

a Sermon on the
Ascension of Christ
Preached on Shickel
Hill, May 31. 1835
Sunday night

Box of Mrs J. M. Brown

Mark 16. 9. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God - When we hear of great men, and their great service to mankind, there arises in the mind a spirit of inquisitive solicitude to know the history of their lives, the place of their nativity - the various deeds of their benevolence - how they finished their course, parted with their friends, and made their exit from the scene of time.

But when we contemplate the character of the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world, the greatest man that have ever lived upon the earth dwindle into insignificance and bear no comparison ^{whatsoever} with him who tasted death for every man and brought life and immortality to light by the power of the gospel. The life of Christ was the most ex

—Traordinary and eventful that was
ever led upon the earth. A life an-
ticipated by saints, portrayed by pro-
phets — pre-figured by types, and in the
fulness of time exhibited in the
world — Every circumstance therefore
that was disclosed in a life, which
was designed to be the pattern and
the price of ours, excites a peculiarity
of interest, which admits of no com-
parison; and if any went in
such a life merits more than
usual attention, it is unquestionably
that which closed the impressive scene,
and terminated the Saviour's mortal
pilgrimage — This important period
in the life of Christ is brought to
view in the words of the text. "So
then after the Lord had spoken to them
he was received up into heaven, and set
on the right ~~of~~ hand of God".

This subject you perceive bears a

very near relation to the one which
we considered this morning. In the
morning our discourse was founded
upon the resurrection of Christ, on
this occasion we shall direct your
attention for a short time to his tri-
umphant ascension from earth
to heaven -

I we shall consider the period when
Christ ascended - It is said in the
text after the Lord had spoken to them,
he was received up into heaven. This
speech was delivered to his disciples, the
substance of which is related in the
preceding part of the Chapter.
He upbraided for their unbelief
& hardness of heart. The subject of
their unbelief was the resurrection of
Christ - a fact of the highest im-
portance, for if Christ be not risen
preaching is vain and faith is
vain, and the apostles were false
witnesses of God - This important

truth was established by the clearest
evidence, [which we adduced this
morning] - It was predicted by the pro-
phets of the old Testament, and inti-
mated by Christ himself ^{before his death} - When
he came down from the mountain
after his transfiguration, he charged
^{his disciples} to tell what things they had seen
No man ^{till the Son of man were risen from}
the dead. - He said also to the Jews
"destroy this temple, and in three days
I will raise it up." These predictions
were fulfilled in the most literal man-
ner when Christ rose from the grave.
This fact was testified first by Mary
Magdalene; he then appeared to two
of his disciples, who communicated the
^{pleasing intelligence} ~~fact~~ to the others; - but they believed
it not - Although the Saviour had
informed them, that he would rise
from dead, and although he had
been seen by some of them after this
glorious event, and although all

their hopes were suspended upon the truth of this fact yet it was entirely discredited by the Apostles, until they had seen him with their own eyes, felt him with their hands, and entered into familiar conversation with him.

Here we ~~may~~ see the nature of unbelief generally — — — — —
Well might the Saviour say to the Pharisees, "If ye believe not that I am he ye shall die in your sins."

Christ also upbraided his disciples with hardness of heart, which not unfrequently gives birth to unbelief. Faith refers as much to the disposition of the heart, as to the ascent of the understanding, & where the heart is hard & unfeeling, the importance of Divine truth will be unperceived, and its evidences unexamined. Hence it is said by St. Paul, with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, & with the mouth Confession is made unto salvation —

2. In the various speech to the disci-
-ples he gave them a special direction
"Go (said he) into all the world, & preach
the gospel to every creature. He that
believeth & is baptised shall be saved;
but he that believeth not shall be
damned!" — The work assigned them
was to "preach the gospel" — not false
doctrines, not human opinions,
not Jewish Ceremonies, nor themselves
but the gospel of Christ which is the
glad tidings of great joy, which is
the power of God unto salvation to
all that believe — The sphere of their
operation was the whole earth, not
in populous Cities, and enlightened Coun-
tries only, but go into all the world, &
preach the gospel to every creature
in every land, and of every tongue, &
every colour — old & young, white &
Coloured, bond & free, Saint and Sinner
proclaim to them all the gospel of
peace & salvation

3. Christ also Comforted his disciples, by
the promise of a miraculous influ-
ence with which they should be
invested - These signs shall follow
them that believe. "In my name
shall they cast out Devils. Devils
had previously been subject to them, &
according to the primitive Fathers the
power of Casting out Devils was con-
tinued in the Church for many years.
"They shall speak with new tongues." This
promise was remarkably fulfilled on
the day of Pentecost - When the
day of Pentecost was fully come
they were all with one accord in
one place, and suddenly there came
a sound from heaven, as of a rushing
mighty wind, & it filled all the house
where they were sitting, and there ap-
peared unto them cloven tongues like
as of fire, & it sat upon each of them,
and they were all filled with the

Holy Ghost, and began to speak with
other tongues as the spirit gave them
utterance

"They shall take up serpents;" which
St Paul did in the island of Melita
without feeling any hurt whatever

"If they drink any deadly thing, either
by accident or compulsion, it
shall not hurt them; & they shall
lay hands on the sick and they
shall recover - Such was the
address which our Lord delivered
to his disciples previous to his
ascension - He reproved them -
He gave them their commission -
and their encouragement.

II. In the second place we shall speak
of the manner of Christ's ^{Ascension} ~~Resurrection~~. "He was
received up into heaven".

The ~~resurrection~~ ascension of Christ was ac-
complished by his own eternal power. Therefore
it is said, "When he ascended up on high he
led captivity captive and gave gifts unto men"

The acts of redemption were Christ's personal acts. He made a voluntary sacrifice of himself for the sins of the world: he had power to lay down his life and take it again - His resurrection was also effected by his own infinite energy; and at his ascension "he went up into heaven," not in appearance only, but really and locally.

2. The ascension of Christ was publicly witnessed by his disciples - While he was pronouncing his last blessing upon them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. He had previously told them that it was expedient that he should go away. And during the forty days that he continued with them, after his resurrection, it is probable he had prepared their minds for the solemn scene which they were about to witness; for they were so far from being disappointed or even sorrowful at his removal from them, that they returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God.

3. The ^{ascension} Resurrection of Christ was hailed with transport by ministering angels. David in speaking of this event says the Chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels - This passage refers to a military triumph, where the conqueror returns victoriously from the field of battle, amid the shouts and plaudits of the inhabitants who come forth to hail him welcome to his native place.

That angels felt a deep concern in what Christ did upon earth is evident from a variety of scriptures - they announced his birth, ministered to him in the wilderness - strengthened him in his agony - ~~attended him in his resurrection~~ and when he ascended up to heaven

Cherubic legions guarded him home

And shouted him welcome to the skies

He was received up into heaven, by angels, principalities, and powers, & the spirits of just men made perfect

St Luke declares that a cloud received
him, but who can tell what amazing
scenes were unfolded beyond that
cloud - This was certainly the most
glorious and triumphant event of his
life upon earth - ~~After~~ He ~~had~~ suffered
many afflictions previous to his cruci-
fixion - He was a man of sorrows
and acquainted with grief - The foxes
said he have holes and the birds of
the air have nests but the son of
man hath not where to lay his head
Look at him in the garden of Geth-
semane, down upon his knees on the
cold ground sweating great drops of
blood - See betrayed by one of his
own disciples by a deceitful kiss.
Look at him at the bar of Pilate
forsaken by every human friend -
hear the multitude crying out
Crucify him, Crucify him -
Look at him marching up

the hill of Calvary surrounded by
a band of soldiers - See them nail-
ing his feet and his hands to the
rugged wood - See ^{him} raised up ~~on~~
the Cross in the midst of the crowd
a spectacle of derision - How how
he groans while nature shakes - his
falling tear puts out the sun - See
him bowing his sacred head and cry-
ing out it is finished - See him
~~lying~~ lying in the sepulchre cold
in death while his enemies triumphed
~~at~~ at the dreadful deed which they had
committed - But behold him on the
third day, sees the dead revive a-
gain, the rising dead for sakes the
tomb - He remained with his dis-
ciples forty days, preparing them
for the great work upon which
they were about to enter - After
he had finished his mission in
the world, he led his disciples out
to Bethany that they might have

of his triumphant
ascension to heaven - While his dis-
ciples stood around him, who had been
with him for several years, Jesus
lifted up his hands to give them
his farewell blessing - And as he
pronounced the blessing, he commen-
ced rising - While he continued to
rise a winding cloud surrounded
him, and wafted him through air
towards the heaven to which he was
going - Angels beheld the mighty
conqueror coming, and turned their
harps to sing a song which never
~~had~~ was sung before -

Some all your bands of mossy light
And wide unfold the ethereal scene
He claims these mansions as his right -
Receive the King of glory in
Who is the King of glory who?
The Lord that all our foes o'ercome

The world, sin, death, & hell our enemies,
And Jesus is the conqueror's name.

The disciples were so delighted & enraptured
and carried away in their contemplation
at the sight, that after he had gone
beyond their sight, they still ~~stood~~ remain
where they were standing, looking up
with steadfast gaze into the blue sky
which Jesus had penetrated with so
much triumph - While they stood
there looking, catching the last sound
of the heavenly music which surround-
ed the Son of God as he ascended the
skies, they saw two angels clothed in
white apparel who said unto them
ye men of Gallilee, why stand ye gaz-
ing up into heaven. This same Jesus
which is taken up from you into
heaven, shall so come in like man-
ner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

place we have in these
words, the subsequent situation of C.
He sat ~~at~~ on the right hand of God.
The government of the world & the Church
is in the hands of C., & he is set
at the right hand of God to carry
on his mediatorial work.

There he makes intercession
for us; There he dispenses
favours; and there he receives
our prayers and hears the
various complaints of his
people - Having despised the
he has us? the new?

1. Christ finish his work

2. Christ is exalted for us.

Richmond May 31. 1835-

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