

RYDE BAPTIST CHURCH

21 May 2020—Ascension Day

Dear Friends,

On Ascension Day each year we remember not only the return of Jesus to his heavenly home, and his reign as Lord for ever, but also the final words he gave to his disciples to continue to fulfil the mission that he has begun. 'Go and make disciples of all nations...' he says, 'you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' Our readings and prayers today recall these words, and challenge us to think about how we continue to fulfil that mission too. We will remember and pray for the many Christian mission and outreach organisations that we as members of Ryde Baptist Church support in one way or another, and the contribution that we can each make. The Bible readings here are all, as usual, from the NIVUK 2011 edition.

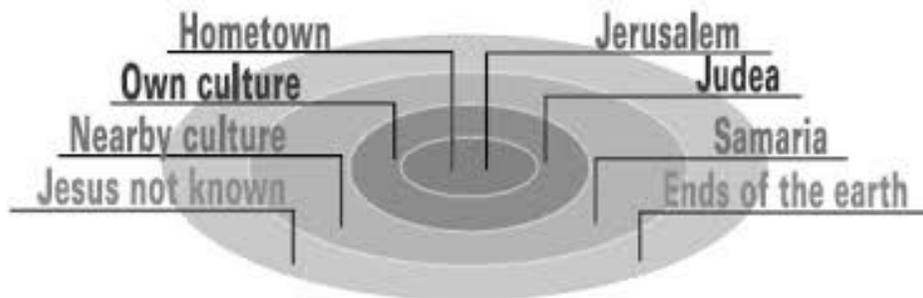
[Matthew 28:16-20](#)

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,

baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

[Luke 24:44-53](#)

⁴⁴ He said to them, 'This is what I told you while I was still with you: everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.' ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, 'This is what is written: the Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.' ⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.



Acts 1:1-11

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ²until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

⁶Then they gathered round him and asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?'

⁷He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

⁹After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two

men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'

Christian Mission and Outreach Organisations

On the right is a long list of Christian Mission and Outreach Organisations supported in one way or another by members of Ryde Baptist Church. It is probably not comprehensive, and will be updated from time to time with relevant links on the Sunday Supplement website:

<https://rydebaptist.xyz>

As you look, read, think and pray through the list, see if you can answer some or all of the following questions:

1. How do they seek to fulfil the mission of Jesus for his church?
2. Where do they fit in the Jerusalem → Judea → Samaria → Ends of the Earth mission journey?
3. Where should our priorities be as a church?
4. Where should my focus be as an individual Christian?
5. How can we be fulfilling our mission during the current Coronavirus crisis?

Baptist Home Mission

BMS World Mission

Churches in Ryde

Wight Church Network

Girls' Brigade

Youth for Christ

Aspire

Frontline

IOW Foodbank

African Pastors Fellowship

Alpha

Association of Christian Teachers

AWM (Arab World Ministries)

Barnabas Fund

Bible Society

CARE

Care for the Family

Christian Aid

Christianity Explored

Christians Against Poverty

Christians in Parliament

EA (Evangelical Alliance)

Embrace (formerly Bible Lands Society)

FEBA Radio (Far East Broadcasting Association)

France Mission

Ghanalink (IW)

Good News For Everyone (formerly known as GideonsUK)

Interserve

Leprosy Mission

LICC (London Institute for Contemporary Christianity)

Lifewords (formerly Scripture Gift Mission)

London City Mission

Love Russia

MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship)

Mission Direct

Mountbatten Hospice

OM (Operation Mobilisation)

OMF (Overseas Missionary Fellowship)

Open Doors

Premier Radio

Release International

Salvation Army

Scripture Union (SU)

Starfish Asia

Tear Fund

Torch Trust for the Blind

TWR (Trans World Radio)