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HEAVEN IS REAL!

The ascension of Jesus after His resurrection raises Him to return to His eternal glory in Heaven, where He now reigns over His kingdom on earth and in Heaven, and over all things in the universe. He returns not to mystical ethereal space, but to a specific place: Heaven. And this speaks volumes to you today!

1- Heaven is a place. - Luke 24 records several astounding facts. Jesus was resurrected in a "glorified" physical body. Death could not hold Him. Jesus appeared in recognizable physical form to His disciples. He could suddenly disappear from sight. Or appear in a locked room. He ate food with them. They talked with Him, and touched Him.

Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended in the clouds to Heaven. And He promises to return again. Luke affirms this in Acts 1, as the angels said to the disciples, "*This Jesus who was taken up from you into heaven will come in the same way you saw him go.*"

2- Heaven is where Jesus is. - Bodies are corporeal, not spiritual, and require a localized place to exist. Jesus raised as the Son of Man, in a glorified resurrected body. He returned not to His pre-incarnate non-corporeal spiritual existence, but to a localized place called Heaven. He came from Heaven to earth, to a body, goes back to Heaven in a body, and will come again in a body. Jesus promised in John 14, "*I go to prepare a place for you, and I will come again to take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also.*"

God, the eternal trinity, three persons in one godhead, is still omnipresent. But the second person of the Trinity, the raised Son of Man, is localized in Heaven, where He dwells. Yet He also dwells in the lives of believers, through the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity. Jesus will always exist in the glorified resurrected human body in which He ascended to Heaven - so that we can know Him personally forever.

3- Heaven is where believers will go. - Scripture says those who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior will one day dwell eternally with Him in heaven. Jesus will return to earth, and all who believe in Him and have physically died will be resurrected to eternal spiritual existence in glorified bodies. Those who are alive when Jesus returns will be changed, their bodies glorified for heavenly existence.

Speaking of the resurrection of believers, 1 Corinthians 15 says, "*each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at His coming those who belong to Christ.*" 1 Thessalonians 4 explains, "*For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel and sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.*"

4- Heaven is the "real" existence of believers today. - In His final words to His disciples, Jesus clearly regarded His crucifixion, resurrection, ascension - "glorification" - as good as done before it happened. Now Jesus has been raised to glory, and He is our hope of glory. But this hope is not wishful thinking, it is guaranteed. So much so, Colossians 2 speaks of believers as already raised to heaven: "*You were also raised with Him through faith, in the powerful working of God...and made alive together with Him.*"

For believers, your earthly existence is temporary, but your eternal existence is in Heaven. Because as Scripture says, Christians are "*in union with Christ.*" Colossians 3 says, "*Since you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are in above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.*"

5- Will YOU go to heaven? - This is the great eternal question of your life. There is only one answer from Scripture. Not those who simply believe in God, but those who receive Jesus as Lord and Savior.

1 John 5:11 says, "*This is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.*" When you are born again from above by the Holy Spirit, you receive this eternal resurrection life. 1 John 5:13, "*I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.*"

Put all your trust in Jesus, and look forward to eternal life in Heaven - with Him *now and forever!*