

The Resurrection Appearances

Luke 24

The Resurrection and Appearance to the Women (24:1-12)

The Sabbath having ended, as the sun began to dawn on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus with spices. When they arrived at the tomb, they found the stone rolled away from the entrance to the grave.¹ When they entered the tomb, the body of Jesus was gone.

to the eleven apostles. Those who were present when these events happened were Mary,² Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and other women. At first, the apostles treated the report of the resurrection as idle tales and would not believe the women's testimony that Jesus was raised from the dead. Peter (and John) ran to the tomb and found the body missing and the grave clothes lying folded in the tomb.

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While they were pondering what became of the body, two angels appeared to them saying, "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen" (24:5-6). The angels reminded the women of the times when Jesus foretold His own resurrection.

The women returned from the sepulchre and told the good news

Appearance to the Two on the Road to Emmaus (24:13-35)

Two of Jesus' disciples (one was named Cleopas, v. 18) were traveling from Jerusalem to Emmaus (about seven miles). As they walked, they talked of the events which had so recently happened in Jerusalem—namely the crucifixion of Jesus. The Lord joined them as they walked and they discussed

with Him the recent events. Their eyes were "holden" that they did not perceive that the One who had joined them was Jesus (24:15). Cleopas related the events which had so recently transpired. He told how the Jewish leaders had crucified Jesus and of their expectation that He would redeem Israel (24:21), reflecting their misunderstanding of the nature of His work. He related what the women had reported as a result of their visit to the empty tomb and that some men had found the tomb empty as the women had said.

Jesus then chided the men for being so slow to believe what the prophets had foretold (24:25). Beginning with the prophecies of Moses, He expounded to them what the Scriptures foretold about the sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. This was done to correct their mistaken understanding of the mission of the Messiah.

As they drew near Emmaus, the two disciples invited Jesus to stay with them that night and He consented. While they were eating supper, their eyes were opened (24:31) to recognize Jesus. Then He vanished from their sight (24:31). The two disciples immediately returned to Jerusalem and reported that they had seen Jesus. When they returned to Jerusalem, they learned that Jesus had also appeared to Simon Peter (24:34).

Appearance to the Apostles (24:36-43)

While the apostles were gathered on that Sunday evening, the doors being locked for fear of the

¹ A great earthquake occurred and an angel of the Lord rolled away the stone. The guards reported the events to the authorities who bribed them not to tell what happened (Matt. 28:1-15).

² Magdalene. When the other women left the tomb, Mary Magdalene lingered behind and Jesus appeared to her (Mark 16:9-11; John 20:11-18). This was His first resurrection appearance.

Jews (John 20:19) Jesus appeared to them (Thomas was absent). They were terrified, supposing Him to be a spirit. Jesus showed them His pierced hands and side. When they saw the prints from the nails and spear, they believed that Jesus was risen from the dead. After they were convinced that this was indeed Jesus, the Lord asked for food and they gave Him something to eat.

When Thomas heard of this appearance he refused to believe unless he could personally put his finger in the nail prints and his hand in Jesus' side. The following Sunday, Jesus appeared again to the apostles (this time Thomas was present). When Jesus showed Thomas the nail prints and the pierced side, he said, "My Lord and my God" (John 20:26-29).

Luke does not tell of the appearance of Jesus to the apostles by the Sea of Galilee (John 21:1-24) or to the eleven on a mountain in Galilee (Matt. 28:16-20) at which time he gave the Great Commission.

Christ's Final Appearance and Ascension (24:44-53)

At Jesus' final appearance to His disciples, He explained again to them that the events which had



View of the Kidron Valley with the Temple Mount on the left and the Mount of Olives on the right. Jesus ascended to heaven from the Mount of Olives.

happened to Him occurred to fulfill the Old Testament prophecies. Then He opened their mind that they could understand these Scriptures. He said, "Thus it is written, thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things" (24:46-48).

He commanded them to wait in Jerusalem "until ye be endued with power from on high" (24:49). Forty days had passed since Jesus

was raised from the dead (Acts 1:3). The disciples, therefore, tarried in Jerusalem for ten days before they were given power from on high when the Holy Spirit came to them on Pentecost.

Jesus then led the disciples outside Jerusalem as far as Bethany. He lifted up His hands and blessed them. While He was blessing them, He ascended into heaven out of their sight. They worshipped Him and returned to Jerusalem to await the coming of the Holy Spirit. While they waited, they continually resorted to the Temple to worship and praise God.

Questions

1. List the resurrection appearances of Jesus recorded in Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24 and John 20-21. Try to put them in order:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
 - f. _____
 - g. _____
 - h. _____

2. Regarding the death, burial and resurrection, answer these questions:
 - a. What died—Jesus’ body or spirit? _____
 - b. What was buried, His body or spirit? _____
 - c. What was raised, His body or spirit? _____
3. On what day did Jesus arise from the dead (24:1)? _____
4. Did the Jews understand that “three days and three nights” (Matt. 12:40) had passed between Friday and Sunday (24:21)? _____
5. Why were the women present at Jesus’ tomb on resurrection morning (24:1)? _____

6. What did the angels tell the women (24:5, 6)? _____

7. List the women who were present at the tomb: _____
8. Why didn’t the apostles believe the report of the women (24:11)? _____

9. What did Peter find when he went to the tomb (24:12)? _____
10. On what day did Jesus appear to the two on the road to Emmaus (24:13)? _____
11. What expectation filled the hearts of the two disciples (24:21)? _____

12. When did the two recognize Jesus (24:31)? _____
13. To whom else had Jesus appeared on that day (24:34)? _____
14. What convinced the apostles that Jesus was not a spirit when He appeared to them (24:40)? _____

15. What did the Scriptures foretell would happen to Christ (24:46)? _____

16. To whom were the apostles sent on the Great Commission (24:47)? _____

17. Where would the gospel first be preached (24:47)? _____

18. Why were the apostles to wait in Jerusalem (24:49)? _____

19. What was the “power from on high” (24:49)? _____
20. Where did Jesus go when He left the apostles (24:51)? _____

The Great Commission

Compare the three accounts of the Great Commission to learn what one must do to be saved.

| Passage | What Man Must Do | Result |
|----------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Matt. 28:18-20 | | |
| Mark 16:15-16 | | |
| Luke 24:47 | | |
| Summation | | |