

Q28. Wherein consisteth Christ's exaltation?

A28. **Christ's exaltation consisteth in his rising again from the dead on the third day, in ascending up into heaven, in sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and in coming to judge the world at the last day.**

Scripture References: 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Acts 1:9; Ephesians 1:19-20; Acts 1:11, 17:31

DQ1: In A28, how many steps are described in Christ's exaltation?

DQ2: How was Christ's exaltation expressed in His resurrection?

DQ3: How was Christ's exaltation expressed in His ascension?

DQ4: How was Christ's exaltation expressed in His throne seat?

DQ5: How was Christ's exaltation expressed in His promise of return?

DQ6: What does Christ's exaltation have to do with us?

DQ7: What results would we have experienced if Christ was not exalted?

Notes:

Christ was exalted because He humbled Himself. If Christ was not exalted after His humiliation, He would be nothing more than a great man. Christ, however, was exalted just as the Scripture promised. Christ's exaltation would prove His victory and all of His people would join Him in His victory.

Christ's resurrection clearly speaks to His victory. Sin and death could not suppress or overcome Christ. His own death came only by His will and permission. His resurrection came by His power. Christ's resurrection is unique and truly special for no one has ever resurrected on his own power, except Christ.

History is replete with doubts and questions regarding Christ's resurrection. Yet, Christ's resurrection is an undeniable truth which has firmly withstood the challenges for 2,000 years. We must recognize that there is no reasonable basis to deny Christ's resurrection. In fact, the Biblical proof of Christ's resurrection cannot be defeated.

Christ's ascension speaks to the job completed. Christ ascended into heaven having finished His work and accomplished all the purposes for which He came. This is yet another victory. Christ's bodily ascension means that there is a definite place to which He returned. We do not know where that might be but, when Christ returns, He will take us to a location. Remember, Christ ascended in His own body. Christ will return in the same manner as He ascended.

Christ's sitting on the throne signifies that He is a King. His Kingship expresses that all things are under His authority. Christ returned to the glorious throne after His humiliation. What is interesting is the expression that Christ is sitting on the right hand of God. This of course is a

figurative expression. It simply means a place of honor. Christ who came to the world returned to the throne as God-man. Thereupon, the God-man Christ sits at the place of honor as God.

Christ's return speaks to His promise that He will fully restore His elect. Christ came as a redeemer at the time of His first coming. But the returning Christ will be coming to judge the world.

There are several certainties about Christ's second coming. First, no one knows the day and time of His return and God has not spoken to any one regarding the exact timing of His return. (Mark 13:32, Acts 1:7) Second, Christ will return as a thief in the night and will surprise everyone. For this reason, we need to be well-prepared at all times. Third, Christ's return will not be in secret but will be revealed to the world at one time. Fourth, at the time of Christ's return, all the dead will rise up. (John 5:28) Fifth, at the time of Christ's return, all the living will be transformed instantly. (1 Thessalonians 4:17, 1 Corinthians 5:10) Sixth, Christ will separate the saved and unsaved.

How can we be certain of the return of Christ? First, there is the evidence of the Word of God. If the Bible is trustworthy, then the promises in the Bible should be trustworthy. Second, Christ perfectly fulfilled all of His own prophecies regarding Him. For example, Christ repeatedly told His disciples that He had to suffer death on the cross. He was crucified. Christ predicted that He will rise from the dead. He rose again. Christ talked about His ascension. He did. When Christ says He will return. He will. There can be no doubt.

Without Christ's exaltation, our faith would be futile and we are to be pitied more than others. But, by Christ's exaltation, our faith stands on a firm foundation.