

## THE RETURN OF CHRIST

a sermon by A. Alexander MacRae P.T.S. '27

Scripture reading -- Acts 1.1-11.

Text -- Acts 1.11.

One day about two thousand years ago a small band of men walked out through one of the gates of Jerusalem. On their faces might be seen expressions of great joy. They were happy in the company of their Master, the Lord Jesus Christ. Recently they had not been so happy. He to whom they had looked as the One who should establish the Kingdom of God on earth had been taken from them, and shamefully put to death. For a time they were very sad. But their sadness had been turned into joy when He had been raised from the dead, and had revealed to them the great truth of His death for the sin of the world. They understood it all now. They knew that His death was necessary as the fulfillment of many Old Testament predictions, that only through it could Redemption have been secured. They loved to hear Him explain these things. Just to be with their Risen Lord was alone sufficient to give them great joy.

But as they talked with him, one question kept recurring to their minds. Now that the great Redemption had been won, what about the other predictions of the Scripture? What about the promised victory over all evil? What about the establishment of the reign of their Messiah over the whole earth? So they turned to Him with the question, "Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?"

His answer only increased their wonderment. "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power". Continuing, He gave them the great commission to be witnesses to Him, carrying the message throughout the whole earth. They were absorbed in His words now. A great task it was which He was giving them. Only through the promised power of the Holy Spirit could they ever fulfill it.

As they listened a strange thing occurred. Gradually He was lifted up from their midst. Scarcely comprehending what was happening, their eyes followed Him. Up, up, up, He went. Then