

Acts 1:9 “And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.”

- “as they were looking on”
- “out of their site”
- “gazing into heaven”
- “looking into heaven”
- “saw him go into heaven”

“the story is unsentimental, almost uncannily austere.”

-Ernst Haeckel

“Luke tells the story of the ascension with simplicity and sobriety. All the extravagances associated with the Apocryphal Gospels are missing. There is no embroidery such as we find in legends. There is no evidence of poetry or symbolism... It reads like history, and as if Luke intended us to accept it as history.”

-John Stott

- “lifted up”
- “A cloud took him out of their sight”
- “taken up...into heaven”

something happened *to* Jesus

# Luke 24

Two things:



First, Jesus is *still* fully God and fully man.  
Jesus is still a human being.

Second, because of Jesus, embodied humanity is welcome in God's space.

**Our bodies are not a liability.**

“And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

verse 11: “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Three options:

Option 1: It's all false.

Option 2: The ascension is true historical event,  
but it means that God is indifferent.



Option 3: The ascension is a true historical event, and it is somehow mysteriously better that Jesus ascended than if he had stayed here.

John 16:7: “I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.”

“It is to your advantage.”

Acts 2:33: “Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.”

The Holy Spirit is the reason that it is to our advantage that Jesus ascended.

The Spirit of Christ dwells in me.

Through the Holy Spirit, you actually have a closer relationship to Jesus than the disciples did when he walked with them on the earth.

Romans 8:34: “Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”



This is what Jesus is doing: He is using his position in the throne room of heaven to advocate for you.

We are at the center of the intra-Trinitarian conversation. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are hearing our prayers and talking amongst themselves about living in beautiful union with us, even in the midst of the grave difficulties and disappointments of life.

Romans 8:34: “Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”

Verse 35: “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?”

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?  
Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or  
famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?”

Verse 37: “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”