

Acts 1

Jesus said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Last Thursday was Ascension Day: the day when Christ's resurrection body was glorified and taken up to Heaven forty days after Easter Day. The image of being beamed up from a mountain top in clouds accompanied by men in white robes sounds like the final scene in a science fiction movie when the alien ambassador returns to his mothership. To some people it all seems too fanciful. However, I would suggest that it is this amazing account of Jesus's Ascension which has influenced modern sci-fi writers, not the other way round!

The Incarnate Word of God is returning to be with the Father having completed His purpose of Salvation. He promises that He will send the Holy Spirit so that his disciples will receive power and be witnesses to the end of the earth. We wait expectant for that moment at Pentecost when the Breath of God, the Holy Spirit will breathe life into the Church, the Body of Christ.