

Beyond the Veil

(John 17, Acts 1.1-11)

Luke shows us the Lord's entrance into glory...

Outside the Cloud

1. In the Bible, a cloud often signified the presence of _____.

And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. (Exodus 13.21)

The glory of the LORD dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. (Exodus 24.16)

Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying... a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!" (Luke 9.28-35)

2. The cloud was not so that God could hide, but so that man would _____.

Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank. (Exodus 24.9-11)

Moses said, "Please show me your glory." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." And the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen." (Exodus 33.18-23)

3. Yet here, Luke tells us that God's presence _____ a man!

Beyond the Veil

4. Christ's entrance into heaven signifies _____ over all our enemies.

For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. (Hebrews 9.24)

5. Christ entered heaven clothed in his active and passive _____.

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. (Hebrews 7.25)

6. The ascension shows God's loving heart - his plan to _____ our race.

And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed... Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth... Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. (John 17.5, 17, 24)

Champion of Souls

(1 Chronicles 11.1-25, Romans 8.31-39, Acts 1.1-11)

How Jesus defends our souls in his ascension...

Against the World

1. Negatively in Scripture, 'world' means life without God at the _____.

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (1 John 2.15)

2. By ascending, Jesus raises our perspective to a world _____ this life.

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

(Colossians 3.1-2)

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. (John 14.3)

3. Secret to keeping this life in focus? – Always keep one eye on _____.

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

(2 Corinthians 4.16-18)

Against the Flesh

4. By 'flesh,' Scripture means our _____ and _____ nature.

*"Flesh on the one hand is a description of all that is man, and on the other of the sinful in man."
(Herman Ridderbos)*

5. Upon his ascension, Jesus pours out his own _____ to change us.

"Moses' law has right but not might; Sin's law has might but not right; the law of the Spirit has both right and might." (T.W. Manson)

6. By continuing as our living priest, Jesus _____ our lives before God.

...you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2.5)

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4.16)

Against the Devil

7. When we're tempted to despair, we look to him through his _____.

But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins... (1 John 2.1-2)

8. Clothed in all his obedience, Jesus beats every _____ against us.

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. (Romans 8.34)