

The solemnity of the Ascension of Our Lord is the 2nd of the Glorious Mystery. The Collect reveals and captures the glorious nature as a longing of the faithful. It reads,

“Gladden us with holy joy, almighty God, and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving, for the Ascension of Christ your Son is our exaltation, and where the Head has gone before in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope.” It expresses the package prepared by God for those he loves and are united with His Son Jesus Christ. A divine package for us if we win God’s love – Theophilus. **Buy one get three. If we earn the love of God, we get Resurrection, Ascension and the Gift of the Holy Spirit.**

Though St. Luke in the 1st reading give us a timeline when this mystery occurred

“After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the Kingdom of God”

but it is for us an obvious action that must take place. After a period of **40 days (or years)** with the Master, a disciple is authorized and empowered to repeat the Master’s teachings. Luke had good knowledge of the Book of Genesis’ account of the patriarch Enoch taken away to heaven (**Gen 5:24**) and the abduction of Elijah (**2 Kings 2:9-15**). At Elijah’s abduction, began the ministry of Elisha his disciple. Ascension marks the beginning of our ministry as Christians – Theophilus. Jesus declared our ministry; thus, **“...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**

The main purpose of the mission is the Kingdom of God **directed and supervised** by God, **“It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.”** The propinquity of the mission is reflected in the question, **“...Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven?”**

Some of us tend to look at ascension as in the movie **‘Super Man’ (how he flies)**, but the character **‘Super Man’** is a creation of man – scripted by the writer(s) who is human. **Ascension is God’s action, an article of our faith** which offers great enlightenment, hope and fortitude to us. This is as Paul prayed in the 2nd reading,

“the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.”

The story of Ascension does not end with Christ. Coming out of a pit, the head comes out first then the body; **“...where the head “Christ” has gone in glory we the body (the Church), hope to be.”**

In the Gospel, Christ indicates that this mystery can only be powered by God through him **“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”** Unlike super man - **a character scripted by a man, God through Jesus Christ has written our Ascension.** Our script begins with the command **“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.”**

Luke echoed this line of pedagogy thus **“...all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the HOLY Spirit...”**

This is what will make us ascend to heaven and be with Christ as our faith teaches us. So let us stop looking up toward heaven – like the men of Galilee and stop asking

“Lord, is this the time when you will restore the Kingdom of Israel?”

The Kingdom of God is more than any other kingdom and is upon us; for as the Psalmist sings, **“For God is the king of all the earth ... God is king over the nations”.** All we need to do is **“Go make disciples of all nations”** with the assurance **“I am with you always, to the end of the age.”**