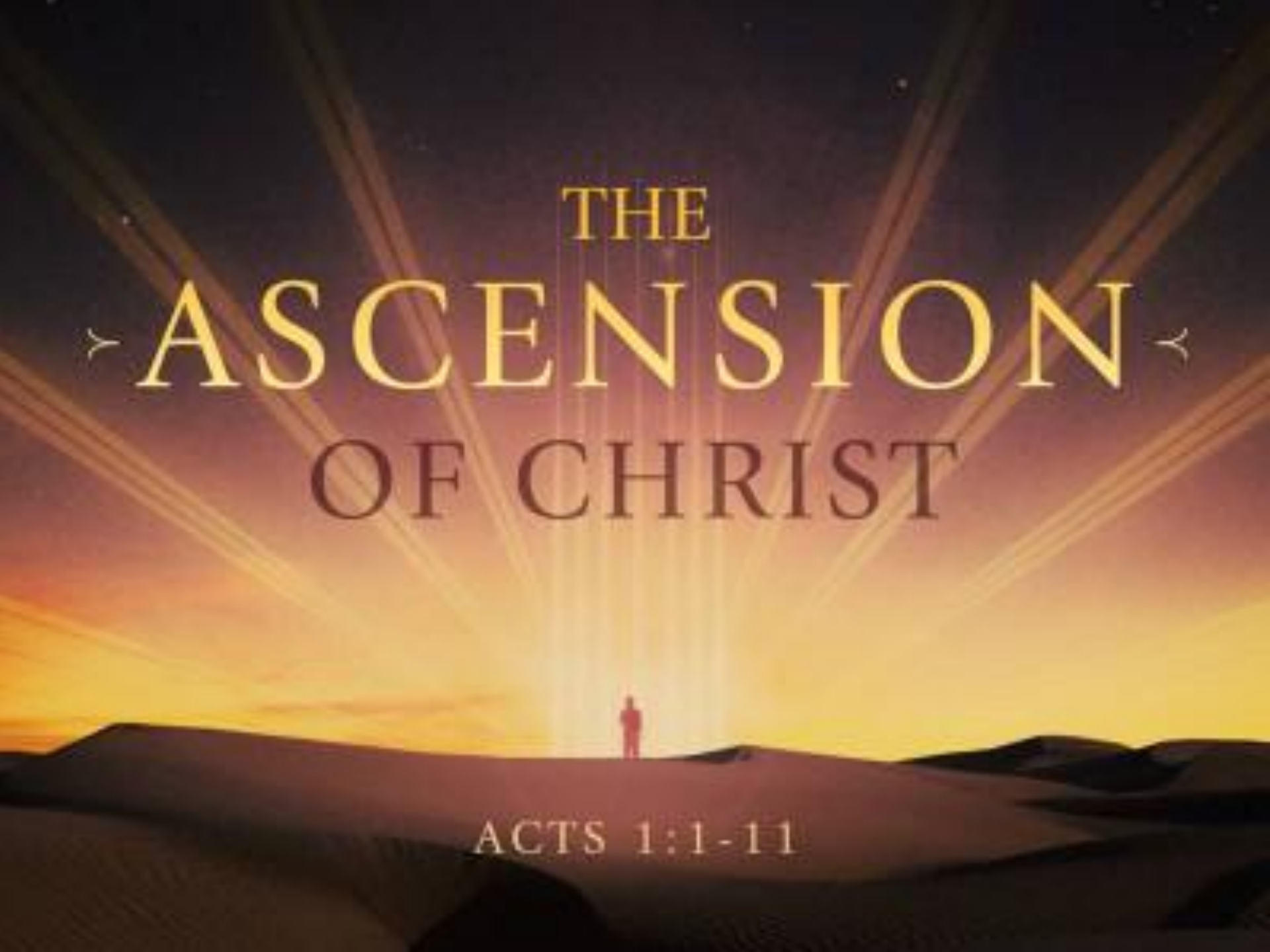


A scenic landscape featuring a range of snow-capped mountains in the background, a dense forest of evergreen trees in the middle ground, and a calm lake in the foreground that perfectly reflects the mountains and trees. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

SERMON

A person stands on a dark desert dune, looking up at a brilliant light source in the sky. Numerous rays of light radiate from the light source, creating a dramatic, ethereal atmosphere. The background is a gradient of warm colors, from deep orange to bright yellow.

THE
ASCENSION
OF CHRIST

ACTS 1:1-11

Commission and Ascension – ACTS 1:1-11

¹ In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: ‘Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.’

⁶ Then they gathered round him and asked him, ‘Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?’

Commission and Ascension – ACTS 1:1-11

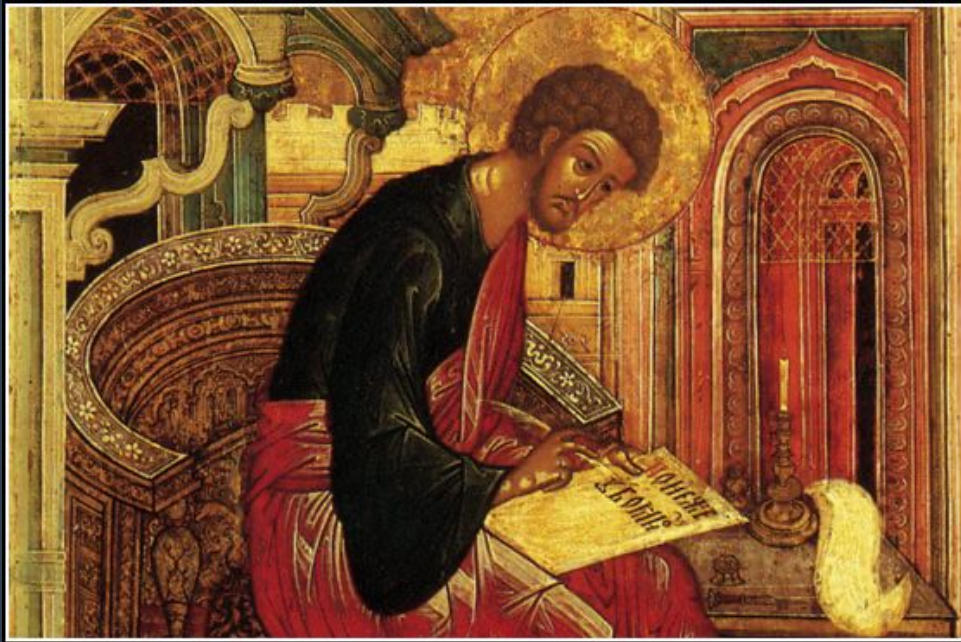
⁷ He said to them: ‘It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.

¹¹ ‘Men of Galilee,’ they said, ‘why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.’

Luke's Two Volumes



Luke 1:3 - I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus,

Acts 1:1- In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach...

Convincing Proofs – ACTS 1:3

³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and **gave many convincing proofs that he was alive**. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

1. The women at the tomb (Matt. 28:9-10)
2. Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9-11; John 20:11-18)
3. Two travelers to Emmaus (Mark 16:12; Luke 24:13-32)
4. Peter in Jerusalem (Luke 24:34; I Cor. 15:5)
5. Ten disciples (Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-23)
6. Eleven disciples (John 20:24-29; I Cor. 15:5)
7. Seven disciples fishing in Galilee (John 21:1-23)
8. Eleven disciples in Galilee (Matt. 28:16-20; Mark 16:14-18)
9. Five hundred persons (presumably in Galilee; I Cor. 15:6)
10. James, the brother of the Lord (I Cor. 15:7)

Kingdom of God – ACTS 1:3

³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and **spoke about the kingdom of God.**

The Gospel of Luke uses the phrase “Kingdom of God” **31 times.**

The book of Acts uses the phrase **6 times.**

Bringing - Proclaiming

Wait for the Promise – ACTS 1:4-5



⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Still not Understanding - ACTS 1:6-7

‘Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?’

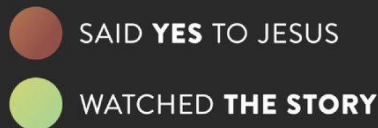
‘It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.’”

You will receive Power – ACTS 1:8

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

THE WORLD HAS STOPPED.
THE GOSPEL HASN'T.

In the past
72 hours people
all over the world...



<https://thestoryfilm.com>

Ascension – ACTS 1:9



⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

A Second Promise – ACTS 1:10-11

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.

¹¹ ‘Men of Galilee,’ they said, ‘**why do you stand here looking into the sky?**’ This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.’



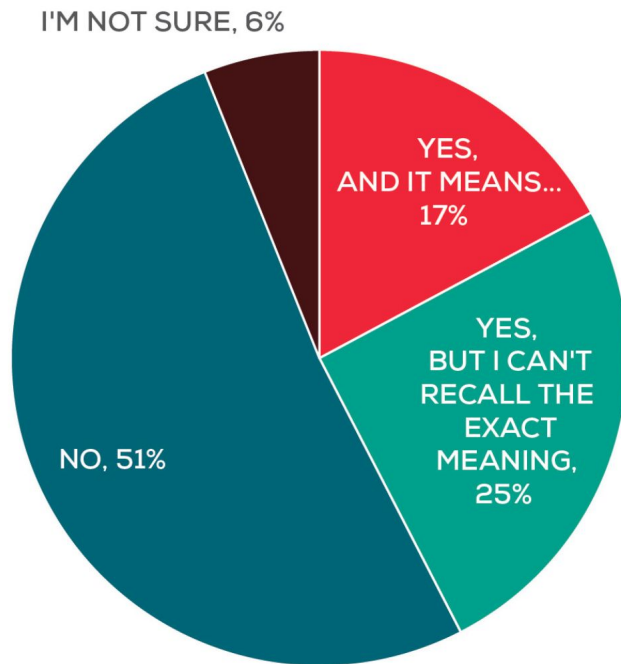
...taken from you into heaven

- Seated on right hand of God - Mark 16:19; I Peter 3:22; Hebrews 8:1
- Prepares a place for us - John 14:2-3
- Serving as our High Priest - Hebrews 8:1; 4:14-15
- Makes Intercession for us - Hebrews 7:25
- Serves as our mediator - I Timothy 2:5
- Our Advocate with the Father - I John 2:1

Until He Comes!

CHURCHGOERS: HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE GREAT COMMISSION?

Barna



Matthew 28:18-20

Mark 16:15

Luke 24:46-47

Act 1:8

Go, Make Disciples, Baptize, Teach, Obey
– all in the name and power of Jesus.