

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

So when they had come together- Jesus and His disciples gathered together on the Mount of Olives, one of the hills surrounding Jerusalem to the east. This was an important site where many other things happened, including Jesus' betrayal in the Garden of Gethsemane and potentially, a lot of His teaching.

Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?- Knowing that other important things had happened on the Mount of Olives, the disciples anticipate another earthly event. They are still holding on to the idea of Jesus as an earthly king who liberates the Jewish people in a non-spiritual sense

⁷He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.

It is not for you to know times or seasons- Jesus does not say "no" to the disciples' question, perhaps indicating that there would be some changes in kingdoms and empires down the line. However, by redirecting their focus, Jesus indicates that earthly kingdoms should not be a primary concern of theirs

that the Father has fixed by his own authority- Jesus reminds us of Who is actually in control. It is not for us to know what is coming in the future and it is better that that knowledge is in God's hands rather than ours

⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

But you will receive power- Things would no longer be the same once they received this power. They would be able to speak and witness in ways that they never thought possible. The successful spreading of the Gospel required supernatural help

when the Holy Spirit has come upon you- Refers to the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came upon them with a sound like a great rushing wind and with tongues as of fire. Prior to this, the disciples had faith and had received a demonstration of the Holy Spirit when Jesus breathed on them, but now they would be receiving all that Jesus promised

you will be my witnesses- A witness is somebody who has seen something and tells other people about what they have seen. In Jewish society, credibility and truth was established by the testimony of two or three witnesses, so, in order for people to see the truth of Jesus' saving work, there would need to be witnesses as well. They would testify to what He said, what He did, and most especially that He died for sin on the cross and rose again on the third day

in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth- Jesus starts by naming places that would be very familiar to the disciples and then goes on to more unfamiliar places. Judea was home, but Samaria was full of enemies and heretics. As they went to the ends of the earth, they would find more enemies, but they would also find future believers

⁹ 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.

And when he had said these things- Just as Jesus declared "it is finished" upon the cross, now He simply stops speaking when His task is over. It was now time for Him to depart and let the disciples do what He was sending them out to do.

as they were looking on- Even though Jesus knew that He had concluded everything, Jesus' departure might have still appeared abrupt to the disciples. They were still looking at Jesus, hoping, longing, and craving for more of His wisdom and guidance. They probably were not ready for Him to go yet.

he was lifted up- Just as Jesus came down from heaven in order to be born of the virgin Mary, Jesus now returns to His original, proper place. Jesus' glory, which was hidden here on earth, is now restored. Jesus, humbled here in the world, is now exalted. He is now seated at His Father's right hand, waiting to come again at the final judgment

and a cloud took him out of their sight- In the wilderness, a cloud covered Mount Sinai, indicating God's presence there and hiding His face from the people. In the same way, a cloud covers Jesus and prevents them from seeing Him now in His full glory

¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,

And while they were gazing into heaven as he went- As the disciples stared longingly up into heaven, there was no time to be lost. There was no time to let this event sink in, because each second lost meant one less second spreading the Gospel. We should live with the same urgency, realizing that no one knows how much time a person has been given

two men stood by them in white robes- Occasionally, angels are referred to as men in white robes, but we can tell from the reactions and the context who they are. Gleaming white robes indicate their holiness and their position as messengers of God. Angels appear at the most significant events in Jesus' life, in order to explain what is not obvious to our mortal minds. Although the disciples were in shock, this visit would benefit them later on.

¹¹ 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."

Men of Galilee- by addressing them this way, it reminds the disciples of their humble origins and contrasts them with the divine power they have just witnessed. Despite being from backwater Galilee, God could still use them for His glory

why do you stand looking into heaven?- implies that the disciples perhaps expected an immediate return and needed to be patient. They would not be able to miss it when Jesus comes again for a second time. In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do.

This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven- Reminds us that the Jesus who comes on the Last Day as all powerful judge will be the same one who walked on the water, turned water into wine, wept at Lazarus' tomb, and died upon the cross. Jesus is fully divine and fully human

will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven- There are some who take this statement too far. They say that Jesus must replicate everything completely and so, they preserve Israel and the Mount of Olives for the purpose of His return. We are told that on the Last Day, Jesus will come on the clouds with the sound of a great trumpet and every eye will see Him. No one will be able to stop His coming.