

When Christ ascended

Part 1 - "He led captives in his train..."

Christians love celebrating the resurrection of Christ from the dead, but there was another event that happened later that same day, an event so great that it not only shattered things here on Earth, it completely blew apart the Heavenly Realms, as well.

Mary was the first to hear of it in **John 20:17**, when Jesus told her not to "hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father." This was Sunday morning and Jesus had been resurrected already, but now he's telling Mary he can't stay because it's extremely important that he go to the Father before anything else happens.

But why was it so important that he go to the Father? Later that day, they find out, **Matthew 28:18** - "Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.'"

Jesus said this after he'd ascended to the Father and returned to the Earth to meet his disciples at the mountain in Galilee where he'd told them to go (**verses 7, 16**). And it's there on that mountain that we find out why Jesus ascended to the Father so soon after his resurrection, and why it had to happen before he did anything else. Jesus went to the Father to be given free rein at last to exert his influence and authority. He was now in charge, and what a change that would create, not only in our world but in the heavenly realm as well, because "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train," **Ephesians 4:8**.

A picture of a conquering Roman general comes to mind in that verse, as he parades through the city in his chariot to the cheering crowds, chin held high, and behind him drags this long trail of chained prisoners shuffling along in humiliating defeat for all to see and jeer at. Paul uses the same analogy in **Colossians 2:15** - "And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he (Jesus) made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."

It was a perfect picture of Jesus rising to his Father and parading through heaven in triumph, having defeated all enemy powers and authorities by the cross, with the evil ones trailing along in his wake, completely "disarmed." All cosmic powers and authorities, good and bad, now came under his authority, the significance of which was enormous because up to this moment God had administered his government on Earth through angels.

We have several examples of that, the first in **Acts 7:53** which talks of Israel in the Old Testament "receiving the law that was put into effect through angels," and in **Galatians 3:19** which says exactly the same thing. It was through angels,

then, that God administered his law of old, and it's clear in **Hebrews 2:2** that they had God's full authority as well, for "[the message spoken by angels was binding.](#)"

The angels were God's administrative team and they held absolute authority. For a while, then, until Jesus ascended, God allowed the angels to be in charge, and that included bad angels, too. The good angels were given God's law to administer Israel by, whereas the bad angels could create their own demonically inspired religions for everyone else, the clear difference being that the good angels directed Israel's worship to God while the bad angels directed everybody else's worship to themselves.

That's why Israel was warned so many times about steering clear of the gods, idols and religious rituals of the nations they'd be entering or mixing with, because all these foreign religions were, in fact, sacrifices to demons (**Deuteronomy 32:17**). Paul said the same thing in **1 Corinthians 10:20** - "[the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God.](#)" To Paul, all pagan religions were demon worship.

The similarities, however, between the religion God administered through the good angels and the religions created by demons, were striking. Good religion or demonic religion, both included temples, altars, animal sacrifices and offerings, and they both included special days, priests, dietary restrictions and things both clean and unclean. It's said that Israel got its religious customs from bits and pieces of other religions, but in reality we can see it's the exact opposite - demons were simply copying God's customs for Israel, but directing them in worship to themselves instead.

There were clear differences between the good and bad religions too, of course, in that God's law was holy and moral, and it didn't allow for idols, sorcery, magic, witchcraft or wizards like the demonic religions did. But both types of religion operated with much the same external structure, each demanding a perfect performance of laws, rituals, all kinds of odd taboos and endless sacrifices administered by a ruling caste of priests - all of which, put together, held the people absolutely captive in constant fear of penalties and death.

And this was the situation in the Old Testament before Jesus ascended. Jew and Gentile were both completely under the direct control of the angelic realm, giving the world two administrations competing side by side for centuries. There were only two choices available to people - the Jewish religion through the good angels and Gentile religions through fallen angels - NEITHER of which, though, actually freed people from their two greatest enemies: death and sin, because religion, no matter how well it's done, "[can never take away sins \(Hebrews 10:11\).](#)"

The situation in the Old Testament, then, was extremely grim because, good religion or bad, you were dead either way no matter how many laws and taboos

you obeyed. But then, we find out from Paul, this was exactly according to God's plan. It was God's intention from the very beginning that all human beings would be "in slavery under the basic principles of the world," **Galatians 4:3**, "BUT when the time had fully come, God sent his Son."

There would be a period of time before Christ came when all humanity would be prisoners, or captives, of the powers of this world alone for dealing with sin and death. But the time would then arrive when God would send his Son, and with his coming that time of captivity would end, **Hebrews 2:14-15**, for "by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death."

Notice that? "All their lives they'd been in slavery" because under the angelic and satanic dynasties of Old Testament times, people were held captive from birth to the grave to sin and death, with no hope of escape, no matter how many rituals and sacrifices they performed. Even the strict administration of God's law by angels was not enough. And for thousands of years it remained that way, with humans constantly living in fear of death (in both good and bad religions) if they veered from their religious obligations. They lived in an endless atmosphere of fear, and there was nothing they could tap into to stop it. Nothing in this world was powerful enough.

But along came Christ and "died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant (**Hebrews 9:15**)." By his death he released everyone trapped in this awful era of slavery to sin and death with no solution. And to demonstrate his absolute victory over the captivity humanity had been held in for so long, he took that captivity with him like a prisoner in chains and paraded it through Heaven as a vanquished foe. "He led captivity captive," is actually how the old KJV and the new KJV both translate **Ephesians 4:8**.

It was a real eye-opener for all the angelic powers and authorities, because the strict rule of law administered by the good angels had never been able to break the power of sin and death. It had proved itself powerless. That era, then, of angels governing peoples' lives with laws and penalties, was over. It was made "obsolete (**Hebrews 8:13**)." It was decommissioned, or as Paul describes it, "disarmed." It no longer held any authority.

Jesus now reigned supreme, which was different because at the time of his coming God had "made a little lower than the angels (**Hebrews 2:9**)," but now "he became as much superior to the angels as the name he inherited is superior to theirs (**1:4**)." Jesus was now in charge, not the angels anymore. And to prove it, God "raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come (**Ephesians 1:20-22**)" - "so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to

[reconcile all things to himself](#), whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross (**Colossians 1:18-20**).”

A new era had begun, in which God would bring peace to the entire universe through Jesus, starting with the salvation of humans from the power of sin and death, “[For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants,](#)” **Hebrews 2:16**. Saving people would be God’s focus from now on, not angels, because Jesus, not the angels, had made that salvation possible.

Isn’t it fascinating, then, that here we are, 2,000 years later, and people are still worshipping angels?! The New Age movement in particular looks to angels for spiritual assistance through direct, personal contact, and believes it’s through angels that our planet will be transformed and we’ll all become united - the very job God has, in fact, given Jesus to do (**Ephesians 1:10**)! And immensely popular TV programs like “Touched by an Angel” always gave the glory to angels for helping and saving people from their fears and problems, never to Jesus. But demons have always directed human worship to themselves and not to God, so it’s not surprising.

If people read the book of Hebrews, however, they’d know that Jesus’ ascension blew away the era of angels. They’ve had their turn, and now it’s Jesus’ turn, the implications of which are staggering because when Jesus rose it marked the end of all angelically administered religions with all their laws, rituals, sacrifices, priests, temples, special days, dietary restrictions and every other religious taboo.

Jesus took all that captivity to religious ritual, fear and death “captive” like a trail of prisoners in a Roman General’s victory parade. He totally eradicated all performance-based religions, totally deconstructed the Old Covenant and totally shattered the authority of all angelic powers that had dominated the lives of people up ‘til then.

In one clean sweep, God gave Jesus the authority to dismantle the entire heavenly realm so that Jesus now ruled, not the angels anymore, and with his rule the salvation and superiority of humans over angels would now begin, **Hebrews 2:5** - “[It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come,](#)” it is to humans beings, **verses 7-8**, “[You made him a little lower than the angels,](#)” yes, but “[you crowned him with glory and honour and put everything under his feet.](#)”

This is why the ascension of Christ was such a huge event in our human history because in one fell swoop Jesus changed everything for us. He took away the legal right of angels to enforce their religions on us; he took away the accusing power of God’s Law over us, and he took away all obligation to obeying any kind of religious ritual - he threw it all out for us.

Christ's ascension meant the end of religion (of any kind, good or bad), which is why Paul asks so strongly in **Galatians 4:8-11** - "[how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles?](#) Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you."

How could they go back to worshipping God through their old religious taboos when they were now obsolete, feeble and bankrupt? The writer of Hebrews said the same thing: "[The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless](#) (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God (**Hebrews 7:18-19**)."

Something much better is now in operation in place of that old, useless system administered by angels. It enables us to "draw near to God" for the power to deal with sin and death - power that the old system didn't offer. All it had to offer was the basic principles, or basic powers, of this world, including the power of angels, and none of them had worked.

"Therefore," Paul writes in **Colossians 2:16-18**, "[do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels](#) disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions."

"Idle notions" and "shadows" - that was Paul's description of anything, past or present, that focused people's attention off the only power that could deal with sin and death: Jesus Christ. Religious festivals and dietary restrictions meant nothing. They were non-issues; totally irrelevant. And the whole idea of relying on angels or visions for guidance, or on one's own self-abasement for spirituality, was ludicrous because God had made Christ the only source of guidance and spiritual growth (**verse 19**). He was the one who held all power and authority over human destiny, not angels, human restrictions or Old Covenant festivals.

So, Paul asks, "[Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: 'Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!'](#) (**verses 20-21**)?" Why would they ever go back to trying to deal with sin and death by any means other than Christ? The old ways administered by angels hadn't worked, nor did any humanly devised system of rules and regulations, either. And besides, Christ had died to free them from all that stuff, and ascended to Heaven to make it all totally obsolete. So, as Christians, who believed in what Christ's death and ascension had done for them, why would they resurrect what he'd destroyed?

As Christians today, therefore, we can rid our heads completely of the notion that we need anything from the angelic era, because when Jesus rose that era ended. Those old religious systems became defunct and bankrupt, having proved themselves useless in breaking the power of sin and death. But that was their purpose, to prove there's only one way of dealing with sin and death, and that's Jesus Christ.

It must've been shattering for all concerned in the heavenly realms when that realization dawned, though, because (in their experience) what other way was there of making people behave other than a strict system of rules, regulations and rituals? Religions today still believe that today too, as Satan's influence still stirs people in that direction. That old angelic system, useless though it was, still persists!

When Jesus ascended, then, it truly was the day the universe was turned upside down! Everything the cosmic powers and authorities had ever known in their dealings with human beings up to that point came to a complete and grinding halt. It instantly became obsolete.

But what was Jesus going to replace it with? We find out in what else happened on his victorious march through Heaven (in Part 2)...

Part 2 - "He gave gifts to men..."

In Part 1, when Jesus ascended, "he led captives in his train," **Ephesians 4:8** - or, as the King James, New King James and Phillips translate that verse - "he led captivity captive." Jesus took what had held humans captive up to that point and paraded it through the heavenly realm like a Roman general with his trail of prisoners stretching out behind him (**Colossians 2:15**).

It was the beginning of a new era. No longer would humans have to live in "fear of death (**Hebrews 2:15**)," or have to depend on religious rules, regulations and rituals to deal with sin (**Colossians 2:23**) because "the time had fully come (when) God sent his Son," **Galatians 4:4**, and "cancelled the written code with its regulations, that was against us and stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to his cross," **Colossians 2:14**.

That old rule by law administered by angels was over, and in its place would be the second part of **Ephesians 4:8** - "When Jesus ascended on high, he led captives in his train (covered in Part 1) and gave gifts to men."

Jesus ascended to not only put an end to something, but to start something, too. And what he was starting would involve the giving of gifts this time, not laws, rituals and sacrifices. Paul explains what these gifts are too, in **verses 11-13** - Jesus "gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that

the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

Instead of a nation, Jesus was now setting up his church, filling it with gifted people, through whom he would fill the entire church with himself. The church from that point on, therefore, would “in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself in love, as each part does its work,” **verses 15-16.**

This was something completely different. This new era was about love and service, whereas the old era was about obeying God’s laws and doing what you were told - as we see in **Exodus 23:20-21** when God tells Israel he’s “sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared. Pay attention to him and listen to what he says. Do not rebel against him; he will not forgive your rebellion, since my Name is in him.”

God gave full authority to an angel, and whatever the angel said had better be done, or else. The rules were exact, unbending and enforced, and you lived in constant dread as an Israelite of what might happen to you - or to the nation - if you didn’t obey.

It was like being in a classroom with my Headmaster at my English High School. In every class he carried a pointing stick, which he waved around and banged things with, and he glared at you menacingly over the top of his half-moon glasses if he suspected the slightest squeak coming from your direction, or the hint of anyone not listening. He ruled like a feudal lord, and we’d better do what he said, or else.

And that’s exactly how God set things up in Old Testament Israel. “The law was put into effect through angels,” **Galatians 3:19**, and the angels had God’s full authority to rule like Headmasters and send shivers of fear and trepidation through anyone who didn’t obey their every instruction.

It wasn’t just Israel that the angels ruled over, either; it was all the Gentile nations too, because demons were also given free rein to create their own religions among the Gentiles. And these demonic religions followed exactly the same pattern, filling their religions with all kinds of strict “dos and don’ts” too - and you didn’t dare step out of line with them, either.

A shepherd, for instance, would never dare play his pan-pipes at Noon, because that’s when the god Pan took his nap. To disturb Pan at Noon “is to flout a divine law,” according to one quote I read, and it carried a huge risk because it would get the old goat’s dander up and he’d roar and froth and create panic (the word

has its root in the god Pan). And in Greece today, people still refuse to sleep in the shade of certain trees at Noon, for fear Pan will do something nasty to them.

But God had his taboos for Israel, too. You didn't dare step into the Holy of Holies, for instance, because if you did you were dead meat, well-cooked. You'd better place the furniture in the Tabernacle exactly where it was supposed to go too, and when you pooped you'd better cover it up or God himself would be offended (**Deuteronomy 23:13-14**).

Everything in Israel was spelled out, measured, regulated and precisely allocated, just as it was in demonic religions. The Israelites lived in constant fear and dread too, because they knew there were angels with power and authority behind all these laws and rules, who had zero tolerance for disobedience.

When Jesus ascended to the heavenly realms, however, he took that entire system captive. He hacked the legs right out from under it, killing it on the cross, and in its place "God placed all things under Jesus' feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body," **Ephesians 1:22-23**.

A new era had begun, ruled by Christ, but no longer over a nation. This new era would involve a "church," and this church was very different because, according to Paul, it was Christ's very own body. The church, therefore, would not be a "little lower than the angels" like humans were in the Old Testament (**Hebrews 2:7**). Instead, it was part of Christ himself.

That being the case, the church would go wherever Christ goes. Head and body travel together as one, so when God raised Christ he "raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms," **Ephesians 2:6**. The church is where Christ is, and where is Christ? In the heavenly realms, in charge over everything. So not only is Christ above the angels now, so are we, which means that anything ruled by, governed by, mediated by or administered by angels, has no jurisdiction over us anymore.

The tables have been turned and the angelic realm now watches and learns from the church because it's "God's intent that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms," **Ephesians 3:10**. God is no longer revealing or administering his will through angels; instead, he's revealing it to them through Christ and his church, "which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way," **Ephesians 1:23**.

It puts the church on a huge pedestal, far above the angels, because it's filled with everything that Christ is. To quote one Commentary on this verse, "all that Christ has from God, the power, the gifts, the grace, he passes on to the church," because it's the church that God is now teaching through. It's through the church

that the angels are learning. But what exactly is it that God wants the angels to learn?

Paul answers that question in **Ephesians 3:11**. What God is now revealing through his church to human and spirit worlds alike is “his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.” This was never understood before Christ ascended, because it was never given to angels to reveal God’s purpose. They wanted to know his purpose (**1 Peter 1:12**), but it wasn’t given them to know. Nor was it “made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets,” **Ephesians 3:5**.

It was only after Christ ascended that God “made known to us (the church) the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ (**1:9**).” And what was this mysterious will of God hidden from people all through the old angelic era? It is “to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ (**1:10**).” And how did God get this process started? By first of all having “all his fullness dwell in Christ (**Colossians 1:19-20**),” and then, “through him to reconcile to himself all things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”

What Jesus’ death on the cross opened up for human beings is what the old angelic era with all its rules, regulations and rituals could never do (and never did, **Hebrews 7:18-19**). It would reconcile us to God and make our peace with him and him with us. How? By making us “holy in God’s sight, without blemish and free from accusation,” **Colossians 1:22**. This was the plan from the very beginning too, “For God chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight,” **Ephesians 1:4**. Why? Because it’s only when we’re holy and blameless that we can be “reconciled” to God. By Christ dying for us to make us holy and blameless, then, it was the first and necessary part of God “bringing all things together.”

This had always been God’s plan for us though, from “before the creation of the world,” but it would be the church who would be the first to understand it. For the first time in human history, in the church, not only would we humans understand what God’s plan is, we’d also know how God’s going about doing it, too.

We’d also be able to look back at the angelic era and realize why God set up that system, as well. It shows us clearly that human beings cannot be made holy and blameless in God’s sight by trying to force them to behave. It doesn’t matter how many rewards you offer for obedience and threats for disobedience, or how tightly you control people’s behaviour through angels, laws, rules, sacrifices or religion; the experience of Israel proves none of it works.

We all had to learn that first. So did the angels. They supervised that entire system of law and look what happened. They saw the result of it. They learnt an important lesson, just as anybody can from Israel’s experience, that “if a law had

been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law (**Galatians 3:21**).” The lesson? You can’t make someone righteous. There’s no law or strictly enforced religion, even God’s law and strictly enforced religion, that can make people holy and blameless.

So what does make us holy and blameless? Ah, well this is “the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints,” **Colossians 1:26**. It is to the church that “God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is...”

And here comes the secret that the entire angelic era never discovered, as to how human beings become holy and blameless. It is “Christ in you (verse 27).” The secret is Christ filling us with himself, which he demonstrates through his church. How? He “gave gifts to men,” **Ephesians 4:8**. Ever since he ascended, Christ would give gifts to his church. And what would these gifts do? They would fill his church with his “fullness (verse 13).”

And what would his fullness in the church accomplish? Something that had never been seen before - people acting in holy and wonderful ways without any need for a written code of laws. The entire spirit world would witness an amazing phenomenon - soon after the church began, too - of Jews and Gentiles who’d been enemies for as long as anyone could remember, getting along just fine without anybody breathing down their neck, looking over their shoulder, or forcing them to behave. Laws weren’t even necessary! In fact, it was because laws had been abolished that they were getting along! It was “by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations” that the “dividing wall of hostility” between Jews and Gentiles had been destroyed, **Ephesians 2:14-15**.

It was a staggering “first” for humanity and an amazing experience for the angels, because here were people with impossible differences suddenly able to love each other without a law or rule in sight. Never had anything like this happened before, but now the secret was out as to how God was “bringing all things in heaven and on earth together (1:10).” It was Jesus “creating in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace (2:15).” Jesus was the secret. It was because of him it was happening.

For the angels it must be fascinating watching things unfold. First, they saw what happened when you operate by a system of law. It’s like Act 1 in a play. Then at Christ’s ascension Act 2 began, and now they’re watching what happens after Jesus banished that old system of law on the cross and it’s now “his power at work within us (3:20).”

And it was all planned by God from the foundation of the world, to be played out over thousands of years, involving millions of actors and actresses playing their part to perfection. The old system of law, and all those involved in it, did a wonderful job, proving to human and spirit realms alike that “the whole world is a

prisoner of sin (**Galatians 3:22**)." It proved the helplessness of humanity to obey God - and God allowed enough time for that to sink in - "but when the time had fully come (**4:4**)" God brings the curtain down to end Act 1 and there's a brief intermission during which Christ comes here to die.

The curtain then rises for Act 2 to reveal Jesus Christ in the heavenly realms announcing the old system is over and a new way has begun through him and his church. But what he proposes to do with his church sounds completely crazy because he's not going to enforce obedience or make people holy and blameless by law, he's going to operate purely by "dwelling in people's hearts (**Ephesians 3:17**)."

Act 2 then proceeds and shows what happens. And what happens is remarkable. A church full of terribly ordinary people from all walks of life trust God and love each other (**Colossians 1:4**), and what's more, it doesn't require any laws, rules, and rituals to make it happen, either.

As Act 2 proceeds, with all the angels watching, the great mystery of God unfolds, that God truly is "bringing all things in heaven and on earth together under one Head, even Christ," because it's there for all to see in the church. Jew and Gentile "are heirs together (and) members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus (**Ephesians 3:6**)." And why is this wonderful coming together of Jew and Gentile happening? Because of the law? No. It happens purely because of Christ and his gifts (**Ephesians 1:3, 2 Peter 1:3-4**).

This is why the new era of the church began. "God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, IN ORDER THAT in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus," **Ephesians 2:6-7**.

What God has been showing the entire angelic realm through the church through the ages ever since Jesus ascended, is how he's bringing the entire universe into a state of holiness and blamelessness in his sight. It is entirely because of his kindness which he shows us in Christ, not only dying for us so we can be forgiven, but lavishing his gifts on us and filling us with himself so we can love God and love each other.

And the great lesson to be learnt from all this? **Verse 8** - "For it is by grace you have been saved." It's not by law, it's by grace. But we all had to see what happens by both methods. In Act 1, therefore, we see what happens by law, and in Act 2 by grace. We compare. We see. We learn. So do the angels. And we all get to witness, human and spirit realm alike, how the law doesn't work but grace does.

And that's important because naturally we gravitate to law to make things work. Our entire system of government (and parenting methods too) is based on law. It's the only way we know of making people behave. So God set aside a nation and a couple of thousand years to show angel and human alike what happens in a system based entirely on strict rules and rewards and punishment. What happens is - people fail in such a system. They have great difficulty wanting to behave. They even rebel.

But when God fills us with himself, something remarkably different happens. There's no need for law; we love God and love each other without it. He is the key, then, isn't he? It's not law, it's him. It's what he gives us of himself that counts. And that's the reason he ascended, so he could end the way that doesn't work and start the way that does.

He "[gave gifts to men.](#)" That's what brings us all together and makes us holy and blameless in God's sight. It's Jesus Christ and his wonderful gifts to us.