 1:4. On the contrary, I suggest it makes a lot of sense, and is in fact theologically significant in light of Luke 22:16,18, which seem to suggest that Jesus will not eat or drink again until the Kingdom comes. The fact that he is eating and drinking with them here, is an indication of the arrival of the Kingdom (see also Acts 10:41).

The disciples ask, "Will you at this time restore the Kingdom to Israel?" Jesus' response is sometimes taken as a rebuff of the apostles, or a ducking of their question, implying perhaps that what they ask for will only take place in the eschaton. However, as Scott Hahn has pointed out, it is possible to take the Lord's response as answering **not when but how**. It is the witness (*martyria*) of the Apostles from "Jerusalem, to Judea, to Samaria, to the ends of the earth" (i.e. the Gentiles)—concentric circles of the ancient Kingdom of David (David's city, tribe, nation, and vassals, respectively)—that will bring about the new Israel, the Kingdom of God, which is manifest visibly in the world as the Church."

- **The Point**

- Jesus the Son of Man IS the King Messiah
 - He HAS all authority

- He HAS all power over heaven & earth
- He HAS ascended upon the Cloud to the Ancient of Days
- He HAS commissioned/Sent His Ministers to ALL nations!
 - BTW - the pattern in Acts seems to be reconstituting Israel... they 10 tribes were ripped away by Assyria... this is the deliberate rebuilding of all 12 tribes which NOW brings in ALL nations... just as was Promised to Abraham!

▪ **The Mission of the Church:**

- CCC850
- **850** *The origin and purpose of mission.* The Lord's missionary mandate is ultimately grounded in the eternal love of the Most Holy Trinity: "The Church on earth is by her nature missionary since, according to the plan of the Father, she has as her origin the mission of the Son and the Holy Spirit." The ultimate purpose of mission is none other than to make men share in the communion between the Father and the Son in their Spirit of love.
 - How?
 - 1 Peter 3: [15] but in your hearts reverence Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence;
 - Live your faith - be the WITNESS, the martyr, that Christ called for and Acts documented
 - Never leave home without your faith
 - Be ready to be the instrument of the Holy Spirit for evangelization
 - Tracts, CD's, books, etc... great tools & resources to share at a moments notice
 - Lead people to the TRUTH CCC 851