

## 09.16.20 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

**Title:** He is Coming Back

**Scripture Reading:** [Acts 1: 8-14](#)

**Reflection:** Pastor Evan

Pastor Doug introduced his sermon recently by telling about his grandson Mason who some years back was anticipating his fourth birthday. When asked what gift he wanted for his birthday, he answered, "I want to be four." Since this was some years back, I feel confident to say that by now the God-given gift of being four is in Mason's rear-view mirror. But living for a year as a four-year-old is a legitimate and historical part of Mason's life that can never be redone. It can be remembered, but never redone.

Yet, Mason and you and I have the God-given gift of life to look forward to for as long as God gives us life on this earth. We have a lot to look forward to, don't we? Every day, emptied of ourselves and filled with the Spirit of God, we are equipped and gifted to bring the reality of God's kingdom in our world and culture as it is in heaven.

In [Acts 1:6](#) the apostles ask Jesus to specify times and dates regarding the restoration of God's kingdom to Israel (and with that restoration of course would mean Israel's ruling over other worldly kingdoms).

Jesus' answer to the apostles lacks specificity regarding times and dates, but reveals to them and to us that God's kingdom has come in Jesus; it was experienced in the ministry of Jesus and teaching of Jesus, it was announced publicly when Pontius Pilate (the enemy's representative) wrote, announced and posted that Jesus was "the King of the Jews" (and therefore the king of God's world and people). Jesus publicly defeated the powers of the world in his being lifted up before the world on the cross and being raised from the dead (the enemy's last hope) and it was about to be confirmed forever when he ascended into heaven.

In other words, Jesus said to the apostles, "Don't worry about future times and dates because the time of God's Kingdom is now!" And with that true news, Jesus ascends into the cloud of God's glory, leaving behind the apostles who were understandably left gazing into the sky. Now, Jesus is at God's right hand, possessing all authority in heaven and on earth until he, "this same Jesus" comes again with the restored, renewed, and refreshed heaven and earth. And this presence of the new heaven and earth will never end.

Yes, Mason, there is a real King and his name is Jesus! Jesus, the King of Kings has gifted us with the Holy Spirit and with power to serve him by loving and serving others, after surrendering ourselves. To all I say, "Do not worry about times and dates, but empty yourself to be filled with the Holy Spirit. And with His filling reveal God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven, taking the lead in rattling the foundations and walls of the earthly powers, giving witness to the ascended and reigning Lord of lords and King of kings.

Prepare yourself for Jesus return in the cloud of God's glory.

**Prayer:**

In the stillness and silence of your presence, I give up myself, my heart, soul, mind and strength to you, Almighty God and Father. I confess that too often I still pursue my agenda in the face of your eternal plan for me, your world, and those around me. After I have truly emptied myself, please fill me with your Spirit that I might delight in your will and walk in your ways, for your glory. AMEN

**Activity and personalization of God's truth:**

Watch this animated version of the Ascension of Jesus and tell someone what it means.

Children's Version of the Ascension: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcFw8pLBSIo>

**Song:**

[He's Coming Back Again](#)