

THE EMPTY TOMB/THE RESURRECTION. MATT. 28:1-9

INTRO:

- The resurrection of Christ is mentioned at least 100X in the New Testament.
- Regarding the resurrection of Christ, we have the testimony of angels, those holy beings who cannot lie or deceive.
- We also have the testimony of holy men who have sealed their word with their own blood. Unwavering. In the face of death.
- Jesus showed Himself alive at least 9 times and to many women and men and once to a gathered crowd of over 500.
- The appearance of an angel, much like at the birth of Christ.
 - To Zechariah, the Virgin Mary, Joseph, the shepherds.
- The tomb was not opened for Jesus to get out, but for us to get in. (Rom. 6:3-5)
- As Christ spoke 7 sayings from the cross, so the angel speaks 7 sayings from its stone seat.
 - 1) Do not be afraid.
 - 2) You seek Jesus who was crucified.
 - 3) He is not here.
 - 4) He is risen.
 - 5) Come and see.
 - 6) Go quickly and tell His disciples He is risen.
 - 7) He will go before you to Galilee.

Read Matt. 28:1-9

VS. 4-5 ⁴ *And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.* ⁵ *But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified."*

- Notice how the same event produced two completely different reactions.
- The guards shook for fear of the earthquake and the angel, then collapsed with fear.
- While the women stood their ground un-fainting, hearing what the angel spoke to them.
- The verses says the angel answered, but there seems to be not asking of a question.
- It was an answer to their fear that the angel spoke comfort.
- Perhaps fear of what they just witnessed, perhaps a fear of the guards waking and arresting them, or killing them. Or afraid of what the tomb may reveal?
- To the guards it produced terror and shock.

- To the women comfort and faith.
- The earthquake and the angel are a response to Christ's resurrection, and so it is that His resurrection brings terror and collapse to His enemies and at the same time unspeakable comfort and joy to the believers.

VS 5: ⁵ *But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified."*

- The angel points to Jesus being crucified.
- It is a crucified Savior we must seek. We have no other grounds of redemption than a crucified Lord.
- There is no way to the Father but through the door of the crucified Savior, not good works, not religion, but only a humble, contrite broken hearted total surrender and trust in the merits of our crucified Savior.
- Am I seeking Him? In salvation, in life? Every day.
- Seeking Him, not wealth, not fame, not success or ease, but to fellowship with the Crucified.
- The angel knew they were seeking Christ, do they know I am seeking Him. Does my life exhibit a continual seeking?
 - O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water.
- These women had nothing to fear for they were seeking Jesus.

VS. 6: ⁶ He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay

- He is not here, HE IS RISEN!
- This phrase "He is risen" is one word in the GK. (eg-I row), it suggest an active power of quickening principal, by which Christ raised Himself.
 - Acts 1:3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering
- It was His divine nature, the divine Godhead of Christ which revived and raised His manhood.
 - John 10:17, 18; "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."
- As He said: 12:40, 16:21, 17:23, 20:19
- Come see the place where the Lord lay.
- The angel is excited to invite them in to see what he has seen, an empty tomb.
- To see an empty resting place, grave clothes empty and the face napkin folded orderly on the stone?
- The grave had lost its Guest, death had lost its Prey.

WHY IS THE RESURRECTION IMPORTANT?

- **Read 1 Cor. 15:1-8, 12-20**
- **The whole weight of our faith, hope and salvation hangs upon Christ risen from the dead.**
- **The crucifixion was a holy heavenly judicial trial.**
- **Had Jesus paid in full the just and legal price to appease the judgment of a holy God? Was His holy life, His sacrifice enough to pay the redeeming price?**
- **Not until the judge accepts the payment, approves the payment and pronounces the transaction "enough" can He set the captives free and pronounce the debt is paid.**
- **The proof, the answer from the Holy Judge was the resurrection.**
- **God Himself saying of Christ's sacrifice, "enough" the debt is paid and the holy substitute is released! His redeemed are released.**
 - **Rom. 4:25; who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.**
- **The resurrection was the proof of the Fathers acceptance.**
- **If Christ was not raised from the dead as He said He would, everything else He said was a lie.**
- **The bible would be just nice poetry and prose.**
- **The Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah's death are empty.**
- **Christ's resurrection is our own guaranty of a similar glorious resurrection. He is the first fruits.**
 - **1 Cor. 15:20; But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have ^[a]fallen asleep.**
- **He is the first fruits of a whole harvest that will be raised. His resurrection is the guaranty of the whole crop.**
 - **Eph. 2:6, and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,**
- **The resurrection declares Him with power to be the Son of God (Rom.1:4)**
- **The resurrection is the fulfillment of Jesus promise to us.**
 - **JN. 6:40, & 54; ⁴⁰ And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."**
 - **⁵⁴ Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.**
- **The resurrection of Christ secures all the other promises of the scripture to us.**
 - **For all the promises of God in Him *are* Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God.**

Conclusion:

- **VS: 8 :⁸ *So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.***
- **For as the angel tells them, He is risen from the dead just as He said.**
- **He has also promised to return for us just as He said.**
- **Let us with reverence and awe go out from the tomb filled with “great joy” and live the message, let us bring the message.**