

This Same Jesus

The Ascension of Jesus Christ

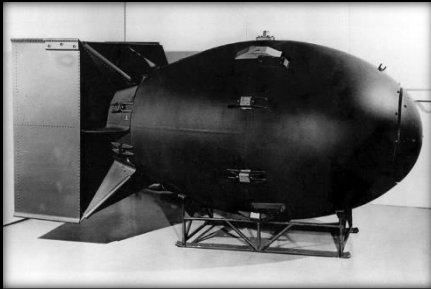
THE HISTORIC HAPPENING:
The Ascension of Jesus Christ

SCRIPTURAL SHADOWS:
haven't I seen this before?

ASCENSION FALLOUT
Cosmic & personal significance

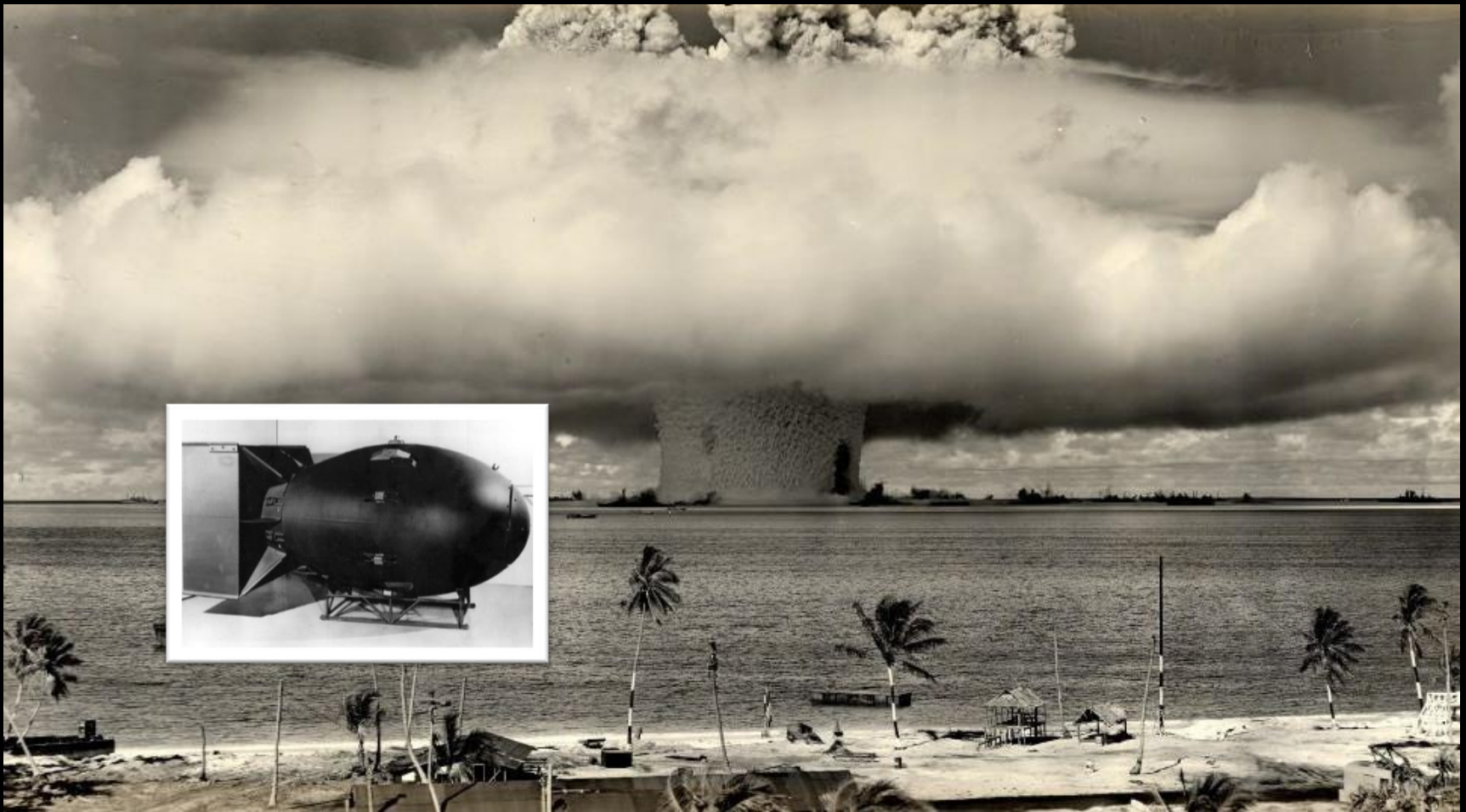
ASCENSION FALLOUT

What are the cosmic and Personal implications?



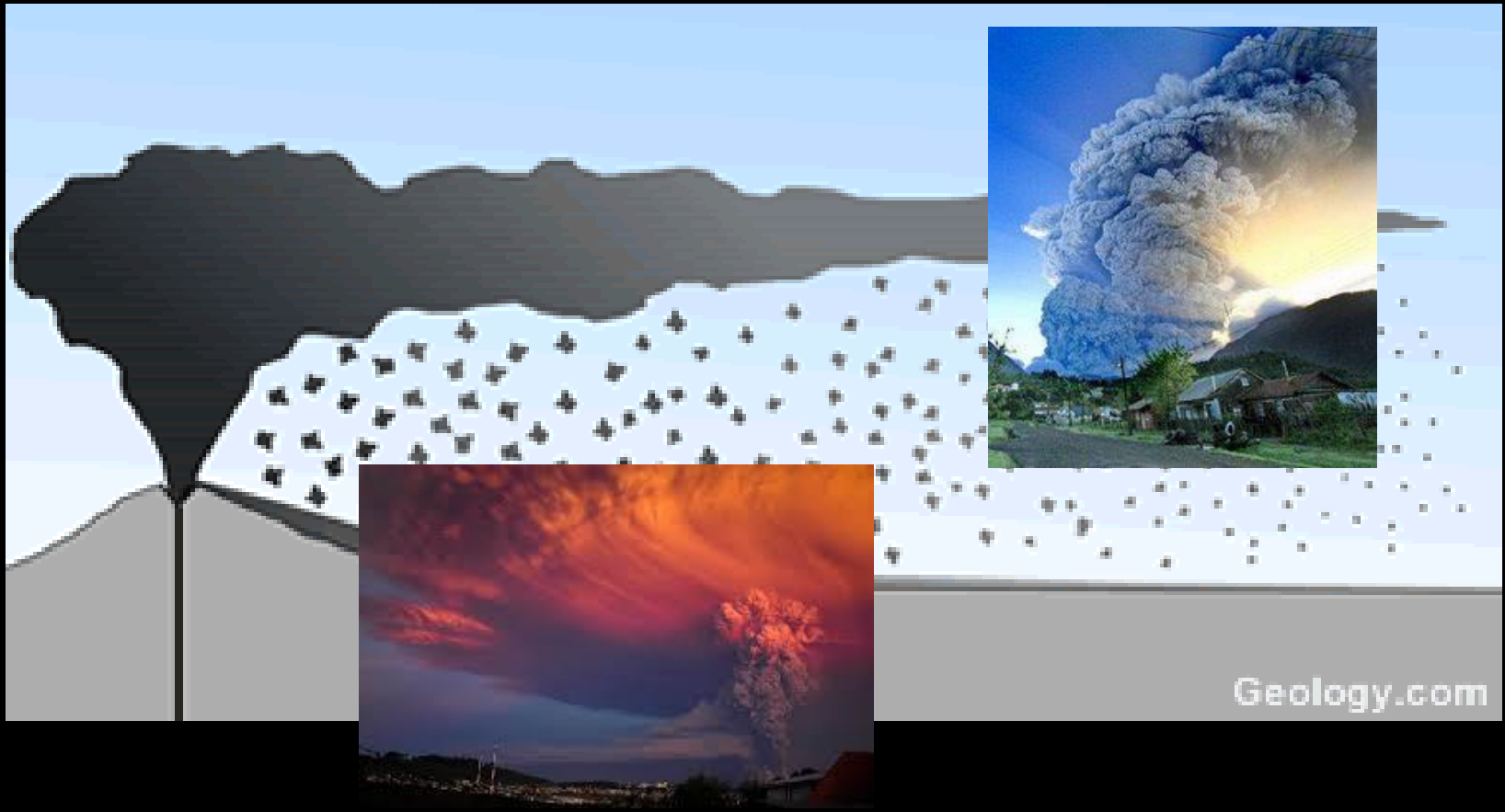
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THE WORLD, FLESH, & DEVIL WHISPER:

“Jesus deserted you.”

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“It would be better for you if he had stayed.”

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“The incarnation is over.”

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*“Oh well, just one more mythical religious/
spiritual figure who ‘ascended to heaven...’”*

ASCENSION FALLOUT

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THE WORLD, FLESH, & DEVIL WHISPER:

~~*“Jesus deserted you.”*~~

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

...You know him, for he dwells with you and shall be in you. (John 14:17)

I will not leave you as orphans/comfort less; I will come to you
(John 14:18)i

Jesus does
things even
when we can't
see him or
sense his
presence

He left his parents...*and was about his Father's business*

He left his disciples...*then walked on water*

He left his disciples to sleep...*then stilled the storm*

He left Martha and Mary, and their brother died ...*to reveal the death-defying, grave-robbing glory of a God who weeps*

ASCENSION FALLOUT

What are the cosmic and Personal implications?

THE WORLD, FLESH, & DEVIL WHISPER:

~~*“It would’ve been better if he would’ve stayed.”*~~

“It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I go not away the Comforter will not come...” (John 16:7)

Hebrews 9:11-14: Better because his blood is now presented at the throne of God above = ETERNAL REDEMPTION

Hebrews 9:23-26: Better because he’s there as a mediator of the new covenant. = ETERNAL INHERITANCE

Local access vs. global/cosmic

ASCENSION FALLOUT

What are the cosmic and Personal implications?

THE WORLD, FLESH, & DEVIL WHISPER:

~~*“The Incarnation is over.”*~~

There is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus (1 Timothy 2:5)

Luke 24:36-40. See, I'm not a spirit...I've got flesh and bones & crucifixion scars

Romans 5:15. The first Adam got us into this problem, the last Adam gets us out

1 Cor 15:21: For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead

Hebrews 2:5. He's not ashamed to call us his brothers

Rev 1:13: he's glorious but still unmistakably human, the son of man.

ASCENSION FALLOUT

What are the cosmic and Personal implications?

THE WORLD, FLESH, & DEVIL WHISPER:

~~*“Oh well, just one more mythical religious/
spiritual figure who ‘ascended to heaven’....”*~~

~~*(Hercules, Adapa, Krishna, Quetzalcoatl, Mohammed,
etc...)*~~

The 11 were eye witnesses of this event

ASCENSION FALLOUT

What are the cosmic and Personal implications?

- The gates, the ancient doors have lifted up their heads. (Ps 24)
 - His death opened the veil of the Temple.
 - His resurrection opened the grave
 - His ascension opened Heaven

“Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”

A holy man is in the heavenly sanctuary on our behalf (Hebrews 9)

A human being is at the right hand of power, reigning over this entire creation (Psalm 8, Psalm 110, Hebrews 2:6-10)

A resurrected, glorified friend is seated on high. This same Jesus...sacrificial, self-giving love is at the steering wheel, the control center of the universe.

A sympathetic King upholds the universe and your life as well. (Hebrews 4:14-16)

He ever lives to make intercession for us (Hebrews 7:23-28)

ASCENSION FALLOUT

What are the cosmic and Personal implications?

- God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Set your mind on things above, for you are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God

This same Jesus will return the second time not to deal with sin but for the final salvation of his elect, and the renewal of all things

quotes

- In public, in the daylight, on holy Olivet, the Lord finished with glory the career which He began in obscurity. He finished His earthly career, but not His human life. His ascension perpetuated His incarnation. He did not evacuate His human body, but carried it with Him to the right hand of God—with its nail prints and its thorn scars. Touched with a feeling of our infirmities, our great High-priest has passed into the heavens. There He ever liveth to make intercession for us. With His pierced hands He is able to save to the uttermost them that come unto God by Him. ~R. S. Barrett.
- His ascension is not His separation from His people, but the ascension of His throne and the beginning of His reign as the head of the Church which “is His body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all.” ~Rev. Com.

quotes

- Christ “ascended,” not to depart from earth, but to take the throne of His Kingdom on earth. “He sat down at the right hand of God.” God’s reign does not consist in sitting upon a distant throne! It consists in omnipresent power and authority. To sit at His right hand means to share His Authority and Omnipresence. ~Talmadge Root.
- The ascension of Elijah may be compared to the flight of a bird, which none can follow; the ascension of Christ is, as it were, a bridge between earth and heaven, laid down for all who are drawn to Him by His earthly existence. ~Baumgarten.

quotes

- Jesus's ascension isn't a "religious" event with a 'spiritual" significance. It fulfills the human vocation to become God's prince ruling God's universe. It's the foundation for a profoundly humanistic Christianity. ~Peter J. Leithart
- At the very end of Revelation, though, John stands on the last of the Bible's mountains to see the heavenly Jerusalem *descend*. It's a garden city, with a river flowing down its golden boulevards and fruit trees on its banks—but this garden city doesn't stay in the high place. God builds and populates a heavenly city to send it back down to earth. Even *Jesus* doesn't stay in heaven forever. As we confess in every creed, we believe that he will come again to judge the living and the dead. Heaven is *not* our home, our ultimate destiny. Heaven is where things happen *first*, where our nature is first enthroned in Christ Jesus. But the last part of our journey slopes downward, from heaven to earth. Ascension is not the endpoint of the human story. We ascend in order to descend, and the end comes when heaven breaks through the firmament to couple with earth, when heaven comes to earth to heavenize it. ~Peter J. Leithart