



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A2377 ~ "Go, Teach All Nations"

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

The Bible says that the Lord Jesus Christ rose alive from death on Easter Sunday, which the Jews celebrate as the Feast of the First Fruits. Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended back to heaven. But during those 40 precious days in between His resurrection and His ascension, Jesus taught many important things to His disciples. He also presented Himself to them and removed any lingering doubts that He had indeed been raised from the dead.

On Jesus' Ascension Day, the disciples and believers of Jesus gathered in Galilee as Jesus had instructed them to. While they waited for Him to come, they told one another their experiences following Jesus' death and resurrection.

Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, died once and for all; He is never to die again. His sacrifice in paying for people's sins was the only one acceptable to His Father. On the day of His ascension, Jesus said an amazing thing to His disciples in Matthew, Chapter 28: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." No ordinary man could ever have said that; only God's very own Son could make such a statement. Colossians, Chapter 1, says the Lord Jesus Christ is superior and supreme over all others, except His Heavenly Father.

Jesus gave His disciples instructions to expand His kingdom on earth: “Make disciples, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” This instruction is called the ‘Great Commission’ and seeks to confirm individual believers in their faith in Jesus and then train them in His teachings. Jesus then told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they had received the promised Holy Spirit.

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The final teaching Jesus gave to His disciples during His last 40 days on earth is recorded in Matthew, Chapter 28, Luke, Chapter 24, and Chapter 1 of Acts.

When Jesus came to the assembled crowd of disciples, He went with them towards Bethany, which was close to Jerusalem. Just before He ascended, Jesus promised that He would be with His disciples always, even and to the end of the age. Jesus then was lifted up into the clouds and upwards towards heaven before their very eyes.

Two angels appeared beside the believers gathered around to see Him leave them. The angels gave a wonderful promise in Acts, Chapter 1: “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.” The disciples were filled with joy and worshipped Christ as the Lord, the one and true Messiah and Son of God. They then returned to Jerusalem and spent their time in the Temple praying and praising God.

Ascension Day is always remembered on a Thursday but has been given little attention in many churches. However, it shouldn't be forgotten or ignored. For without the Ascension, the death and resurrection of Jesus would carry much less value in God's plan to redeem people. It is this glorious Ascension that completes the atoning work of Christ, the guarantee of God's promises throughout the Scriptures, the proof of Christ's claims, and the beginning of His dominion at the right hand of God His Father. Jesus Christ now sits beside God, interceding for all those who have accepted by faith His cleansing of their sins.

In John, Chapter 14, Jesus told His disciples: "I go to prepare a place for you." He has promised to return and take all those who have given their lives to Him to be with Him wherever He is.

Jesus had descended from Heaven into earth's time and space to save sinners. This world, with all its sin and corruption, wasn't and still isn't suitable for the Son of God to reign in. But He chose to enter this world for our salvation from eternal separation and punishment from God because of our sins. Jesus made it abundantly clear that He was from above, whereas we are from below. His rightful place was and is in glory! So Jesus prayed that His Father would glorify Him with the glory that He had before the foundation of the world. When Jesus' earthly tasks were done, this prayer was answered when He returned to His heavenly home.

Jesus' ascension wasn't a journey into outer space but rather, He was removed in His resurrected body from time and space into the immediate presence of His Holy Father. He did this by His own power. Jesus also knows that this sin-sick world isn't the place for believers to live in forever either. He actually wants us there in Heaven with Him once our earthly days are done. His mission here wasn't merely to rescue people from God's judgment of our sin; it was to bring us home to be with Him forever. How amazing is the love of our Lord!

Jesus completed His earthly mission to redeem fallen creation by bringing His glorified human body into heaven at His ascension. At some future time, all believers will follow Him there. In fact, in Ephesians, Chapter 2, it says that we are already seated together in heavenly places because we are in Him. Our future is certain. All creation is His; but His new creation is precious to Him and He will not give it up.

We need to live our lives remembering that heaven is our home and not this world. It's so easy to get caught up in worldly attitudes and living: the petty competitions, the little power plays, the desire for worldly fame, and sometimes thru dishonest and selfish ways of gaining such things. The Word of God reminds us that our faith in Christ is the means of victory over the world. We are to do good to overcome evil.

We must measure everything by heavenly standards and by spiritual, eternal things. The more that we grow spiritually, the more we become like Jesus Christ; the more we realize that we do not belong here, the more we understand that our stay here is an earthly ministry in our eternal life. This proper perspective will influence all our choices. How foolish to spend all our time and energies on what is only temporary when we have a permanent inheritance in heaven.

If we are in Christ, we must not let sin reign in our mortal bodies. Rather, we must live in Christ's righteousness. But if we sin, we also have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ Himself! Thus we have a high priest who is our mediator to make us continually right with God. The glorious news is that there is abundant forgiveness for sins. The entire ministry of our Lord has been and continues to be to fit us for glory.

Included in early Church writings was a piece known as the *Letter to Diognetus*, which described what Christians are like. The piece is thought to have been written about 200 AD or earlier and doesn't mention Jesus' name in it. It said in part:

“Christians are not distinct from other people by country, language or customs; you see, they do not live in cities of their own or speak some strange dialect ... They live in both Greek and foreign cities, wherever chance has put them. They follow local customs in clothing, food and the other aspects of life. But at the same time, they demonstrate to us the unusual form of their own citizenship.

They live in their own native lands but as aliens. Every foreign country is to them as their native country and every native land as a foreign country. They marry and have children just like everyone else, but they do not kill unwanted babies. They offer a shared table but not a shared bed. They are passing their days on earth but are citizens of heaven. They obey the appointed laws and go beyond the laws in their own lives.

They love everyone but are persecuted by all. They are put to death and gain life. They are poor and yet they make many rich. They are dishonoured and yet they gain glory through dishonour. Their names are blackened and yet they are cleared. They are mocked and bless in return. They are treated outrageously and behave respectfully to others.

When they do good, they are punished as evildoers; when punished, they rejoice as if they've been given new life. They are attacked by Jews as aliens and are persecuted by Greeks, yet those who hate them cannot give any reason for their hostility.”

We have to ask ourselves if Christians of this age are like those godly people living not long after the ascension of Jesus Christ. We live in the Laodicean Age of Revelation, Chapter 3. This age is largely known for its compromise with the world and worldly ways. A famous poem about this starts with:

The Church and the World walked far apart,
On the changing shores of time;

The World was singing a giddy song,
And the Church a hymn sublime.
“Come give me your hand,” cried the merry World,
“And walk with me this way;”
But the good Church hid her snowy hand,
And solemnly answered “Nay.”
I will not give you my hand at all,
And I will not walk with you;
Your way is the way of endless death,
Your words are all untrue.”

If both churchgoers and believers in Christ can keep themselves spotless from the world’s ways by trusting in Jesus’ life of power over their own sinful thoughts and desires, they will remain faithful and true to the Lord Jesus. He advises those who think they are rich and in need of nothing that in reality, they’re spiritually poor, blind and naked. He called the poor to come to Him for the true valuables of heaven. In Revelation, Chapter 3, Verse 19, Jesus continued: “I rebuke and punish all whom I love. Be in earnest, then, and turn from your sins.”

Compromise is always wrong when it means sacrificing principles. It often involves telling less than the full truth with the aim of deceiving and deceivers soon lose sight of what truth is.

Turn your heart fully to embrace the Holy Spirit’s leading and guidance in following Christ, and live in the knowledge that Christ’s work for us is complete and perfect to His Father’s satisfaction and good pleasure.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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