

# ASCENSION LIKE JESUS

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2 Kings 2:1-18

May 13, 2018

*As they were walking along and talking together,  
suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them,  
and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.*

2 Kings 2:11

## 1. God's character and God's plan

*When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind,  
Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal . . . .*

2 Kings 2:1

Key redemption lesson: Repentance!

## 2. The Elijah spirit

*When they crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me,  
what can I do for you before I am taken from you?"  
"Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied.*

2 Kings 2:9

The Elijah portion I desire: \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. It started with a question

*"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.*

Acts 1:11

- 1) Jesus is not finished
- 2) Our BODIES matter [see Abigail Fine Favale's "Evangelical Gnosticism"]
- 3) Elijah and Jesus are me!

## Further study of Elijah and Ascension

*Concerning this salvation, the prophets who spoke of the grace  
that was to come to you, searched intently . . . .*

1 Peter 1:10

C.H. Spurgeon's sermon on 2 Kings 2 at <http://www.biblebb.com/files/spurgeon/3116.htm>

Bob Deffinbaugh's introduction to Acts at <https://bible.org/seriespage/1-getting-ahead-god-acts-11-26>

Robert Bradshaw's introduction to Elijah at [https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/article\\_elijah.html](https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/article_elijah.html).

Patterson & Austel, "1, 2 Kings", in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Vol. 4* (Zondervan, 1988).

Pink's study at <https://www.monergism.com/life-elijah-w-pink>

Alfred Edersheim, *Bible History: Old Testament* (Eerdmans, 1975). Edersheim was a 19<sup>th</sup> century Jewish convert to Christianity who focused on our Jewish roots, especially in understanding the prophets.

Alexander Maclaren's study of Elijah at [http://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/onsite/1Kings\\_am.html#esbt1](http://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/onsite/1Kings_am.html#esbt1)

S. Lewis Johnson's sermon on Jesus' ascension at <http://sljinstitute.net/category/acts/>

Abigail Fine Favale's "Evangelical Gnosticism" in *First Things* (May 2018), p. 13.

## Preparing for Pentecost

*"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you heard me speak about.  
For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."*

Acts 1:5

After the Ascension, Jesus' disciples returned to the city and waited for the promised Holy Spirit. As we prepare for Pentecost, you are invited to look again into Jesus' teaching about the Holy Spirit.

Monday: Luke 4:14-21, Jesus and the power of the Spirit

Jesus' ministry began with an expression of the Holy Spirit's power in his life and ministry, both at his baptism and at his coming out sermon in Nazareth. How have you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit in your life?

Tuesday: John 3:1-8, The Holy Spirit and the new birth

One of Jesus' first spiritual conversations was with Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader, where he shocked by teaching that a new birth through the Spirit was necessary. When did you first experience the reality of this new birth?

Wednesday: John 6:60-71, "The Spirit gives life"

When have you navigated this tension between Spirit and flesh? How does Peter's response encourage you?

Thursday: John 14:23-31, Jesus promises the Counselor

*Paraclete* ("one who comes along side") is one of the most important names for the Holy Spirit. How have you experienced this ministry of the Holy Spirit in your life?

Friday: John 16:5-16, The Spirit of truth

The Holy Spirit will guide us and bring Jesus the glory. Do these two descriptions of the Spirit's ministry work together?

Saturday: John 20:19-23, Jesus breathes on his disciples

Even before Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus' disciples. How does this "Spirit upon" experience differ from the Acts 2 regenerating "Spirit within" work of the Holy Spirit in our lives? Which has been more important in your life?