

Nearly two thousand years ago eleven men stood on a hill just outside of Jerusalem, ^{in great} as they stood there they looked ^{ing} up into heaven. They were rather bewildered. They had just been talking ^{with} to their Master, the Lord Jesus Christ, who had ^{recently} been raised from the dead. ^{While} As they had been talking to Him, He had ^{he had} suddenly begun to rise up into the heavens, ^{and} and we read that ^{As} He went up a cloud ^{had} received Him out of their sight. These men looked up bewildered, wondering, uncertain. ^{Just then} As they did so, they looked ^{and} and two angels stood beside them who spoke to them and said, "Ye men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This same Jesus who has gone up from you into heaven will so come again in like manner as ye have seen Him go." ^{into heaven} These ^(Acts 1:11) disciples went back into Jerusalem. There they continued in prayer for a number of days. At the end of that time Pentecost occurred. The Holy Spirit came down from heaven and filled them with energy and power and they went out carrying the message of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. As they ^{carried} carried this message they ^{converted} won individuals, ^{one by one} one by one, to salvation through belief that Jesus Christ ^{had died that they might live} had died that they might live, ^{and three} and three hundred years later the great organization of the Roman empire capitulated and Christianity became the religion of the empire.

^{until} All during this time ^{Christians} these men ^{continued to} had been expecting the return of their Lord.

Their religion was not simply a matter of ethics; they did not merely go out and tell people to obey the Golden Rule or to do good. They ^{were that the} were that the bearers of good news, ^{declaring the message that Jesus had paid the} declaring the message that Jesus had paid the penalty for sin, and that all who should believe on Him would ^{receive} receive a new life in Christ. ^{that Jesus had paid the} that Jesus would give them justification with cleansing from their sins, would start their feet on the road that would end in eternal life with Him. Yet this, also, was

not all of their message. Even as their message looked back to something wonderful which had occurred, it also looked forward to something wonderful that was going to occur. All through the New Testament we find it clearly indicated that the Christian ^{had both a backward & a forward look.} looked back and also looked forward. Every time that the

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