



Dr. Joe K. Taylor, Senior Pastor, South Reno Baptist Church, Reno, NV • Sunday • April 12, 2026
All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. In the Chair Bible, Page # 91 (NT Section).
In some places, God's Word is underlined with dots with Pastor Joe's commentary in the bracketed, lighter faced text.

A. What was the Ascension All About?

It marks the exalted Christ's rightful place as the supreme authority over everyone and everything.

Jesus appeared to His disciples and others, strengthening their faith and preparing them for the work that lay ahead. It was also a time when Jesus gave His final words of instruction before ascending into Heaven.

B. What Happened in Those 40 Days?

He Appeared to individuals, small groups and large groups including **Mary Magdalene** at the tomb, **the women leaving the tomb**, and **Peter**, the **two disciples** on the road to Emmaus, the **disciples in the locked room** (twice—first without Thomas, then with him), over **500 believers** at once, **James** (His brother), the **disciples again** in and around the Sea of Galilee area, then to the **three disciples at the Mount of Olives** at His ascension.

He Proved by showing His wounds, eating, speaking, and explaining what had happened and what would happen.

He Taught the scriptures and explained the future of the kingdom.

He Restored their faith, healing doubts and fear, and reframing failures.

He Commissioned the sending of His followers to the nations.

He Prepared the church for His plan and the coming of His Holy Spirit.

He Ascended back to Heaven and His throne.

C. What Happened on the Mount of Olives

We learned some things:

1. Our Savior is now Confirmed.

Acts 1:6, NASB95 - ⁶ So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?”

2. Our Mission is now Clear.

Acts 1:8, NASB95 - ⁸ “[Jesus said] but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

We are basically called to share the *good news* of Jesus Christ to the North, South, East and West—that's everyone, sharing ONE GOSPEL, everywhere with everyone—all in the power of the Holy Spirit. - Dr. Raymond Culpepper, *The Great Commission Connection*

3. Our Power Source is now Certain.

Acts 1:8, NASB95 - ⁸ “[Jesus said] but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you [this happened only 10 days later]; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

4. Our Future is now Celebrated.

Acts 1:11, NASB95 - ¹¹ They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”