

Jesus goes to heaven – the ascension (Luke 24 and Acts 1)

For about 40 days, that is nearly six weeks, Jesus had been seen by many people. He had met with his followers the disciples, he had eaten with them and he had talked to them about God's Kingdom.

One time, he told them to wait in Jerusalem for the gift his Father had promised, the gift of the Holy Spirit which would give them power. Jesus had been seen by people in the city of Jerusalem and by Lake Galilee. There was no doubt, Jesus was alive. He certainly wasn't a ghost. His friends had touched him and eaten meals with him. But his body was different; he could pass through closed doors and appear and then disappear.

One day, Jesus and his friends were up a hill. His friends asked when he was going to be crowned as King. Jesus told them that God would decide when that would be but that he had a job for them to do. Jesus said he was going back to heaven to be with his Father and that they wouldn't see him anymore. Jesus told his friends that it would now be their job to teach other people about him - to carry on the work that he had been doing. He promised that he would be with them through his Holy Spirit. He said that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came on them and that the Holy Spirit would help them to tell other people the good news in Jerusalem and in Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

As Jesus was speaking, a cloud covered the hillside; it was a big cloud and they couldn't see Jesus any more. He was behind the cloud and the cloud blocked their view. When the cloud lifted, Jesus had gone. He had been taken up into heaven.

Jesus's friends were standing, looking up at the sky when two men dressed in white – angels - stood beside them and said, "Why are you standing looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken away from you will come back again the same way you saw him go into heaven".

You see it's still not **the end** of the story. It is still **to be continued**. Although Jesus is now in heaven, one day he will come back to earth, not as a little baby but as King of the whole universe.