

When we have an understanding of the great glory that will come to this earth when Jesus returns and sets up His wonderful kingdom, it is easy for us to long so much for it that we begin to think that it must come immediately. There have been many through the ages who have felt that they could tell exactly when Jesus would come back and set up His kingdom. All such guesses, however, are sharply contradicted by what Jesus said on this occasion.

Jesus did not say that the disciples were wrong in expecting Him to set up this kingdom. He simply said that we are not to know when it will come. Then He went on to describe the task that the disciples should perform while waiting. He said: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

These were the last words He uttered before He ascended into heaven. This was His command for the disciples during the time when they were waiting for His return. They were first to tarry in Jerusalem until they should have received their training. Then they were to be witnesses to Him, not only in Jerusalem, but also "in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

While the disciples pondered over these words, Jesus gradually began to rise up into heaven. Up and up they saw Him go; soon there seemed to be only a tiny speck high above them; then a cloud received Him out of their sight. Naturally they wondered, "What do these things mean?" They were not left to guess. While they looked steadfastly up toward heaven two men stood by them in white apparel, and said: "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."