

THE EASTER STORY

GOLGOTHA TO GLORY

A silhouette of a person carrying a cross up a hill against a blue sky. The person is on the right side of the frame, walking up a slope. The cross is large and dark. The sky is a gradient of light blue to white. The text 'GOLGOTHA TO GLORY' is overlaid on the image in a large, dark, serif font. 'GOLGOTHA' is on the top line, 'TO' is on the second line, and 'GLORY' is on the third line. The 'TO' is smaller and has a horizontal line underneath it.

Christ Ascended For Our Hope

(Luke 24:50-51) ... lifting up his hands he blessed them. And while he was blessing them, he left them and was carried up into heaven.

(Acts 1:9) ... he was taken up as they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

(Mark 16:19) ... was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

(Ephesians 1:20) [God] raised [Christ] from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,

(Hebrews 1:3) After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...

(1 Peter 3:22) [Christ] has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God.

This is the ground of our hope!

(1 Peter 1:21) Through [Jesus] you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

3 Reasons the Ascension of Jesus gives us hope:

① Hope because Jesus is reigning over everything.

- Jesus is Lord of all.

(Acts 2:32–36) 32 “God has raised this Jesus; we are all witnesses of this. 33

Therefore, since he has been exalted to the right hand of God ... 36

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

- Jesus has been given all authority.

(Matthew 28:18) “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.”

- Everything is subject under His feet.

(1 Peter 3:21–22) Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.

(Ephesians 1:21–23) 21 “Far above every ruler and authority, power and dominion, and every title given, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he subjected everything under his feet and appointed him as head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.”

- Every knee will bow before Him.

(Philippians 2:8–11) 8 he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death— even to death on a cross. 9 For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow— in heaven and on earth and under the earth— 11

and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

HIS LORDSHIP CALLS US TO :

- Surrender our all to Him.
- Share in His kingdom work.
- Stand in hope.

② Hope because Jesus is interceding for us.

- Jesus PLEADS for us.

(1 John 2:1) My little children, I am writing you these things so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ the righteous one.

An advocate is a person who...
comes to the side of another person in time of need...
offers support, strength, and counsel and intercedes when necessary.
pleads one's case to a judge.

That is exactly what the Lord Jesus does for those who've put their trust in Him.

This means a most wonderful thing. God will never turn down a person who has Jesus Christ as his advocate.

- Jesus PRAYS for us.

(Romans 8:34) ... Christ Jesus is the one who died, but even more, has been raised; he also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us.

- intercede = to plead with someone on the behalf of another, usually for obtaining help for that other person.
-intercession = prayer on behalf of someone else.

(Hebrews 7:25–26) 25 Therefore, he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, since he always lives to intercede for them. 26 For this is the kind of high priest we need: holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.

JOHN 17

Jesus prays for our:

Protection (11-16)

Sanctification (17-19)

Unification (20-23)

Affection (24-26)

- Jesus PROVIDES ACCESS for us.

(Hebrews 4:14–16) 14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens—Jesus the Son of God—let us hold fast to our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin. 16 Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need.

③ Hope because Jesus is preparing a place for us.

(John 14:1–2) 1 “Don’t let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?”

- To be with Him.

(John 14:3) If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also.

We will be with Him forever in a place where there is no sickness, no suffering, no sorrow, and no sin! All the ills of this life forever gone.

- To forever worship Him.

(Revelation 22:3–5) 3 and there will no longer be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will worship him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 Night will be no more; people will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, because the Lord God will give them light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Next Steps

#1: I will confess my faith in Jesus—He is Lord!

(Romans 10:9–10) 9 If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation.

#2: I will concentrate my focus on Jesus.

(Hebrews 12:2) keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

(Colossians 3:1) So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.