

The Passion Week of Christ

Lesson 8

The Resurrection

1. Review Math 27:50, Luke 23:46, and Jn 19:30 regarding the death of Jesus. Who was actually in control? Does the scripture regard His death as a prearranged plan of God even down to the exact timing (Acts 2:23, 3:18)? Did Jesus Himself repeatedly predict His death as to when and where (Math 16:21, 17:9, 22-23, 20:18-19)? In the very beginning of His ministry in Jn 2:18-22, the leaders asked Jesus for a sign. What sign did Jesus predict? In all these passages what did Jesus predict would happen after His death?
2. Normally they left criminals on the cross for days, but why did they intervene and take them down in this case (Jn 19:31-37)? The Romans always broke the legs (so they couldn't push up to breath) in order to be sure they were dead. Amazingly, what did they do to Jesus (v.33-34)? What prophecy did this fulfill (v.36-37)? Who appeared on the scene asking permission to bury Jesus (Jn 19:38-39)? How did they prepare the body (Jn 19:39-40)? Where did they bury Him? Where were we first introduced to Nicodemus (Jn 3:1-6)?
3. Were the religious leaders aware of Jesus' prophecy of the resurrection on the third day (Math 27:63-66)? How did they secure the tomb? After the resurrection, what did the guards do to protect themselves (Math 28:11-15)? Therefore, what was the religious leaders' defense against the evidence of the empty tomb? Consider that the tomb was secured by a large armed guard, it was sealed with a huge stone, the disciples of Jesus were scattered, scared, and hiding, and all of them expected Jesus to still be dead and in the grave on Sunday. Therefore, what is the only logical explanation since no one ever refuted that the tomb was empty? What silent testimony did Christ's grave clothes make (Jn 20:5-7)?
4. Which of Christ's followers first came to His tomb on Sunday morning (Math 28:1)? Describe the scene they witnessed (Math 28:1-7)? Who did Jesus first appear to (Jn 20:11-18)? Which of the disciples did Jesus first appear to (Luke 24:34)? Who did Jesus appear to on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-27)? How did Jesus minister to them (Luke 24:25-27)? Where and when did Jesus first appear to the disciples as a group (Jn 20:19-25)? Who was absent (Jn 20:24)?
5. What did Thomas say when he heard the news (Jn 20:25)? When did Jesus appear to all eleven disciples (Jn 20:26-29)? What did Jesus say to Thomas and what was his response? Thomas had denied the testimony of his ten closest friends. What great event recorded in Luke 24:5-7 could persuade such a doubter? The author, John, began his gospel by saying that Jesus is the "Word" and the Word is God. Now, at the end, John tells his story of Thomas proclaiming the deity of Christ (20:28). What is John's purpose statement in 20:31? How important is it to believe in the deity of Christ?

6. After these appearances of Christ in and around Jerusalem, where did Jesus tell the disciples to go (Math 28:10)? What were the circumstances of Jesus' appearance at the Sea of Tiberias (Galilee) in John 21:1-7? What did they all do together in Jn 21:12? What did this reveal? What perplexing questions did Jesus ask Peter after breakfast (Jn 21:15-17)? How do you relate these questions to the great commission given in Math 28:18-20? What did Jesus say to Peter signifying what kind of death he would have (Jn 21:18-19)?

7. Over what period of time did the resurrected Christ appear to the disciples before His ascension (Acts 1:3)? Read 1 Cor 15:1-8. List the appearances of Christ after His resurrection (according to Paul). Notice that Paul leaves out the group of women and probably many others that his audience wouldn't know (Math 28:8-10). In a court of law, the most important testimony is by eyewitness. In making a case for the resurrection, what proof does Paul offer in 1 Cor 15:5-8? In v.6, Paul says, "most of whom remain alive now." If his audience doubted the resurrection, was there a sufficient number of eyewitnesses available? Would 500 eyewitnesses be enough for you?

8. One of the great passages in the Bible about the resurrection and the importance of the resurrection is 1 Corinthians 15. What were "some of them" saying at the church in Corinth (1 Cor 15:12)? What is Paul's argument for the importance of believing in resurrection (1 Cor 15:13-19)? According to Paul, is it possible to be saved if you don't believe in the resurrection (1 Cor 15:17)?

9. In Romans 1:4 and Acts 17:31, what is the proof that Jesus is the Son of God and He has been appointed judge of the world? What is the basis of Peter's argument for the claims of Christ in Peter's great sermon in Acts 2:23-24? What about his speech in Acts 10:39-41?

10. The authors of the New Testament all clearly believed that since their Savior Jesus Christ was alive, he had defeated the power of death. Now they could know that they would have eternal life also. How is this expressed in Rom 8:11, 1 Cor 6:14, 2 Cor 4:14, and Phil 3:20-21? Describe the actual event of our future resurrection (1 Cor 15:51-53 and 1 Thes 4:15-17). What great enemy of all mankind was defeated by the resurrection of Christ and will be fully revealed as defeated at our resurrection (1 Cor 15:54-57)? What should be our response (1 Cor 15:58)?