Ascended To The Father

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"Then Jesus cried-out in the Temple as He taught, saying, 'You both know Me, and you know where I am; and I have not come of Myself, but He (the Father) who sent Me is true, <u>whom you do not know</u>. **But I know Him**: <u>for I am from Him</u>, and <u>He has sent Me</u>. Then they sought to seize Him; but no man laid hands on Him, because <u>His hour</u> was not yet come. And many of the people believed on Him, and said, When the Christ (Messiah) comes, will he do more miracles than these which this Man has done? The Pharisees heard that the people murmured such things concerning Him; and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to seize Him. Then said Jesus unto them, 'Yet a little while am I with you, <u>and then I go unto Him (the Father</u>) who sent Me. You shall seek Me, and shall not find Me; and where I am, <u>there you cannot come</u>. (John 7:28-34)

"And then I go unto Him who sent Me" - In this statement from Jesus, He is speaking of His '<u>Return</u>' back into the place where He eternally preexisted with the Father in Heaven. His <u>Return</u> brought to a conclusion His First Coming mission as the Savior of the World from sin. This Return, which is also called His <u>Ascension</u>, occurred 40 days after His death and resurrection, and was followed <u>by His immediate exaltation</u> at the Right Hand of His Father in Heaven.

Jesus on several occasions spoke of His Return to His Father in Heaven. Please consider the following:

" 'And <u>no man has ascended up to heaven, but He (Jesus)</u> who came down from heaven,' <u>even the Son of Man who is in Heaven</u>." (please read in context: John 3:1-<u>13</u>-17)

Ascend-up: from the Greek word <u>anabebeken</u> a verb which means: to-go-up, to-ascend.

" '<u>As the living Father **has sent Me**</u>, and I live through the Father; so he who eats Me, even he shall live through Me. This is that bread which came down from heaven; not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead; <u>he who eats of this bread shall live for ever</u>.' These things He said in the synagogue, as He taught in Capernaum. Many therefore of His disciples, when they had heard this, said, 'This is a hard saying; who can hear it?' When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples murmured at it, He said unto them, 'Does this offend you? What then <u>if you shall see the Son of Man **ascending** (going up) to where He was before? It is the Spirit who makes-alive; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I speak unto you, <u>they are spirit</u>, and they are life.'" (John 6:57-63)</u>

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you; not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid. You have heard how I said unto you, <u>I go</u> <u>away</u>, and (will) <u>come again</u> unto you. If you loved Me, <u>you would rejoice</u>, because I said, '<u>I</u> <u>go unto the Father</u>; for My Father is greater than I.' And now I have told you before it come to pass, so that when it has come to pass, you might believe." (John 14:26-29)

"But these things have I told you, so that when the time shall come, you may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you. **But now I go My way to Him (the Father) who sent Me**; and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth; <u>It is expedient for you that I go away</u>; for if I do not go away, the Comforter (the Holy Spirit) will not come unto you; <u>but if **I depart**</u>, I will send Him (the Holy Spirit) unto you. And when He has come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on Me; Of righteousness, **because I go to My Father**, and **you (will) see Me no more**;" (John 16:4-10)

Go: from <u>hypago</u>: to go away, in the sense of being <u>lead away</u> under someone's authority; and in context that authority would be the Father.

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"These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs; but the time is coming, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall show you plainly of the Father. At that day you shall ask in My Name; and I do not say unto you, that I will pray the Father for you; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, <u>and have believed that I came forth</u> <u>from God</u>. <u>I came forth from the Father, and have come into the world</u>; <u>again, I leave</u> the world, <u>and go to the Father</u>." (John 16:25-28)

After the Resurrection of Jesus, and yet before His Ascension, He had these encounters:

"Jesus said unto her, Do not touch Me; for I have not yet <u>ascended</u> to My Father: but go to My brethren, and say unto them, '<u>I ascend</u> unto My Father, and your Father; and to My <u>God</u>, and your <u>God</u>.''" (please read in context: John 20:1-<u>17</u>-18)

"Afterward He (Jesus) appeared unto the eleven (apostles) as they reclined, and <u>reproached</u> them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not those (the women) who had seen Him after He was risen. And He said unto them, Go you into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he who does not believe shall be damned. And these signs shall follow those who believe: In My name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.' So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, **He was taken-up into Heaven**, and sat on the Right Hand of God. And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen." (Mark 16:14-19-20)

The actual Ascension event is recorded by Luke in his Gospel account, and again in the Book of Acts:

"And, behold, I send <u>the promise (speaking of the Holy Spirit)</u> of My Father upon you; but stay in the city of Jerusalem, until you are endued with power from on High. And He led them out as far as to Bethany, and He lifted up His hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while He blessed them, <u>He was parted from them and was carried up into heaven</u>. And they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and were continually in the Temple, praising and blessing God. Amen." (Luke 24:49-53)

Parted: from the Greek word <u>*dieste*</u> which means: to be separated from; in context this separation was necessary to make way for the coming of the Comforter: the Holy Spirit.

Carried-up: from the Greek word <u>anephereto</u> which means: to carry-up, to bring-up; in the sense of to its end goal, or its needed consummation. The context is that Jesus was carried-up, at some point by another, or others, to the Right Hand of the Father.

"When they therefore had come together, they asked of Him, saying, 'Lord, will You at this time restore again the Kingdom to Israel?' And He said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father has put in His own power. But you shall receive power, after the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth. And when He had spoken these things, while they looked, **He was taken up**; and a cloud **received (or hid) Him** from their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white clothing; who also said, 'You men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? **This same Jesus, who** <u>is taken up</u> from you into heaven, shall so come (again) in like manner as you have seen Him go into heaven." (see Acts 1:1-6-11)

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Concerning His immediate exaltation at the Right Hand of His Father in Heaven, <u>after His Return</u> to the Father, please consider the following:

"I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of Man (Jesus) <u>came with the clouds</u> of heaven, and came to (unto, even-to; up-to) the Ancient of Days (God the Father in Heaven), and <u>they</u> brought <u>Him (Jesus)</u> near before Him (the Father). And there was given <u>to Him (to Jesus)</u> Dominion, and Glory, and <u>a Kingdom</u>, so that all people, nations, and languages, <u>should</u> serve Him. <u>His Dominion is an Everlasting Dominion</u>, which shall not pass away, and <u>His Kingdom</u> is that which shall not (ever) be destroyed." (see Daniel 7:9-14)

"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh (in the person of Christ Jesus), justified in the Spirit, <u>seen of angels</u>, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, **Received up into Glory**." (1 Timothy 3:16)

Paul prayed, "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him; so that the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power towards us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, which He worked in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own Right Hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come. And has put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fulness of Him who fills all in all." (Ephesians 1:15-23)

It is to be understood that His "**Received up into Glory**" was altogether <u>a Triumphal Return of</u> <u>Jesus as King of Kings in His Fathers Kingdom</u>. It is even possible that "<u>they</u>" were angels who were given the privilege and honor of <u>carrying</u> a throne upon which Jesus was seated into the presence of God the Father Himself – the Ancient of Days; and also before a great assembly of those thousands upon thousands gathered to behold the coronation of their King: even Jesus!

Finally, please consider the following:

"Therefore He says, '<u>When **He ascended up on High**</u>, <u>He led captivity captive</u>, <u>and gave</u> <u>gifts unto men</u>.' (quote from Psalm 68:18) Now <u>that 'He ascended</u>,' what is it but that <u>He also</u> <u>descended first into the lower parts of the earth</u>? <u>**He who** descended is **the Same** also **who** <u>ascended up far above all heavens</u>, so that He might fill all things." (see Ephesians 4:7-8-13)</u>

Jesus Ascended To The Father

His Ascension was clearly foretold by Himself and by the prophet Daniel ! His Ascension was preceded by His First Coming Life and Mission as the world's Savior ! His Ascension was preceded by His death on the Cross and His resurrection from the dead ! His Ascension was necessary before the Holy Spirit could be sent to us !

His Ascension ushered Jesus back into the Glorious presence of His Father in Heaven ! After His Ascension He was exalted as King of kings and seated at the Right Hand of the Father ! After His Ascension He was given Dominion, and Glory, and an Everlasting Kingdom !

Thank You Lord Jesus for being <u>our Intercessor</u> there at the Right Hand of the Father ! Lord Jesus I Look forward to Your Second Coming when You shall descend to earth on the clouds with great Glory and Power !! Come soon again Lord Jesus !

All Power, and Glory, and Dominion, and Majesty are truly Yours forever and ever !! Amen and Amen !!