

rapt eyes upon the cloud which covered him. **Two men.** Doubtless angels in human form, as they are often represented in Scripture. **White apparel.** The garments of the heavenly. **Men of Galilee.** Most, if not all, the apostles were from the northern province. **Why stand ye gazing.** The question was intended to recall them from looking up to heaven to working upon the earth. **Shall so come.** A promise of the Saviour's literal and visible return to earth. **In like manner.** Not like his first coming, in concealment, but openly, publicly, in the clouds of heaven, and with angels for his attendants. Notice, it was not said that they should see him come again, but that he should so come, at some unknown time in the future.

12. Then returned they. Back from the scene of triumph to the place of toil. **Olivet.** A crest eastward of Jerusalem, and separated from it by the valley of Jehoshaphat. **Sabbath day's journey.** A little less than a mile; the distance fixed by the scribes as a limit of walking on the sabbath. Perhaps it is here mentioned to indicate that the ascension took place on the Jewish sabbath. (Chrysostome, Alford.)

13, 14. An upper room. "The upper room." [Rev. Ver.] Perhaps the place of the Last Supper and the descent of the Holy Spirit. **Where abode.** That is, it was the place of resort for the apostles and the body of believers. **In prayer.** For the fulfilment of the promise in the baptism of the Holy Ghost. **With the women.** The women who had ministered to Jesus in Galilee, who had stood around the cross, and first beheld the risen Saviour. Their presence is noticeable, as in the synagogue and temple they were not permitted to worship with the men. **Mother of Jesus.** Her last appearance in New Testament history. **His brethren.** The younger sons of Mary and Joseph, at one time not believers in Jesus, but afterwards his followers. Two of them were James and Jude, authors of epistles in the New Testament.

GOLDEN TEXT.

And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up. Acts 1. 9.

OUTLINE.

1. The Promise of the Father, v. 1-8.
2. The Farewell of the Son, v. 9-11.
3. The Prayer for the Spirit, v. 12-14.

Time.—A.D. 30, forty days after the resurrection of Jesus.

Place.—Near Bethany, on Mount Olivet.

Explanations.—*The former treatise*—Meaning the Gospel according to Luke. *Jesus began*—The Gospel relates what Jesus began to do; the Acts what he carried on after ascending to heaven. *Taken up*—By ascending to heaven. *Through the Holy Ghost*—The words of Jesus were spoken in the power of the Spirit. *Commandments*—The command to preach the Gospel to all the world. *His passion*—His sufferings and death on the cross. *Infallible proofs*—The evidences that Jesus rose from the dead are many and convincing. *Seen....forty days*—Not all

the time, but occasionally during forty days. *Assembled....with them*—This refers to Christ's last meeting with his disciples after his resurrection. *Not depart from Jerusalem*—Jesus wished his Gospel to commence in the place where he suffered and died. *The promise of the Father*—The promise that God the Father would send his Spirit upon the disciples. *Restore again the kingdom*—Even then the disciples expected Jesus to set up a throne like earthly kings. *Times or the seasons*—The time when God will establish his kingdom in the world. *Put in his own power*—Reserved for himself, and not revealed to others. *Receive power*—Power to know and to speak the truth of the Gospel. *Witnesses unto me*—To preach the Gospel of Christ. *While they beheld*—Christ ascended in full view of his disciples. *Taken up*—By ascending to heaven. *Two men*—Angels in form of men. *Men of Galilee*—Nearly all the disciples of Jesus came from Galilee. *Stand....gazing*—Disciples are not to watch the heavens, but to work for Christ on the earth. *Shall so come*—Jesus will at some time return to the earth. *Sabbath-day's journey*—A little less than a mile. *Upper room*—Perhaps the room where the last supper had taken place. *Where abode*—Where the disciples met together often. *One accord*—United, with one heart. *In prayer*—For the fulfilment of the promise of ver. 4, 5. *With the women*—Those who watched by the grave of Jesus. *The mother of Jesus*—Mentioned here for the last time. *His brethren*—Sons of Joseph and Mary, who at one time had not believed in Jesus, but were convinced by his resurrection. One of these, James, was afterward considered as an apostle.

HOME READINGS.

- M.* The ascending Lord. Acts 1. 1-14.
Tu. The ascension foretold. John 20. 1-17.
W. The Saviour's commands. Matt. 28. 9-20.
Th. His heavenly work. John 14. 1-17.
F. His second coming. 1 Cor. 4. 9-18.
S. His speedy coming. Rev. 22. 1-14.
S. Watching for the Lord. Matt. 25. 1-13.

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Hail the day that sees him rise
 To his throne above the skies;
 Christ the Lamb for sinners given,
 Enters now the highest heaven.
 Lo! the heaven its Lord receives;
 Yet he loves the earth he leaves;
 Though returning to his throne,
 Still he calls mankind his own.
 Still for us he intercedes,
 His prevailing death he pleads;
 Near himself prepares our place,
 He, the first-fruits of our race.

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8, 7, 8, 7, 4, 7.

Jesus triumphs! sing ye praises;
 By his death he overcame;
 Thus the Lord his glory raises,
 Thus he fills his foes with shame:
 Sing ye praises!
 Praises to the Victor's name.