

## DAY 3

Saturday 15 May 2021

# SOMEDAY HE WILL RETURN

*Acts 1:9-11*



3 MINUTES OF SILENCE

**<sup>9</sup> And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup> and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”**



To the astonishment of the disciples, Jesus is taken up from the earth in open day, enveloped by a cloud so much so that they can no longer see him. Suddenly two angels appear – two witnesses – to interpret God’s mighty act in Jesus’ ascension.

The angels describe simply what had happened: Jesus has been taken up into heaven! The implications are unmistakable: Jesus will no longer be with them in the way he was on earth; the disciples’ earthly ministry will never be the same again. Yet, it is precisely because of Jesus’ ascended status that the the Spirit comes from heaven at Jesus’ behest, for the exalted Jesus is now Lord of the Spirit (c.f. Acts 2:36). Because Jesus is now seated in heaven, in a position of authority at the Father’s right hand, he pours out salvation blessings as by his Spirit he directs and empowers the church. This Jesus who reigns shares God’s ability to be omnipresent; He appears and acts from heaven (just as He appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus). In heaven he manages the disciples’ concerns with perfect wisdom, truth, and love.



Had Jesus vanished secretly, or had he disappeared in the night, the apostles would have been amazed and confounded; but perhaps they would even have doubted whether they had not been deceived. But when they saw him leave them in this manner, they could not doubt that he had ascended to heaven, and that God approved his work, and would carry it forward. The angels conclude with the affirmation of the certainty of Christ's return - He will come back in the same way he has gone! The angels did not say when he would return. The disciples were simply left with the command to stay until they received the Holy Spirit.



How is the understanding of Christ's ascension and influence of the Holy Spirit captivating you to be his witnesses on earth? When you stand gazing and trifling, do the thoughts of our Master's second coming quicken and awaken you? When you stand gazing and trembling, do they comfort and encourage you?

[For your notes]

## PRAYER



*Lord, quicken and awaken my heart towards your coming again. May my expectation of it be steadfast and joyful, and my diligence to the work of your Holy Spirit be faithful and true.*



**CLOSING SONG OF ACCOMPANIMENT**  
*HILLSONG UNITED - YOU'LL COME*