



# GOD Is Just a Prayer Away



Heard on the following 50,000 Watt Stations Every Sunday

WLW	6:30 AM	700 DIAL	CINCINNATI, OH
WLW	8:00 AM	700 DIAL	CINCINNATI, OH
WRFD	10:00 AM	880 DIAL	COLUMBUS, OH
KXEL	10:30 PM	1540 DIAL	WATERLOO, IA
KLNG	7:30 AM	1560 DIAL	OMAHA, NE
WRVA	7:04 AM	1140 DIAL	RICHMOND, VA
WRVA	9:30 PM	1140 DIAL	RICHMOND, VA
KCNW	9:30 PM	1380 DIAL	KANSAS CITY, KS
WSM	7:00 AM	650 DIAL	NASHVILLE, TN
WIBC	7:30 AM	1070 DIAL	INDIANAPOLIS, IN
WHAS	7:30 AM	840 DIAL	LOUISVILLE, KY
KAAY	9:30 PM	1090 DIAL	LITTLE ROCK, AR
WMCL	8:30 AM	1060 DIAL	McLEANSBORO, IL
KXKS	7:00 AM	1190 DIAL	ALBUQUERQUE, NM
WOAI	10:30 PM	1200 DIAL	SAN ANTONIO, TX - SAT.

## SHORT WAVE RADIO

AFRICA:	Monday	7:00 PM	(1800 UTC)	7190 kHz on Dial
BIBLE VOICE				
EUROPE:	Sunday	8:00 AM	(0800 UTC)	5945 kHz on Dial
SRI LANKA				
INDIA:	Sunday	8:30 AM	(0800 UTC)	9770 kHz on Dial
BIBLE VOICE				
MIDDLE EAST:	Sunday	8:30 AM	(0830 UTC)	9430 on kHz Dial
BIBLE VOICE				
RUSSIA:	Sunday	8:00 PM	(1900 UTC)	6015 on kHz Dial
CHINA-ASIA &				
S. PACIFIC:	Saturday	6:30 AM	(1030 UTC)	9930 on kHz Dial

**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR MINISTRY ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

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Issue 5

## Jesus Ascended

Ladies and Gentlemen, there are several references in the New Testament regarding the ascension of Jesus to heaven after His resurrection. We are told that He spent forty days on earth instructing the Apostles before He was taken up. So the following is a short list of some of the references of that momentous event. What a day that was when Jesus was taken up.

Jesus Himself spoke of it as a marvel when he challenged some of His followers in John six, "What then, if you would see the Son of man ascending up where He was before." Perhaps this message will give a partial answer to that question of Jesus to modern day disciples.

### **THE ASCENSION OF JESUS IN MARK**

The first ascension story we note is in Mark. So then the Lord Jesus, after He had spoken unto them, was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word by the signs that followed. Amen.

When the Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God, His work continued on earth as the Apostles went forth and preached the gospel. But Jesus was more than a passive observer of the activity of the Apostles as they preached the word. Mark tells us that He worked with the Apostles from heaven confirming the word by the signs that followed.

However the Lord is still busy today working with those who preach the word as found in the book of Acts. In His providence Jesus brings together both the preacher and audience to hear about the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord, and the response that He requires. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Repent ye and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. And they went down into the water and both Philip and the Eunuch and he baptized him. Many of the Corinthians

hearing believed and were baptized. Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes and was baptized he and all his straight way. The emphasis on the ascension in Mark is on evangelism.

### **THE ASCENSION OF JESUS IN LUKE**

The account of the ascension according to Luke tells us, And He led them out until they were over against Bethany: and He lifted up His hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while He blessed them, He parted from them, and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: and were continually in the temple, blessing God.

The emphasis on the ascension of Jesus according to Luke seems to be more on the personal worship of the Apostles. They worshiped Him and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Today we need to worship in the temple. We do have a temple. Paul speaks of that temple when he says, "Know ye not that your body is the temple of God therefore glorify God in your body." Our worship in the temple is a day, by day experience of glorifying God in the life style of the Christian. Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the world; a city set on a hill cannot be hid." The Christian by his life should be just as conspicuous as a light on a hill.

Our worship also includes the gathering of the members of the local congregation together according to Act 20:7. And upon the first day of the week when we were gathered together to break bread....Our observance of the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week is a continual reminder to the world that Jesus died on the cross, was buried, ascended and is coming again.

### **THE ASCENSION OF JESUS IN ACTS**

In the ascension of Jesus according to the book of Acts the Lord was on the Mount of Olives with the Apostles. He had just told them that they would be His wit-

nesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when He had said these things as they were looking, He was taken up and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they were looking steadfastly into heaven as He went, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; who also said, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye looking into heaven?" This Jesus who is received up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye beheld Him going into heaven.

In this account of the ascension of Jesus it is emphasized that this same Jesus will return in like manner as He was seen going into heaven. The Second Coming is predicted in this account of the ascension.

One way He will come in like manner as He was seen going into heaven is in the Second Thessalonians when Paul speaks of the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with the angels of His power in flaming fire, rendering vengeance to them that know not God, and to them that have not obeyed the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Notice that Paul tells of angels in flaming fire in the Lord's return. That reminds us of the translation of Elijah. He was taken up in a chariot of fire. The chariot of fire must have been a company of angels that carried him up. In Hebrews chapter one we learn that He maketh his angels winds and His ministers a flame of fire. The angels that appeared to Gideon ascended back to heaven in a flame of fire. Jesus did not need a fiery chariot to take Him up to heaven; He ascended under His own power, but when He comes again the angels will return with Him in flaming fire. He shall come in like a manner as ye beheld Him going into heaven.

Then this statement of encouragement for the Christian as Mark records these words of Jesus regarding His coming in like manner as He was received up into heaven. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then shall He send forth His angels, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven. He shall come in like manner as ye beheld Him going into heaven.

#### **THE ASCENSION OF JESUS IN HEBREWS**

There is a reference to the ascension of the Lord Jesus in Hebrews the fourth chapter. Having then a great High Priest, who hath passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Jesus when He ascended passed through the heavens. The Jews in those days believed in three heavens. The first heaven was the heaven where the birds fly. Jesus said the birds of the heaven have nests, but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head. When the Lord ascended He did not stop somewhere in the heavens where birds and airplanes fly. The second heaven is the heaven where the stars, planets, sun, and moon, are to be found. Jesus referred to the second heaven when He said in regards to His second coming, the sun shall be darkened, the moon shall not give her light, and the powers of the heaven shall be shaken then the third heaven is the home of God and the entire heavenly host.

When the first Russian cosmonaut went up in space returned, he said he had been to heaven and he did not find

God up there. The reason he did not find God was because he did not go high enough. He went through the first, and second heaven, but there was no way he could ever get to the third heaven. No rocket ever made will blast off to the third heaven. Jesus said, "No man cometh unto the Father but by Me." We can blast off from Cape Canaveral and go to the moon, but to go to the third heaven you must blast off from Cape Calvary.

So Jesus passed through the heavens and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. The emphasis on this reference of the ascension of Jesus is that He sits at the right hand of God to be our intercessor. For there is one God and one mediator between man and God Himself man Christ Jesus.

#### **THE ASCENSION IN FIRST TIMOTHY**

There is one more reference to the ascension of Jesus we note in First Timothy the third chapter. Great is the mystery of godliness. He was manifested in the flesh. Some religions worship a god in the form of a bull or a crocodile. No one ever dreamed that God would visit the earth as a baby. Justified in the Spirit. He was justified in the Spirit at His baptism when the Spirit of God descended in the form of a dove and a voice was heard saying, "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." He was seen of angels. Angels announced His coming to the shepherds at Bethlehem. He was preached among the nations. The great commission instructed them to teach all nations. He was believed on in the world. John said, "He saw a number that no man could number out of every tribe and tongue and nation." Then he was received up in glory.

In this reference to the ascension of Jesus the emphasis is on the glory of the triumphant Son of God.

When Jesus went out of sight of the wondering Apostles, He was very much in sight of the host of heaven as they welcomed the King back home. They had seen Him leave home and now they see Him return. His arrival is no doubt what the Psalmist had in mind when he wrote these words. *Lift up your heads O ye gates and be ye lifted up ye everlasting doors and the King of glory shall come in.* The gates seem to be personified and they cry back in answer to the angels and say, "Who is this King of glory?" The angels call back the answer, "The Lord strong and mighty the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads O ye gates and be ye lifted up ye everlasting doors and the King of glory shall come in." And again the gates call back for more information; "Who is the King of glory?" Again the angels give the answer, "The Lord of hosts, He is the king of glory."

A Church of Christ evangelist of many years ago wrote a gospel song that tells about the ascension of Jesus. The lyrics of one verse tells us: *At His feet on old Olivet's Hill they say, Cloud chariots halted, took Christ away; Then the angels came and to wondering disciples said He'll come and earth and sea shall yield up their dead. I am so happy in Jesus, captivity's captor is He; angels rejoice when a soul's saved, some day we like Him shall be. Sorrow and joy have the same Lord, valley of shadows shall sing; death has its life, its door opens in heaven eternally, Christ is King.*



## GIJAPA'S NEW WEB SITE

*We have just launched a new web site. We've added a "Communion Meditation" section, listen to the "Radio Broadcast" at your convenience, download the current GIJAPA Newsletters as well as 2005, read or print out current "Sermons of the Week," as well as the ones from 2005 and much more.*

# Emancipation Proclamation

## A Communion Meditation

The Emancipation Proclamation was the document that gave freedom to the slaves in the United States. There is another Emancipation Proclamation in the word of God that gave freedom to a multiplied number that no man can number out of every language, tribe, tongue and nation. The biblical Emancipation Proclamation gave freedom from a tyranny far greater, and far more cruel, than any in the human race could devise.

In John eight Jesus told the Jews that believed on Him, "If ye abide in My word, then are ye truly My disciples; and ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

They answered Him, "We are Abraham's seed and have never been in bondage to any; how sayest Thou, Ye shall be made free?"

Jesus told them, "Every one that committeth sin is the bond servant of sin. And the bondservant abideth not in the house forever: the Son abideth forever. If therefore the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." This is the Emancipation Proclamation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the Emancipation Proclamation of Lincoln, there were some slaves who were used as cooks and domestic slaves in the house of the master, and had no desire to be free. The responsibility of making a living on their own was greater than being free.

In a similar way there are many Christians who are not ready to assume the challenge of freedom and prefer the slavery of their old master the Devil, and continue to submit to the practice of drugs, immorality, and drunkenness.

That is why Jesus said the bondservant lives not in the house forever, but the Son abideth forever. The slaves in the days of Lincoln must have known they might not abide in the masters house forever; they could be sold off at any time. The bondservant who continues to serve old master Devil in the house of God may be sold off at the Judgment Day.

The price of freedom was high in both Emancipation Proclamations. More people died to bring freedom to the slaves in the War between the States, than died in the Revolution, World War I, World War II, and all the other wars our nation has fought. The price in the war for our freedom from sin was even greater. When Jesus died on the cross, it was not the death of one man. He felt the fear and the guilt of every dying sinner since Adam and Eve. The word of God declares that Jesus tasted of death once for every man.

So as we eat the loaf and drink the cup, remember this act is a reminder of our Emancipation Proclamation. Free at last, free at last, Thank God Almighty free at last!

## Letters

Hello family Bousman! Thank you for writing! I am every Sunday on my Short wave radio and listen your very good Programmes via BVB on 5945 Khz with a very good Signal! All the Best. Many greetings. Your Website is very nice, especially your LOGO! I will stay tune on your Part of the BVB Programmes and will send regularly Reports about it! GOD's much Blessing.

Heinz

KAPFENBERG in AUSTRIA, EUROPA

Dear Brethren in Christ,

Maybe you will astonished to get a letter from such a far-away country as Kazakhstan. My name is Alexander; I am a Russian guy 44 years old, living in the city of Almaty. I am a searching Christina and used to read Christian spiritual literature and listen to Christian radio programs. I always listen to your programs--Bible Voice Russia when I can get your wave on my wireless, so I dare address you with a special request. Would you be so kind as to send me the complete Bible in English and namely the American Standard Version or the NASB? I have long dreamt to have namely this variant, since we read it some years ago with an American believer, who was here on business trip. Your activity is very noble; you bring the light of the word to the world that is why I hope you can help me. Thank you very much in advance! It will be a very powerful spiritual support for me. God richly bless you.

Yours in Christ,

Alex from RUSSIA

Hello Ed,

This is Yohannes your previous Bible correspondence student from Eritrea. It had been almost a year since I stop my study. Sorry it is due to the persecution in our country. Now all Christian Churches are closed by the government and we experience much persecution even to have the Bible. So for that and other reason I had come here to Sudan. Now I would like to continue my study. I am looking forward to hearing from you soon. God bless you.

From Khartoum, Sudan

## *Our Outreach in Monrovia, Liberia*

Dear Brother Bousman,

Greetings. In as much as you know Bro. Barry Kermeen, (that was in Liberia last year with White Fields Evangelism) said that you might have some Bible Study materials that we could use I am grateful for your concern about the New Testament Church in Liberia. Currently we have 23 churches in Monrovia 23 preachers shepherding

these congregations. 90% of these preachers need further training and teachings in the New Testament faith. We would appreciate any contribution on your part in this worthy direction. I hope to monitor your radio program on radio Africa on the short wave band by 7:00 p.m. local time on Mondays within these weeks and, will give you the feedback.

Yes, brother we need NIV and KJV English Bibles for our congregations.

In Christ Mike Foday from Monrovia, LIBERIA

Dear Brother Bousman,

Yesterday I received the first package of study materials you sent February 23rd 2006. Regrettably the Bible was stolen from the box at the during transit. Only the 5 lessons sent for brother Aaron Wishnant was received. The parcel was torn at the edges and retaped with white cellotape around the edges and the center. I have completed making an arrangement with one Etta P. of U.S.A. through her agent in Liberia to receive our packages.

In Christ, Mike, one of 23 Church of Christ preachers in Monrovia, LIBERIA

Dear Brother Bousman,

No need to contact Etta again. Our female president, madam Ellen Johnson, is doing a clean up of all corrupt officers and practices from all the government ministries. Just last week 7 employees of the postal ministry were sacked and detained for postal theft waiting trial. You can send all the lessons and the Bibles by insured post. You may put all the 23 lessons with the Bibles in the box and mail it to me. Please notify me the moment it is been sent. I will likewise inform you immediately I receive them.

In Christ

(We have sent out the 23 Bibles and Bible Study lessons to the preachers in Monrovia, Liberia)

Ed,

As I have been reading your newsletters that you have been sending me, I can't help but being touched by those who write in from other countries that cry out for Bibles. I use one but have many. I'm sure I'm not alone on that. I would like to think that no one would want to throw out a Bible. If you want, I could start up a drive to donate used Bibles to send to you for those who desperately want them. Having a son that was serving in the US Army in Iraq, I know postage isn't cheap. I don't have much money, but I'm sure I can help you out by getting people to donate Bibles they don't use. Preacher, I've learned much from you! I know it's God's word that you are teaching, but through you, I've learned to understand it. God bless all who fight and teach in the name of our Lord.

Jerry from Avon, Indiana

(We can use as many GOOD USED Bibles as you can send us).

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am the Children's Sunday school teacher for the 4-6 age group, and am excited to share our gift with you. The children wanted to use their collection money to help spread God's word to those who may not be able to afford proper study materials. They have learned that God speaks to all of us through the Bible, and their wish is that this money would be used for that purpose. Enclosed is a check for \$125. The children would like to know how many Bibles were purchased with their donation and if they went to adults or children.

In His Love, Diane Wilcox and her 4-6 y/o SS Class from Iron Mountain--Kingsford Church of Christ in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. (We sent 25 Bibles and Bible Studies to children in India--see picture below.)



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