

# HALLELUJAH!

WHAT A SAVIOR

JESUS, OUR ASCENDED SAVIOR

Acts 1:6–11

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## RELATED SCRIPTURES

Amos 9:11–15 | Luke 24:13–27 | John 16:7

## STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 05.25.25

### SUMMARY

The book of Acts chronicles the “acts” of the apostles as the early church took form. But as this book begins, despite all that the apostles had seen in the resurrected Jesus, it’s clear they hadn’t grasped all that Jesus had done. By the end of Jesus’ ministry, the apostles were certain he was the long-awaited Messiah. But their perception of who the Messiah would be was misunderstood. The apostles and the rest of the Jewish nation believed the Messiah would be the conqueror who would free them from the oppressive rule of Rome and restore them to the greatness they once knew in the past under King David. However, instead of defeating Rome, Jesus was captured, tried, and crucified. They were sure he would be the one to redeem Israel (Luke 24:21). When the Father raised Jesus from the dead, their hopes were raised once again. But the disciples were still thinking in small terms when they asked the resurrected Jesus, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel (Acts 1:6)?” What the disciples missed—and was later understood by the power of the Holy Spirit—was that their oppressed state was a result of their disobedience; the Lord turned them over to their enemies just as he had done numerous times throughout their history. So, more than being delivered from another nation, they needed to be delivered from sin. So, Jesus, the Son of God, came in the flesh to *fulfill all righteousness* (Matthew 3:15) and be *perfectly* obedient—the very thing Israel could never do. And by his obedience and suffering on the cross, which paid for the sins of all his people, he redeemed Israel and ushered in his Kingdom. Since his redeeming work was complete, Jesus would ascend to the Father (v.9), taking his rightful place next to him in heaven. Jesus, our ascended Lord, now occupies his throne in heaven as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords; he has inaugurated his Kingdom. In the days after his ascension, the Holy Spirit empowered the apostles to carry out the church’s mission and be our abiding presence to bear witness to the present reign and rule of Jesus Christ. This is the good news of Jesus Christ!

### GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Acts 1:6–11.

The apostles expected that Jesus would restore the kingdom of Israel, but they didn’t understand how he would do this. Has there been a time when you believed God wasn’t meeting your expectations, only to realize he had something greater in mind?

What does the ascension of Christ mean to the modern-day Christian? What is its significance? How does where Jesus is *now* affect the way you live today?

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

### CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.