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Acts Ascension - Acts 1:9-11 - The Ascension



By Dan Maines

Acts 1:9-11 - The Ascension

"And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were watching, and a cloud took Him up out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, then behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them, and they said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.'" (Acts 1:9-11 NASB)

This passage is often misunderstood as pointing to a future, physical return of Jesus. But as a Preterist, I understand this as a reference to His coming in judgment, which took place in AD 70. He ascended in the clouds, but the cloud was not the focus - it was His power and glory. The angels said He would come in the same way, meaning in the same manner, not the same form. He left in power and was enthroned in heaven (Acts 2:33-36), and He returned in power and glory - just as He said He would (Matthew 24:30).

The judgment that came upon Jerusalem was very real and very literal. The temple was destroyed, the city was leveled, and the old covenant system was brought to an end. This was not some abstract or symbolic event - it was the visible manifestation of Jesus' authority and the fulfillment of His promise to return within that generation (Matthew 24:34).

Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 5:16, "Therefore from now on we recognize no one by the flesh; even though we have known Christ by the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer." (NASB)

This reinforces that we are no longer looking for a fleshly Jesus to return. His kingdom is not of this world, and His presence is not tied to a physical body on earth. He now reigns in glory, and His return was seen in the events of AD 70, when He came just as He promised - on the clouds, with power and great glory.

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