

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW; YOUR KINGDOM COME...ON EARTH

Week 11 (Pt. 2) - He Is Not Here! HE IS RISEN!

April 6, 2021

The tomb is empty. He is risen!!! He is risen INDEED!!!

The angel declared to the women who came to the tomb...*He is not here; for He is risen, as He said.* (Matt. 28:6)

Did people in Jesus' day know about resurrection?

Resurrection was a truth from the pages of the OT. When Jesus raised Lazarus, Martha told Jesus, *Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to Him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.* (John 11:22-26)

The Jewish people knew of resurrection. The Hebrew Scriptures speak of resurrection.

In Gen. 22 God told Abraham to offer up Isaac as a burnt offering – a sacrifice! In Heb. 11:19 we are told that Abraham was convinced that God was able to raise Isaac up from the dead. Abraham knew about resurrection.

In Job 14:13-14 - Job, who had suffered greatly (and did NOT know why!), said, *Oh, that You, God, would hide me in the grave* (Job desired death). *That You, God, would appoint me a set time, and remember me!* Job, then, asks of God, *If a man dies shall he live again?* Job then adamantly states, *...I will wait, 'til my change comes.* That “change” is resurrection!

And so Job assuredly declares in Job 19:26 – *And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God.* Job expressed the renewal, the restoration of the whole man after death!

The truth of resurrection continues to unfold in the Hebrew Scriptures.... Dan. 12:2 - *And many of those who sleep* (those who had physically died)...those who sleep *in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.* Resurrection!

But, what was going through the minds of the Jewish people in the spring of 29 AD/30 AD?

In Luke 24 we read of two men, followers of Jesus it appears, walking on the road to Emmaus having left Jerusalem very saddened...having left Jerusalem on the third day following Jesus' crucifixion!? The third day? Jesus drew near and walked with them. Their eyes were restrained. They voiced an incorrect expectation – expecting Jesus to redeem the nation of Israel...to free Israel from Rome. But – Jesus was crucified. Thus the extreme disappointment.

Jesus said to them, *O foolish ones, you who are not wise – you are slow of heart, of understanding. You didn't trust in all that the prophets have spoken! ... Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things (the scourging, crucifixion, the unimaginable pain) and to enter into His glory?"* ²⁷ *And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets,*

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He explained to them in ALL the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. (Lk. 24:25-27)

We're going to understand JESUS resurrection as the PURPOSE of God, the POWER of God, and the PROMISE of God to believers.

The resurrection of Jesus displays the purpose of God.

Our God is a God of RESTORATION. To what has God committed Himself? To restoring His original plan. Everything that was lost because man sinned...everything must be restored!

Rev. 21:5 – *He Who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.'*

The new heaven and the new earth, the Eternal State (Rev. 21-22) is the final restoration!

The resurrection of Jesus proclaims the immense POWER of God.

God created the universe. God has power over the universe. And so, He has power to raise the dead – to bring the dead back to life.

And, within God's powerful plan, the Son of God – Who He is – was validated at the resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus proved Jesus' claims...Who Jesus claimed to be...GOD the Son...the Messiah!

In the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, God's sovereign predetermined plan was carried out. Acts 4:27-28 - *For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.*

Matt. 27:50-51 - ⁵⁰ *And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, (His victory cry from the cross) and HE yielded up His spirit. ⁵¹ Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,*

Nature itself was shaken by the death of the Son of God.

Matt. 27:54-56 - *So when the centurion (the pagan Roman Centurion) and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, 'Truly this was the Son of God!'*

Lives were changed for all eternity only through the POWER of God!

The resurrection of Jesus is not only the supreme validation of His deity. The resurrection of Jesus also validates the Hebrew Scriptures – what was foretold of His death and resurrection (Psa. 22; Isa. 53).

Matt. 27:57 - *Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus.*

Evening had come. It was now the 15th of Nisan and it was the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

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John 19:31 - *Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.*

Joseph of Arimathea was a wealthy, influential man, a member of the Sanhedrin, the ruling body in Israel (Lk. 23:51 – but not in agreement with their plan and action re: Jesus). Joseph had been, secretly, a disciple of Jesus (Jn. 19:38).

Luke 23:51-54 - ⁵¹ *...a man from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who was waiting for the kingdom of God— ⁵² this man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³ And he took it down and wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid Him in a tomb cut into the rock, where no one had ever lain. ⁵⁴ It was a preparation day (preparation for the Sabbath), and a Sabbath was about to begin (dawn).*

And he took it (the body of Jesus) down.... What did taking Jesus down from the cross entail? Think of the selfless love that Joseph had for his Lord...to risk his life in

going into Pilate, for defiling himself (touching a dead body), one who was a good Jew, AND to gently and lovingly remove the nails from Jesus wrists and from His heels...and to remove that crown of thorns – the thorns that had been embedded in our Savior’s head.

John 19:39-40 - *Nicodemus, ...brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰ Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury. ⁴¹ Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. There was a garden...in the place of the skull – GOLGOTHA – where Jesus was crucified. ...and in the garden a new tomb.... (John 19:41).*

Psa. 16:10 – 1,000 years prior to Jesus’ death and burial...*You, God, will not allow Your Holy One, the Messiah, to see corruption.* Joseph laid Jesus’ body in a “new tomb.” Many tombs had a number of shelves/niches cut into the rock. Over time, several people from the same family would be placed in the same ossuary (a container in which bones from dead people were placed). No “body” had ever been set in Joseph’s tomb. If Jesus came forth from that tomb – no one could claim that someone else had risen.

In Jesus’ resurrection we see the PROMISE of God to believers.

Matt. 27:52-53 - *After Jesus gave up His spirit - ⁵² ...the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; ⁵³ and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many. WHY? Because Jesus promised! John 12:23-24 - *The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. ²⁴ Most assuredly, I say to you, (here’s the PROMISE) unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.* Jesus told His people that He would die. His death would produce new life which would include a GREAT HARVEST of souls who would live with Him eternally.*

Matt. 27:52 - ⁵² *and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised;* The book of Matthew alone records this event. With a careful reading of this account, the raising of the bodies of the saints, occurred after the resurrection of Jesus. It had to have occurred after Jesus rose from the dead because Jesus is our first fruits (I Cor. 15:20, 23).

Jesus rose from the dead on the Feast of First Fruits! (Lev. 23:10-11). Jesus’ goes before us. Jesus’ resurrection guarantees the resurrection of believers in Him. In His resurrection He did not go alone – because He promised! In His resurrection He took many OT saints with Him.

In synagogues on the Sabbath following Passover, the Song of Solomon was/is read. Song of Sol. 4:6 – the Bridegroom was anointed for burial – to die for the bride. Song of Sol. 5:1 – *I have come to my garden, my sister, my spouse....* Here was an invitation to his garden.

John 20:11-12 – In the garden, Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping. When she looked into the tomb, she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. What do we picture? The Mercy Seat that sat on top of the Ark of the Covenant (Ex. 25:10ff)!! The Mercy Seat in the OT was a foreshadowing of Jesus! John 20:16 - as Mary was weeping, Jesus called to her, “Mary!” An invitation!

In Genesis, in the garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were driven out of the garden. Man had sinned...and the earth was cursed. There was judgment in the garden of Eden. GOD poured out His judgment. There was death (separation - spiritually and physical deterioration). But in that garden of Eden, when man sinned, immediately God promised salvation/redemption through the Seed of the woman...the Messiah, Who would come and resolve the sin issue for all eternity. Are we then surprised when we read...*Now in the place where Jesus was crucified there was a garden.* And during His crucifixion where Jesus bore our sins, He took God’s judgment for our sin. In the garden at the site of the crucifixion and resurrection there is LIFE!

Eph. 1:19-20 - *¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,*

Eph. 3:20 - *Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,*

And so we move forward in confidence, boldness and in VICTORY because

HE IS RISEN!