

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

John 20:1-31

- I. THE FACT OF THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST (John 20:1-18)
 - A. The Discovery of Mary Magdalene (John 20:1-2)
 1. The time (John 20:1)
 - a. On the first day of the week
 - 1) The morrow after the Sabbath
 - a) The time of the feast of the firstfruits (Leviticus 23:10-11); a picture of the resurrection of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:20, 23)
 - b) The time of the feast of weeks – Pentecost (Leviticus 23:15-17); a type of the coming of the Spirit and the marking of a new dispensation
 - 2) The time of the resurrection of Christ (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:2, 9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1)
 - 3) The time when the risen Christ met with His disciples (John 20:19)
 - 4) The time when the church at Troas met to hear Paul preach (Acts 20:7)
 - 5) The time when the collections were gathered of the congregation (1 Corinthians 16:2)
 - 6) Early called “the Lord’s day” (Revelation 1:10) because it was the day of resurrection and the day when the people of God especially met to worship the Lord. Note: many Bible students limit the meaning of Revelation 1:10 to a reference to the day of the Lord as defined in the Old Testament. Although this may be a good application, John seems to be referring to a particular day as “the Lord’s day.” This day would be Sunday.
 - b. When it was dark
 - 1) Jesus Christ was already risen from the dead before daylight.
 - 2) This would fit into the concept of the Jewish 24-hour day beginning when the sun goes down in the evening.
 2. Her discovery (John 20:1)
 - a. A removed stone (Matthew 27:60; Matthew 28:1-2; Mark 16:1-4)
 - b. An empty sepulchre

3. Her reaction (John 20:2)
 - a. She ran.
 - 1) To Simon Peter
 - 2) To John – “whom Jesus loved”
 - b. She said,
 - 1) They have taken the Lord out of the sepulcher.
 - 2) We know not where they have taken Him – “we” (Mark 16:1).
- B. The Investigation of Peter and John (John 20:3-10)
 1. Their run to the sepulchre (John 20:3-6a)
 - a. Peter and John both run to the tomb (John 20:3).
 - b. John outran Peter and came first to the tomb (John 20:4).
 - c. John stopped at the door of the tomb (John 20:5).
 - 1) He stooped down.
 - 2) He looked in.
 - 3) He saw the linen clothes.
 - d. Peter ran inside the tomb (John 20:6a).
 2. The evidence at the sepulchre (John 20:6b-7)
 - a. The linen clothes (John 20:6b; John 19:40; John 11:44)
 - b. The folded napkin (John 20:7)
 - 1) It had been about His head.
 - 2) It was not with the linen clothes.
 - 3) It was wrapped together in a place by itself; this was not the act of a robbery or of anything being done in a hurry.
 3. The faith of John (John 20:8-9)
 - a. John then went into the sepulchre (John 20:8).
 - b. John saw the empty tomb and believed (John 20:8).
 - 1) He was the first to believe in the resurrected Christ without seeing the resurrected Christ.
 - 2) Compare this with the other disciples (Mark 16:11-14).
 - 3) As such, he received a special blessing from the Lord (John 20:29).
 - c. The disciples did not yet know the scriptures that prophesied of the resurrection of Christ (John 20:9; Psalm 16:10; Isaiah 53:9-12).
 4. Their return to their home (John 20:10)
- C. The Appearance of the Angels (John 20:11-13)
 1. The despair of Mary (John 20:11)
 - a. Without
 - b. Weeping
 - c. Watching
 2. The two angels sitting (John 20:12); compare with Luke 24:4 – “two men stood by them in shining garments.”

- a. In white (Matthew 28:3)
 - b. Sitting
 - 1) One at the head
 - 2) One at the feet
 3. The question of the angels (John 20:13)
 - a. They asked why Mary was weeping.
 - b. She answered that someone had taken away her Lord.
- D. The First Appearance of Jesus (John 20:14-18)
1. The unnoted presence of Jesus (John 20:14-15; John 21:4; Genesis 28:16)
 2. Her conversation with the unknown Jesus (John 20:15)
 - a. He asked her why she was weeping (as in John 20:13).
 - b. She supposed him to be the gardener.
 - c. She asked where the body of Jesus had been laid.
 3. The revealed person of Jesus (John 20:16; Mark 16:9)
 - a. He called her name: Mary.
 - b. She turned herself.
 - c. She responded: Rabboni.
 - 1) Meaning *Master* (John 1:38)
 - 2) Refers to Him as a teacher (John 3:2)
 - 3) Rabboni specifically means “my Master.”
 4. The first ascension of Jesus (John 20:17)
 - a. The statements of Christ
 - 1) Touch me not.
 - 2) I am not yet ascended.
 - 3) I ascend to my Father.
 - b. The problem
 - 1) Jesus will not visibly ascend for forty days (Acts 1:3).
 - 2) The other women will be holding His feet (touching Him) in a short time (Matthew 28:9).
 - c. The biblical solution
 - 1) Note: the following is not the solution of the majority of the commentators. They try to make the expression symbolic, but the result does not satisfy the details of the conversation.
 - 2) There is a temple in heaven (Revelation 11:19; Revelation 15:5). This temple was the pattern for the earthly tabernacle (Exodus 25:40; Hebrews 8:5).
 - 3) Jesus made an offering of His own blood for the sins of man; but He made this offering in the heavenly temple and not in the earthly one (Hebrews 9:11-12, 24-26; Acts 20:28).
 - 4) Jesus followed the pattern of making atonement as given in the law for the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:15-19).
 - a) No man was to be in the tabernacle (Leviticus 16:17).

- b) The priest must not be touched by an unclean person (Leviticus 22:5-6).
- c) Note: Mary was unclean being in the flesh and Jesus with His offering of blood could not be touched by her or anyone else before He made His offering at the heavenly mercy seat.
- 5) Jesus, therefore, ascended into heaven to make atonement in the heavenly temple for our sins and then made a quick return to earth (Matthew 28:9). The sacrifice could have been completed in a half hour (compare Revelation 8:1-4) or less. The trip to and from heaven did not need to take up any time at all. The later slow ascension into heaven was for the viewing of the disciples.
- 5. The testimony of Mary (John 20:18)
 - a. She had seen the Lord Jesus.
 - b. She had heard His words.