

DAY 1 (Week - Monday 25 March)**Read:** *Daniel 7:13-14*

The Ascension of Jesus is an important event. So much so that it was prophesied more than 500 years before Christ was even born. God gave Daniel a vision in which he saw and prophesied about. The language of Daniel makes it clear that he has seen a vision of the ascension of the Lord!

It is helpful to remember some things which scripture often refers to.....The term '*one like the son of man*' is a term used on numerous occasions when Jesus refers to himself. For example in Mt. 26:24 "*The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him.*" Also in Luke 21:27 we read "*Then the Son of Man will appear, coming in a cloud with great power and glory*". Some scholars even suggest that Jesus' favourite title for Himself in the Gospels is "Son of Man" - fully divine and fully human.

Clouds, in scripture, often portray or represent His majesty or awesome presence. God's glory, for example, appeared in a cloud in Exodus 19:9 "*The Lord said to Moses, I will come to you in a thick cloud so that the people will hear me speaking with you and will believe you from now on.*"

Daniel in his vision sees how 'The son of man' is given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him."

On the other hand this vision portrays Jesus as Messiah. This vision reveals Jesus to us in His kingly role with dominion, glory and power. He and only He must be worshipped by all as sovereign Lord.

Meditation: *Do I have visions of Jesus as king with authority in my life?*

DAY 2**Read:** *Romans 10:6-13*

St. Augustine once wrote, "Jesus Christ is not valued at all until He is valued above all." To emphasise this, the story is told by J. Wilbur Chapman. When Queen Victoria had just ascended her throne she went, as is the custom of Royalty, to hear Handel's Messiah rendered. She had been instructed as to her conduct by those who knew, and was told that she must not rise when the others stood at the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus.

When that magnificent chorus was being sung and the singers were shouting "Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth," she sat with great difficulty. It seemed as if she would rise in spite of the custom of kings and queens, but finally when they came to that part of the chorus where with a shout they proclaim Him King of kings suddenly the young queen rose and stood with bowed head, as if she would take her own crown from off her head and cast it at His feet.

Jesus is the Lord of life, He is the Messiah come to save us and we must confess with our lips that He is Lord if we are to receive salvation.

But it is interesting to note that Jews would have seen the term Lord or Messiah as referring only to God. If a Jew believed in Jesus and claimed Him as Messiah, they were saying that Jesus was God

Gentiles would have seen the term Lord/Messiah in a different way. Lord was applied to the emperor and was the source of total allegiance and loyalty. If a gentile believed in Jesus and claimed Him as Lord, they were proclaiming their total commitment and allegiance.

Prayer: *Lord I confess with my lips that you are the Messiah. AMEN*

DAY 3**Read:** *Luke 9:18-25*

What we read here is a private conversation between Jesus and the disciples concerning Himself. It took place on the coast of Caesarea Philippi, which is on the northern border of Canaan. It is a remote area, so there may not have been very many people flocking after Him as there were in other places, which gave Him the leisure time for this conversation with His disciples. Jesus asks His disciples: "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" [Mt. 16:13]

When Jesus called Himself "Son of Man" they would recognize this as a Messianic claim pointing to Daniel 7:13. He asked what people thought about him not what the scribes and Pharisees thought, because He knew they were prejudiced against him; that they said He was a deceiver and in league with Satan. But He also doesn't ask because he doesn't know what people think.

He asked it to make his disciples consider the success of His preaching, by showing that He was interested in its effect. The common people conversed more easily with the disciples than they did with their Master.

But it was also the precursor to the more important question as to who the disciples say Jesus is. Peter answers on behalf the 12, you are "*God's Messiah*". It is important that we have our own view, not just the ideas of others.

Peter had first hand knowledge of who Jesus is. He had seen the miracles of healing, experienced the calming of the seas and even had opportunity to walk on water. Peter was convinced and convicted of Jesus' status, "you are God's Messiah.

Meditation: *What convinces me of who Jesus is?*

DAY 4**Read:** *Daniel 7:13-14*

In his vision, Daniel says that he saw the Son of Man, that is Jesus, coming with the clouds of Heaven in glory and power. And the people of every nation worshipped Him!

We know from scripture that Jesus is coming again. And this vision of Daniel is a reminder that the Messiah is the one we need to worship since all authority is given to Him.

Now if Jesus is coming again we need to be ready for that day. So it is important to consider this seriously, but also to be excited about His coming and about the importance of having our hearts prepared for that day.

In our day to day lives if we are expecting someone of importance, we put on our best. That is we dress for the occasion or we could get the home neat and tidy, maybe even take out the finest crockery if a meal is to be served. But how do we prepare for the Messiah?

In 2 Peter 3:11-12, Peter asks a question, *"What kind of people ought you to be?"* Then Peter answers his own question by saying, "You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming."

That anticipation was certainly a driving force for the early Christians. These days we seem to leave everything to the 11th hour. Some even believe if the thief on the cross received a last minute reprieve, I'll take my chances. That is hardly the way we should prepare for the return of the Messiah. He is Messiah and needs our best in attitude and worship.

Meditation: *How ready am I for the Messiah?*

DAY 5**Read:** *Romans 10:6-13*

The word Messiah is defined as 'the promised deliverer of the Jewish nation prophesied in the Hebrew Bible.' or as 'a leader regarded as the saviour of a particular country, group, or cause'.

The Jews were waiting for the Promised Messiah who would lead them. He was among them and they did not recognise Him [John 1:10].

Now if a Messiah is one who has come to save us and to lead us we have to answer the question of how to show allegiance to the Messiah. Paul suggests that believing and confessing righteousness that comes from God saves us from our sins. No one is saved merely by outward observances. For him the state of the heart is a key element. But Paul does not contemplate an inward state that has no corresponding outward reality. The heart is reflected in the conduct. In other words belief is seen in life.

According to Paul, God's way is the only way and it has 2 parts: the first part starts in your heart, the second part is that the love for God that is in your heart has to travel from your heart to your lips.

Someone once wrote "It is not our character, not our gifts or good works; never our promises of being better and going to church more . . . It is simply His name, as we confess him as Lord of our lives and risen from the dead.

We need to confess Jesus as Messiah, the one we give allegiance to and to who we owe our lives since we have received from Him our salvation.

Meditation: *Who is my Messiah?*

DAY 6**Read:** *Luke 9:18-25*

We read that the disciples tell Jesus what and who others thought Him to be, but when confronted who they thought he was, my take is some had to do some introspection.

There were even some who supposed that He was one of the other prophets, for they believed that when the Messiah appeared that the prophets would rise again. To this day there are still some who believe the same and I am not only speaking of other religions. There are 'Christians' who see him in that way. I say this because they have not committed to Him being their Messiah sent from God.

With the knowledge we now have of who Jesus is, it should be quite easy for you and me to answer as Peter did "You are God's Messiah". Peter's answer was right since Jesus says *"Good for you Simon for this truth did not come to from man, but directly by my Father in heaven."* [Mt. 16:17]

We should be answering the same as Peter did if we are in a relationship with Jesus with the full knowledge that our sins forgiven because of what Christ accomplished on the Cross. Acceptance of our forgiveness should convince us' but to just say it because we heard Peter say it is not what is required of us.

It is the Holy Spirit that will convince and convict us with assurance that Jesus is "God's Messiah." The Holy Spirit will let you and me live with this conviction and will live out that conviction.

And so we should ask ourselves; is Jesus my Messiah?

Prayer: Father I ask that you convince and convict me of your Messiahship. Amen