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The Christian holiday of Ascension Day, also known as the Feast of the Ascension, celebrates when Jesus ascended to heaven. This feast day is one of the ecumenical feasts of Christian churches, along with the celebrations of the Passion, Easter, and Pentecost. Ascension Day is generally observed on a Thursday, the fortieth day after Easter."No one has ascended into heaven except He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man." ~ John 3:13Ascension Day 2024This year, Ascension Day will be on Thursday, May 9, 2024.Dan Graves explains where the Bible mentions Jesus' ascension and the once-in-a-while event we call Holy Thursday:Forty days from the day he rose from the grave, Jesus ascended into heaven. Here is how Luke described the event:Therefore, when they [the disciples and the risen Christ] had come together, they asked Him saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and to the end of the earth."Now when he had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up and a cloud received Him out of their sight..." (Acts 1: 4-9 New King James Version).Because the date of Easter varies from year to year, the celebration of the Ascension moves with it. It always falls on the fortieth day from Easter and, since Easter always falls on a Sunday, Ascension Day always falls on a Thursday; it is frequently called "Holy Thursday." Whenever Easter falls on April 5th, Ascension Day falls on this day, May 14. The last time that happened was in 1953 and the next time will be in 2015.Ascension Day celebrates Christ's exaltation. While on earth, he was a servant. Now in heaven, he is the ruler and Lord of all. By entering heaven as the representative of mankind, he completed the work of our salvation and guarantees the eventual glorification of all who love Him.Just as Jesus went up in the clouds, he will return the same way. Again Luke described the scene:"And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."This is the great hope of all Christians. For just as Jesus went into heaven, so will all Christians. Those who are dead will rise first; those who are living will be caught up to meet him in the air, according to Paul, writing to the church at Thessalonica. This is called the rapture. With this hope in mind, Christians sometimes conclude their meetings with the words, "Come Lord Jesus."("Possible Date for Christ's Ascension" by Dan Graves previously published on Christianity.com on April 28, 2010)Traditions of Ascension DayBecause the date of Easter varies from year to year, the celebration of the Ascension moves with it. It always falls on the fortieth day from Easter and, since Easter always falls on a Sunday, Ascension Day always falls on a Thursday; it is frequently called "Holy Thursday." Ascension Day celebrates Christ's exaltation. While on earth, He was a servant. Now in heaven, He is the ruler and Lord of all. By entering heaven as the representative of mankind, He completed the work of our salvation and guaranteed the eventual glorification of all who love Him.Just as Jesus went up in the clouds, He will return the same way. Again Luke described the scene:"And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."What Does Jesus' Ascension Tell Us about Jesus' Humanity?Randy Alcorn discusses how the ascension highlights the way in which Jesus was fully God and fully human:One remarkable thing about the ascension is that it affirms Christ's physical body went into Heaven following his resurrection. This is what the creeds call his "self-same body," stating that likewise our self-same bodies will be restored in our resurrection. Some Christians imagine that Christ shed himself of his humanity and returned to being a completely spiritual being when he went back to Heaven. But this is false. The ascension creates a paradigm shift. The truth is not that Jesus became a baby at Christmas, and then 33 years later came the resurrection and ascension and then he stopped being a man. The resurrection demonstrates the incarnation is not temporary. But still, it could be wondered if having defeated death in the resurrection, when it came time to going back to Heaven, Christ might have said, "time's up, no sense in being a man any more" and shed himself of a body and retake the form (or lack of form) inherent in being the second member of the Trinity.He could have "dissolved" or "disappeared," but instead, he physically ascended to a place from which he will physically return to earth in the same physical body. So Jesus became a man (first coming, incarnation), defeated death and assumed his eternal body as a man (resurrection), and went back to Heaven as a man (ascension) and will return as a man (second coming; and as our firstfruits raising our self-same bodies as bodies like his). He will reign over the New Earth as the God-man. He has become a permanent member of the human race.So if you're ever wished you could walk the earth with Jesus, like his disciples did, good news...if you know Him, you will. You will have a new (raised) body, and it will be a New (raised) Earth, but it will really be you, it will really be Jesus, and it will really be Earth. No sin, no death, no curse. I will be me without all the bad parts, and the Earth will be Earth without all the bad parts. (New bodies are not non-bodies and new earth is non-earth, no more than a new car is a non-car.)As Job said, "I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!" (Job 19:25-27)(Taken from "Why do you seldom hear about Christ's ascension?" by Randy Alcorn, Eternal Perspective Ministries, 39085 Pioneer Blvd., Suite 206, Sandy, OR 97055, 503-668-5200, www.epm.org. Previously published on Christianity.com on September 1, 2010).What Is The Importance of Jesus' Ascension?Brian Hedges explains three key things we all need to know about Jesus from his ascension:1. The ascended and enthroned Christ pours out his Spirit on the church.Jesus had told his disciples that it was good for him to go away because only then would he send them another Helper, the Spirit of truth (John 16:7-16). And that's exactly what happened on the Day of Pentecost, ten days after Jesus' ascension. The Spirit descended on the church with power, inaugurating a new age in the history of salvation.That's why Peter connects Jesus' exaltation and the outpouring of the Spirit in Acts 2:33:Being, therefore, exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.2. The ascended and enthroned Christ applies the blessings of salvation.Having accomplished redemption through his suffering on the cross, the risen and exalted Christ now applies the salvation he has won, by granting the gifts of repentance and forgiveness of sins.As Peter says in Acts 5:31:God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.3. The ascended and enthroned Christ cares for his suffering people as they bear witness to him.We see this in Acts 7 when Stephen becomes the first martyr of the Christian church. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." (Acts 7:55-56)All of this should give us great encouragement! When feeling weak in ourselves, Luke reminds us that the exalted Christ has given us his Spirit, who equips us with the power, boldness, and courage we need to accomplish our mission.This is the great hope of all Christians. Those who are dead will rise first, those who are living will be caught up to meet Him in the air, according to Paul, writing to the church at Thessalonica. With this hope in mind, Christians sometimes conclude their meetings with the words, "Come Lord Jesus."(Excerpted from "3 Reasons for the Ascension of Christ and its Importance Today" by Brian Hedges)Learn more about the Bible Story of the Ascension of JesusDan Graves' Bibliography:"Easter Sunday Dates," qmarts/eastcalc.htmGibson, George M. The Story of the Christian Year. Nashville, Abingdon Press, 1945.Wynne, John J. "Feast of the Ascension." The Catholic Encyclopedia. New York: Robert Appleton, 1907.Photo credit: © GettyImages/Rastan Request Rejected If you believe you have received this message in error, then please contact the Helpdesk and provide the associated support ID. Otherwise, click the back browser button to continue using the application. Your support ID is: 15508660819088473470 We're committed to providing you with personalized, compassionate care and access to your medical records online. Here you'll find information on how to access your health information online. Listening to you, caring for you."™ 4600 Edmundson Rd St. Louis, MO 63134 Look up Ascension or ascension in Wiktionary, the free dictionary. Ascension or ascending may refer to: "Ascension", the belief in some religions that some individuals have ascended into Heaven without dying first. The Catholic concept of the Assumption of Mary leaves open the question of her death, while in Eastern Christianity the Dormition of the Mother of God presumes her death. In Mormonism, Translation is equivalent to Ascension. Ascension of Jesus Feast of the Ascension (Ascension day), an annual day of feast commemorating Jesus' ascension; a public holiday in several countries The Ascension, another title for the Old English poem Christ II Ascension Cathedral (disambiguation) The Ascension, Lavender Hill, an Anglo-Catholic church on Lavender Hill, Battersea, South West London Ascension Municipality, Chihuahua, Mexico Ascension, Chihuahua, a city and capital of the municipality Ascensión de Guarayos, Santa Cruz Department, Bolivia Ascension Island, in the southern Atlantic Ocean Ascension Islands, a group of uninhabited islands in Canada Ascension, Prince Edward Island, Canada L'Ascension, Quebec, Canada Ascension Parish, Louisiana, United States Ascension (comic book), a comic book series (1997–2000) created by David Finch Ascension (Star Wars novel), 2011 Ascension (Binge novel), 2023 The Climb (2017 film) (French title: L'ascension), a French adventure film Dracula II: Ascension, a 2003 direct-to-video American-Romanian horror film Ascension, an award-winning short film produced by Vickie Gest Ascension (miniseries), a television miniseries that aired in December 2014 "Ascension" (The X-Files), a 1994 episode of The X-Files "Ascension", a 1999 episode of Batman Beyond Ascension (Stargate), in the Stargate universe, a process to become a noncorporeal entity on a higher plane of existence (first mentioned in season 3, 2000) "Ascension" (Stargate SG-1), a 2001 Stargate SG-1 episode "Ascension", a 2013 episode of NCIS: Los Angeles Ascension (Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.), a 2016 Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. episode David Blaine Ascension, a stunt by David Blaine in Page, Arizona, September 2, 2020 Ascension (film), a 2021 American documentary film Mage: The Ascension, a role-playing game Ultima IX: Ascension, the final part of the computer role-playing game series Ultima God of War: Ascension, a 2013 game for the PlayStation 3 Ascension: Chronicle of the Godslayer, a 2011 deck-building card game A game map in Zombie Mode in Call of Duty: Black Ops, from the "First Strike" map pack Kanye Quest 3030, which featured a secret map alleged to be linked to a cult religion referred to as "Ascensionism" through use of the password "ASCEND" L'Ascension, a suite for orchestra or organ by Olivier Messiaen Ascension, an alias used by the British trance music act The Space Brothers Ascension (A Flock of Seagulls album), 2018 Ascension (Djam Karet album), 2001 Ascension (Jesu album), 2011 Ascension (John Coltrane album), 1966 Ascension (Misia album), 2007 Ascension (Paradise Lost album), 2025 Ascension (Pep Love album), 2001 The Ascension (Zfacc Ildibia album), 2014 The Ascension (Glenn Branca album), 1981 The Ascension (Otep album), 2007 The Ascension (Phil Wickham album), 2013 The Ascension (Sufjan Stevens album), 2020 Ascension, by Michael Finnella, 2014 Ascension, by Taya Delazy, 2014 The Afterman: Ascension, by progressive rock band Coheed and Cambria, 2012 "Ascension" (Gorillaz song) (Gorillaz song), by Gorillaz from Humanz, 2017 "Ascension (Don't Ever Wonder)", by Maxwell from Maxwell's Urban Hang Suite, 1996 "Ascension," the only song featured in the 1966 John Coltrane album Ascension "Ascension," by Born of Ostris from The Discovery, 2011 "Ascension," by Enslaved from Isa, 2004 "Ascension," by Fear Factory from Archetype, 2004 "Ascension", by John Frusciante from Curtains, 2005 "Ascension", by Killswitch Engage from Incarnate, 2016 "Ascension", by Mac Miller from GO:OD AM, 2015 "Ascension", by Vanessa Carlton from Liberman, 2015 "The Ascension", by Manowar from Gods of War, 2007 "Ascension (A)", by Sunn O)) from their album Pyroclasts, 2019 "Ascensionism," by Sleep Token from Take Me Back to Eden, 2023 HMS Ascension (K502), a Royal Navy frigate in service from 1944 to 1946 MV Ascension, a 1993 cargo and container ship Ascension (Calvo), an outdoor 1996 sculpture by Robert Calvo, in Portland, Oregon Ascension (Wercollier), 1978 and 1986 sculptures by Lucien Wercollier Ascension (healthcare system), a Catholic non-profit health system in the United States Ascension (publisher), A Catholic media publisher Ascension Road, Prince Edward Island Route 160, a highway in Canada The Ascension (professional wrestling), a WWE wrestling tag team Ascend (disambiguation) Assumption of Mary, Mother of Jesus, into Heaven Asunción Asunción (disambiguation) Mi'raj, heavenly ascent of the Islamic prophet Muhammad Right ascension, half of an astronomical coordinate system Topics referred to by the same term This disambiguation page lists articles associated with the title Ascension.If an internal link led you here, you may wish to change the link to point directly to the intended article. 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