

INTRODUCTION

1. Luke ends w/ Ascension - no other Gospel ends w/ Ascension.
 - i. Lk 24:50-53 & A 1:9-12. LK records the event of ascension but other NT writers acknowledge the fact & significance of ascension
2. Phil Ryken: "Do we understand that even the joys of Easter Sunday are surpassed by the glories of the ascension?" [692]

1st: What is Jesus Doing?

1. Lk 24:50-53 - repeated word: *blessing* = main action in v50-51 & 52-53.

2nd: What is Luke Doing?

1. Luke writes *an account* - Lk 1:1-4. Historical, theological, pastoral.
2. The "inclusio" of Luke. Compare beginning & ending of Luke. Angels, worshipers, temple, priest.

3rd: The Aaronic Priestly Blessing

1. Completion of tabernacle - Ex 40:34-38. Sac'al worship accepted.
02. Lev 9:22-24 1st occasion of Aaron's service - definitive. Note description.
3. Custom of priestly blessing. Sirach 54:15-16; 50:19-21.

4. What did Priest say to *bless* the people? Num 6:22-27

4th: Zacharias' Priestly Blessing

1. Lk 1 - recount Zacharias & Gabriel - v21-23. Where's the blessing?
 - i. 1st occasion of *bless* - Lk 1:39-48
 - ii. next occasion - Lk 1:67-79 Priestly blessing given outside temple?
2. See juxtaposition of the literary bracket of Luke.

5th: Jesus' Priestly Blessing

1. Lk 24:50-53 - Lev 9:22-24 - Num 6:22-27 The unprecedented accomplishment of our redemption justifies seeing Jesus as our Priest.
2. Note similarities & differences - progress into resurrection glory.

Applic #1: Priestly Blessing is Given When Priestly Sacrifice Has Been Accepted

1. OCov priests wore bells - Exo 28:35. How we need to know that atonement for our sin has been made & accepted!

2. With the priest's blessing, the people know that the Lord will continue to live w/ them in order to bless them: forgiveness - life.

3. Do you understand the significance of Jesus' Priestly blessing? Is Jesus your sacrificial lamb [Jn 1:29]? your Priest? Are you *blessed*?