

Ephesians Series

Lesson #125

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Why the Ascension of Christ is Important in our Spiritual Lives

Ephesians 4:7–16



EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

Question 1

Vss. 4–6, What would you say is the key word?

Eph. 4:4, “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;

Eph. 4:5, “one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

Eph. 4:6, “one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

Question 2: In vss. 1–4, would you say this is related to
a. application of the word, or
b. instruction related to what we have been given, or
who we are?

Eph. 4:1, “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Eph. 4:2, “with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

Eph. 4:3, “endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Would you say Eph. 4:7–13 is related to

a. application of the word, or

b. instruction related to what we have been given, or who we are?

Eph. 4:7, “But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

Eph. 4:8, “Therefore He says: ‘When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.’

Eph. 4:9, “(Now this, ‘He ascended’—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?

Eph. 4:10, “He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

Eph. 4:11, “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

Eph. 4:12, “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

Eph. 4:13, “till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;”

What is the problem that Paul has been addressing here in especially Ephesians 2:11 down to the present?

- A. The problem of the inadequacies of their personal relationships, and the need for a spiritual formation group to share your problems and difficulties.**
- B. The problem of not understanding your social identity group and conforming to it.**
- C. The problem of a lack of justice for your socio-economic group.**
- D. The problem is the failure of the Roman Empire to deal with the socio-economic disparities of the culture.**
- E. The problem of disunity between Jew and Gentile, but also between believers. The solution: understand what God has provided for us in the Church Age, through the ascension of Christ.**

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Eph. 4:7, “But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

Eph. 4:8, “Therefore He says: ‘*When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.*’ ” [Psa. 68:18]

Questions that ought to come to our minds:

- **Why did Christ have to ascend at all, why not just begin the kingdom? Acts 1:6**
- **Why did Christ have to ascend before sending the Holy Spirit? (John 16:7)**
- **Why did Christ have to ascend before giving spiritual gifts?**
- **What is the connection between the Ascension of Christ and the giving of gifts?**

What the Bible Teaches About

The Ascension: Basic Verses



**Mark 16:19, “So then, after the Lord had spoken to them,
He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right
hand of God.”**

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ἀναλαμβάνω *analambanō*

3 sing aor pass indic

to take up, raise, take to oneself

Jesus receives the action of being taken up to heaven

Luke 24:49, “ ‘Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.’

Luke 24:50, “And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them.

Luke 24:51, “Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven.”

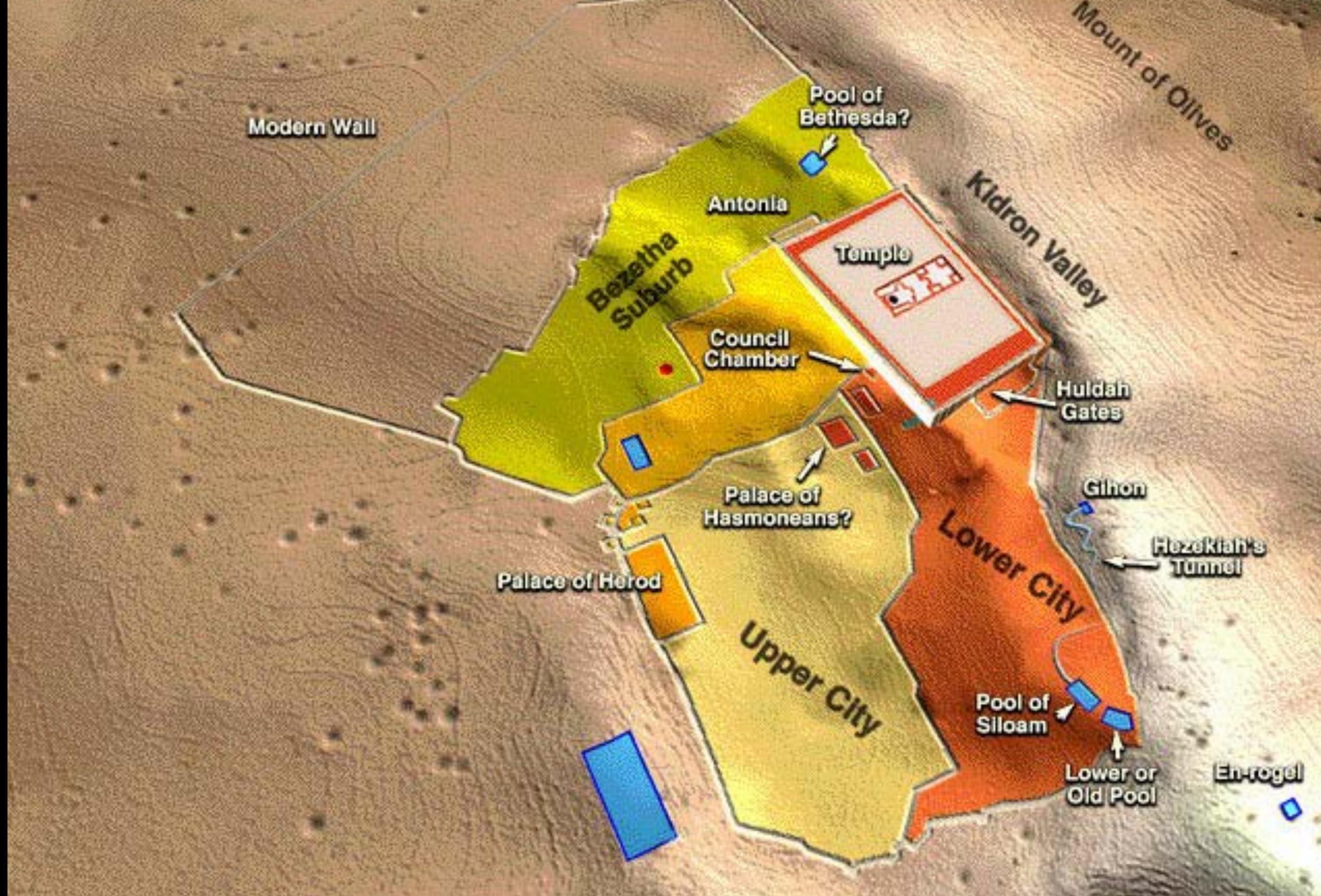
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Luke 24:51, “Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted [separated] from them and carried up into heaven.”

**διίστημι *diistēmi* 3
sing aor act indic
to set apart,
separate; stand apart**

**ἀναφέρω *anapherō*
3 sing imperf pass indic
to bring up, carried up to, taken up**





Acts 1:4, “And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, ‘which,’ He said, ‘you have heard from Me;’ ” ...

Acts 1:8, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:9, “Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.”

**ἐπαίρω *epairō*
3 sing aor pass
indic to lift up**

**ὑπολαμβάνω *hupolambanō*
3 sing aor act indic to
suppose; to lift up; to reply**



Acts 1:10, “And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,

Acts 1:11, “who also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.’ ”

Zech. 14:4, “And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south.”

What the Bible Teaches About

The Ascension: Background

