

(Acts 1:9-11) After He had said this, He was taken up as they were watching, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. While He was going, they were gazing into heaven, and suddenly two men in white clothes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you have seen Him going into heaven."

OUR HOPE

Christ has given His followers some very basic reasons for profound HOPE.

1. Jesus Blessed Us

(Luke 24:50-51) Then He led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up His hands He blessed them. And while He was blessing them, He left them...

- A. He extended to us His favor.
- B. He assured us of His continued presence.
- C. He granted us spiritual prosperity.
- D. He covered us with His grace.
- E. He promised us His power.
- F. He made available to us His peace.

2. Jesus Left Us

(Acts 1:9) After He had said this, He was taken up as they were watching, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

(Luke 24:1) And while He was blessing them, He left them and was carried up into heaven.

(John 16:5) "Now I am going away to Him who sent Me."

(John 16:7) "I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away."

- A. He left in a new body.
- B. He left to a new place.

(John 14:1-2) "Your heart must not be troubled Believe in God; believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if not, I would have told you. I am going away to prepare a place for you."

- C. He left for a new role.

(Luke 1:32-33) "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

3. Jesus Will Fetch Us

- A. He is coming again.

(10-11) While He was going, they were gazing into heaven, and suddenly two men in white clothes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you have seen Him going into heaven."

- B. He is coming bodily.

(1 Thessalonians 4:16) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel's voice, and with the trumpet of God.

- C. He is coming for US!

(John 14:2-3) In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if not, I would have told you. I am going away to prepare a place for you. If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come back and receive you to Myself, so that where I am you may be also.