

Ascending and Descending in Scripture

Compiled by Rick McKinney, 2021, 2026. Scriptures taken from NRSVCE

And Jacob dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it (Gen. 28:12).

And Jesus said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man" (Jn. 1:51).

No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man (Jn. 3:13).

Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him (Gen. 5:24).

When the Lord descended upon Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain, the Lord summoned Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up (Ex. 19:20),

When the flame went up toward heaven from the altar, the angel of the Lord ascended in the flame of the altar while Manoah and his wife looked on; and they fell on their faces to the ground (Jugs. 13:20).

When Solomon had ended his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the temple (2 Chr. 7:1).

As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven (2 Kgs. 2:11).

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false (Ps. 24:3-4).

If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there (Ps. 139:8).

You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will make myself like the Most High. But you are brought down to Sheol (Is. 14:12, 15).

For I will leave in the midst of you a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the Lord (Zeph. 3:12).

The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God (Lk. 1:35).

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant (*handmaid*) of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her (Lk. 1:38).

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove (Lk. 3:21-22)

He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things (Eph. 4:10).

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them (Mt. 9:2).

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me (Mt. 16:24).

He must increase, but I must decrease (Jn. 3:30)

Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him (Jn. 13:5).

And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself" (Jn. 12:32).

Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God'" (Jn. 20:17).

When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight (Ac. 1:9).

They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven" (Ac. 1:11).

And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting (Ac. 2:2).

Being therefore exalted at^[a] the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear (Ac. 2:

He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things (Eph. 4:10).

For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first (1 Thess. 4:16).

Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world (Jn. 17:24).