

"Built for Action; Powered by the Spirit!"

### "Coming and Going" Core 38

*"When He had said these things, as they were looking on, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight."*

*Acts 1:9*

## A. Jesus' last good-bye on earth...

*"Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And He said, 'Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of His Name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: "There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent." You are witnesses of all these things.' And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as My Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven." Then Jesus led them to Bethany, and lifting His hands to heaven, He blessed them. While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up to heaven. So they worshiped Him and then returned to Jerusalem filled with great joy. And they spent all of their time in the Temple, praising God." Luke 24:45-53*

1. Jesus' earthly ministry was complete, and He had to return to heaven.

*"When Jesus had tasted it, He said, 'It is finished!' Then He bowed His head and gave up His spirit." John 19:30*

2. Jesus' going allowed the Spirit's coming.  
*"But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send Him to you." John 16:7*

3. Jesus' heavenly ministry needed His presence.  
*"Then the seventh angel blew His trumpet, and there were loud voices shouting in heaven: 'The world has now become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.'" Revelation 11:15*

4. Jesus had to go so that He could come again!

*"Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven. And everyone will see Him—even those who pierced Him. And all the nations of the world will mourn for Him. Yes! Amen!" Revelation 1:7*

## B. Jesus' heavenly ministry...

1. Jesus returned to the Father.  
*"I brought glory to You here on earth by completing the work You gave Me to do. Now, Father, bring Me into the glory We shared before the world began." John 17:4-5*

2. Jesus is now interceding for us.  
*"He was handed over to die because of our sins, and He was raised to life to make us right with God. Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us." Romans 4:25-5:1*  
*"For, there is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus." 1 Timothy 2:5*  
*"Therefore He is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through Him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf." Hebrews 7:25*

3. Jesus is our Advocate in heaven.  
*"My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous." 1 John 2:1*

4. Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
*"Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand." Colossians 3:1*

5. Jesus is reigning as Judge and King of heaven.  
*"For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body." 2 Corinthians 5:10*  
*"Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for He judges fairly and wages a righteous war." Revelation 19:11*

*"He wore a robe dipped in blood, and His title was the Word of God... On His robe at His thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords." Revelation 19:13,16*

## C. Our work is not complete...

*"Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday He will return from heaven in the same way you saw Him go!'" Acts 1:11*

1. We are called to live boldly as servants of heaven.  
Nothing we do on earth is in vain.

*"So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless." 1 Corinthians 15:58*

2. No matter what you are facing, Jesus cares about your struggle.

*"Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you." 1 Peter 5:7*

3. Jesus has given us power to be His witnesses.  
*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be My witnesses, telling people about Me everywhere..." Acts 1:8a*

4. There is hope in our glorious future He has prepared for us.

*"There is more than enough room in My Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with Me where I am." John 14:2-3*

5. He is coming again and wants us to be prepared!  
*"For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words." 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18*