

Matthew 28:1-20

- **RESURRECTION OF THE KING - Matthew 26-28**

- o New Covenant...
 - Just before Thursday evening - as the sun was going down ending the day of PASSOVER...
 - The priests asked for the soldiers to break the legs of those on the cross...
 - Because they were NOT allowed to work on Friday or Saturday [two sabbaths]
 - But Jesus was already dead - so not ONE bone was broken - **Psalm 34:20**
 - A soldier pierced His side to be sure - and BLOOD and WATER came out - **Hebrews 9:19**
- o Rich man...
 - Joseph of Arimathea was a RICH Jewish leader [Sanhedrin]
 - He was also a SECRET disciple of Jesus - who risked everything by asking for the body of Jesus...
 - Because he took a STAND - Nicodemus also stood up with him - **John 19:39**
 - Joseph buried the Lord in his personal tomb [rich man] - **Isaiah 53:9**
- o Three days...
 - The priests remembered Jesus saying He would rise after THREE days - **Matthew 12:40**
 - They came to Pilate and asked for soldiers to GUARD the tomb...
 - Fearing the disciples would come and STEAL the body - and claim Jesus had RISEN!

- **1ST - THE TOMB... vs. 1-10**

- o 1st - First Day... vs. 1
 - Sabbaths... vs. 1
 - Now after the Sabbath!
 - The word SABBATH here is PLURAL [σαββάτων]
 - After the TWO sabbaths - both the FRIDAY special sabbath - and SATURDAY regular sabbath...
 - Going back to our TIMELINE - this further clarifies WHEN Jesus was crucified...
 - He died on a THURSDAY [Passover] - and was resurrected on the SUNDAY...
 - Meaning He was in the TOMB for THREE days and THREE nights!
 - **Matthew 12:40** - "The Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth!"
 - First Fruit... vs. 1
 - As the first day of the week began to dawn!
 - The FIRST day of the week for the Jews is a SUNDAY [day after the sabbath]
 - But the FIRST Sunday after the PASSOVER was a special day...
 - It was called the feast of FIRST fruits - **Leviticus 23:10-11**
 - Just as Jesus fulfilled the PASSOVER - by being the Lamb of God...
 - And He fulfilled the Feast of UNLEAVENED bread - by taking away our SIN...
 - He also fulfilled the Feast of FIRST fruits - by being the FIRST to rise from the DEAD!
 - **I Corinthians 15:20** - "Now Christ is risen from the dead and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep."
 - In the New Testament - death for a believer is described as falling ASLEEP...
 - Not that we SLEEP - the moment we DIE we are with Jesus - **II Corinthians 7:8**
 - But it is meant to emphasize the fact that death is NOT the end...
 - And we KNOW that because of Jesus - He was the FIRST to RISE!
- o 2nd - He is Risen... vs. 1-7
 - The women... vs. 1
 - Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb!
 - There were a total FOUR women who came EARLY in the morning to the TOMB...
 - Mary Magdalene [Jesus cast SEVEN demons out of her] - **Luke 8:2**

- Mary the mother of Joses [James son of Alpheus] – **Mark 15:47**
- Salome – the mother of James and John – **Mark 16:1**
- And Joanna - a servant of Herod Antipas - **Luke 24:10**
- These women came to bring spices to complete Jesus burial - **Luke 24:1**
- They did NOT expect Him to be RISEN - even talking about HOW to get into the TOMB!
- **Mark 16:3** - “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?”
- The Angel... vs. 2-4
 - Behold there was a great earthquake - for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven.
 - And came and rolled back the stone from the door and sat on it.
 - His countenance was like lightning - and his clothing as white as snow.
 - The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men!
 - BEFORE the women arrived at the TOMB - presumably at DAWN...
 - There had been a great [μέγας] EARTHQUAKE [σεισμός]
 - This was NOT what opened up the TOMB - this was PARADISE being emptied...
 - All the SAINTS who had died in FAITH - were heading to HEAVEN - **Matthew 27:52**
 - After which an Angel from the Lord [ἄγγελος γὰρ κυρίου] came down from heaven [οὐρανός]
 - His appearance was [imperfect] as bright as LIGHTENING - his clothes as WHITE as snow...
 - The GUARDS and SEAL that were meant to keep Jesus in the TOMB had little effect...
 - The soldiers were TERRIFIED [φόβος] - and stopped breathing [νεκρός]
 - Then the angel rolled back the STONE - and SAT [imperfect] on it waiting for the women!
 - Luke tells us there were TWO angels at the TOMB - **Luke 24:5**
 - This is NOT a contradiction - Matthew just mentions the ONE angel who spoke!
 - Jesus did NOT need the angel to roll away to STONE to get OUT...
 - The GRAVE could NOT hold Him - and there was NO stone that could stop Him...
 - Later that night he would WALK through walls in His glorified body - **John 20:19**
 - The angel removed the STONE so that the women could look IN!
- Do not fear... vs. 5-6
 - The angel answered and said to the women: Do not be afraid.
 - I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.
 - He is not here for He is risen as He said. Come see the place where the Lord lay!
 - The angel said to the WOMEN [not the soldiers] - do NOT [imperative] fear [φοβέω]
 - He KNEW [εἶδω] they had come [present] looking for a CRUCIFIED Lord...
 - But He is [present] NOT there - because He is RISEN [passive] - just as He said - **Mark 8:31**
 - COME and SEE [imperative] - the place where the Lord [κύριος] was [imperfect]!
 - If there is ONE thing in this life we all SHOULD see...
 - It is a simple EMPTY tomb - carved out of rock - on the north side of Jerusalem...
 - As you walk in the door there is a SIGN - He is NOT here for He is RISEN!
 - The number one FEAR [φοβέω] of all men - is DEATH...
 - We FEAR it because it is an UNKNOWN - we FEAR it because of the JUDGMENT...
 - But the PROOF that there is LIFE after DEATH is found in Jesus...
 - We serve a RISEN Lord - who showed us He has the power over the GRAVE!
 - **I Corinthians 15:55-57** – “O death where is your victory? How we thank God who gives us victory over sin and death through Jesus Christ our Lord!” [NLT]
- o 3rd - Good News... vs. 7-8
 - Quickly... vs. 7
 - Go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead.
 - Indeed He is going before you into Galilee - there you will see Him. Behold I have told you!
 - With URGENCY [ταχύ] the women had [imperative] to go and tell the DISCIPLES...

- Mark adds that they should especially tell PETER - **Mark 16:7**
- Jesus was RESURRECTED [passive] - and He was going [present] to the GALILEE...
- He would [future] meet with them there - just as He had [indicative] SAID!
- **Matthew 26:32** - "After I have been raised I will go before you to Galilee."
- Great joy... vs. 8
 - They went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy - ran to bring His disciples word!
 - They RAN out of the TOMB - shook up [φοβέω] - but also filled with GREAT [μέγας] Joy...
 - They had the MESSAGE [ἀπαγγέλλω] the DISCIPLES needed to hear!
 - The women were the FRIST to see the empty tomb – the FIRST to believe...
 - Because it is often the women who are the FRIST to respond the Gospel ...
 - It is a common statistic [the whole world over] more women than men attend church...
 - But that is where the Gospel STARTS - not where it ENDS...
 - Many of you ladies have HUSBANDS – FATHERS – SONS – who do NOT believe...
 - Go tell them - go out QUICKLY and give them the Good News!
- o 4th - Meeting Jesus... vs. 9-10
 - Obeying... vs. 9
 - As they went to tell His disciples - behold Jesus met them saying: Rejoice!
 - BUT [δέ] - as they were [imperfect] on the way to tell [ἀπαγγέλλω] the DISCIPLES...
 - Jesus MET them and said - [imperative] REJOICE [χαίρω]!
 - John tells us that it was Mary Magdalene who FIRST saw Jesus - **John 20:14**
 - She did NOT recognize Him [glorified body] - and thought He was the gardener...
 - But the moment He spoke her name - MARY - she recognized Him!
 - **John 10:27** – "My sheep hear My voice and I know them - and they follow Me."
 - A lot of people want to SEE Jesus - but they are NOT willing to OBEY...
 - If we are NOT doing what God tells us to do [share the Good News]
 - It should NOT come as a surprise that we are NOT going to see God working...
 - But as we step out in FAITH - we will SEE the Lord - and HEAR His voice...
 - And the result will be that we are filled with JOY!
 - Worshipping... vs. 9
 - So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him!
 - The women CLUNG [κρατέω] to Jesus - holding onto His feet - and WORSHIPED Him...
 - WORSHIP [προσκυνέω] - 60x in NT - toward [πρός] and dog [κύων]!
 - Anyone who has a DOG can appreciate the picture...
 - When you come home - your DOG is ecstatic to see you - RUNS to greet you!
 - When we think of WORSHIP - we tend to think of SINGING...
 - But SINGING is described as how we minister to each other - **Colossians 3:16**
 - WORSHIP is NOT about songs - it is about being EXCITED to see our Lord...
 - It means wanting to be with Him - always around Him - continually loyal to Him!
 - Going to Galilee... vs. 10
 - Then Jesus said to them: Do not be afraid.
 - Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee and there they will see Me!
 - Jesus also commanded [imperative] the women to NOT be AFRAID [φοβέω]
 - They were to GO [imperative] and tell [ἀπαγγέλλω] the DISCIPLES...
 - If they [subjunctive] went to the GALILEE - Jesus would be [indicative] waiting for them!
 - The DISCIPLES did NOT believe the women about Jesus - **Mark 16:11**
 - They did NOT believe the TWO disciples who met Jesus on the road to Emmaus - **Mark 16:13**
 - Even when Jesus appeared to them that NIGHT in the upper room - **John 20:19**
 - Though they finally believed He was risen [expect Thomas who was not there]

- They still DOUBTED that God had a plan for their lives [failed disciples]
- Instead they went back to the Galilee - back to FISHING - to their OLD lives!
- **John 21:3** - "Peter said to them: I am going fishing."
- Jesus KNEW they were going to do this - and would be there WAITING for them...
- Because Jesus does NOT expect us to be perfect – He knows we are NOT...
- He knows we tend to FAIL – and CONDEMN ourselves...
- But He meets us right where we are – no matter what we have done...
- And wants to bring us back into that close relationship with Him!
- **I John 3:20** - "If our heart condemns us - God is greater than our heart and knows all things!"
- **2ND - THE LIE... vs. 11-15**
 - 1st - The bribe... vs. 11-14
 - Stolen body... vs. 11-13
 - Now while they were going behold some of the guard came into the city.
 - And reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened.
 - When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together.
 - They gave a large sum of money to the soldiers saying:
 - Tell them - His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept!
 - While the WOMEN were on their way to TELL [ἀπαγγέλλω] the DISCIPLES...
 - Some of the SOLDIERS went into the city to TELL [ἀπαγγέλλω] the PRIESTS...
 - They shared EVERYTHING [πᾶς] that had happened - the earthquake - angel - EMPTY tomb...
 - The PRIESTS and ELDERS [Sanhedrin] discussed what to DO about the report...
 - They decided to BRIBE the guards with a LOT of MONEY...
 - Commanding [imperative] them to say - DISCIPLES stole [κλέπτω] the body while they SLEPT!
 - The promise... vs. 14
 - If this comes to the governors ears we will appease him and make you secure!
 - The soldiers were HESITANT to make the DEAL...
 - If [subjunctive] word of this got back to PILATE - they would be PUNISHED [death]
 - The PRIESTS told them NOT to worry [μέριμνα] - they would PAY [πείθω] off PILATE as well!
 - This was a foolish story that NO one with any common sense would believe...
 - If a Roman soldier fell ASLEEP on the job – it would have cost him his life...
 - And there was NO way ELEVEN fishermen could have overcome Roman soldiers...
 - Yet even with the PROOF of the resurrection – the leaders would NOT believe!
 - There will always be those who NO matter what – just will NOT believe in Jesus...
 - Sadly that is a CHOICE that people can make - God will NOT force anyone to go to heaven...
 - But those who go out of their way – bribe others – lie to others...
 - To keep them from believing in Jesus - will receive greater JUDGEMENT!
 - **Matthew 23:13** - "Woe to you... hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom... for you neither go in yourselves nor do you allow those who are entering to go in."
 - 2nd - Excuses... vs. 15
 - They took the money and did as they were instructed.
 - And this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day!
 - So [δέ] the SOLDIERS took the money - and did as they were TAUGHT [διδάσκω]
 - And [καί] that is what is many JEWS [Ἰουδαῖος] still say happened to this DAY...
 - Yet ALL of the DISCIPLES [except John] were martyred for their FAITH...
 - If the RESURRECTION was a LIE - it is improbable they would have DIED to protect it!
 - I had a coworker who told me he did NOT believe the God...
 - His argument was that EVOLUTION was a FACT - and that DISPROVED God...
 - I took the challenge and did some research - gave him the FACTS that DISPROVED evolution...

- I will NEVER forget his response - he still believed in EVOLUTION - because he WANTED to!
- People have a LOT of reasons why they REJECT the Gospel...
- But NONE of their EXCUSES have any merit - they hold onto LIES because they WANT to...
- The ONLY reason people reject the Gospel - is because they WANT their SIN and NOT God!
- 3RD - THE COMMISSION... vs. 16-20
 - 1st - The called... vs. 16-18
 - The mountain... vs. 16
 - Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee.
 - To the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them!
 - Matthew does NOT record the TWO appearances of Jesus in Jerusalem - **John 20:19-29**
 - Instead focusing on the ELEVEN disciples [no Judas] - meeting Jesus in the Galilee...
 - They went to the MOUNTAIN [τὸ ὄρος] where Jesus told them to meet Him...
 - We do NOT know where this was - perhaps the Mount [τὸ ὄρος] of Beatitudes - **Matthew 5:1**
 - Doubting... vs. 17
 - When they saw Him they worshiped Him - but some doubted!
 - When the ELEVEN saw Jesus - they WORSHIPED [προσκυνέω]
 - But [δέ] there was also DOUBT [διστάζω] - from the root word TWO [δύο]
 - Even seeing Jesus the THIRD time - they still were NOT sure...
 - Not that Jesus was ALIVE - but that God could USE them!
 - **James 1:8** - "A double minded man - unstable in all his ways!"
 - There is a BATTLE inside of all of us - a WAR within our HEARTS...
 - We desire to WORSHIP [προσκυνέω] the Lord - we want to live our lives for Him...
 - But at the same time we are also have DOUBTS [δύο] we can be used [who are we]
 - The GOOD news is that Jesus is ready to MEET us - He is WAITING for us...
 - And if we are just willing to step out and BELIEVE - He will use us!
 - All authority... vs. 18
 - Jesus came and spoke to them: All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth!
 - Jesus gives [present] this encouragement to DOUBTING disciples...
 - All [πᾶς] POWER [ἐξουσία] has been [aorist] given to Him...
 - All the POWER that is IN [ἐν] heaven - giving Him POWER over everything ON [ἐπὶ] earth...
 - Meaning He is NOT limited by what we can DO - even our FAILURES...
 - Instead we are have NO limitations because we have His POWER!
 - God is NOT looking for the RICH - the WISE - or the POWERFUL - **I Corinthians 1:26**
 - God is looking for the HUMBLE - for someone who will WORSHIP [προσκυνέω] Him!
 - Being used by God is all about our PERSPECTIVE...
 - If we looking at what we have to offer to God - we will DOUBT...
 - But if we are looking at what God can do through us - NOTHING is impossible!
 - **Matthew 19:26** - "With God all things are possible!"
 - 2nd - The command... vs. 19-20
 - Make Disciples... vs. 19
 - Therefore... make disciples of all the nations!
 - Therefore [οὖν] - since we have access to the one who has ALL power...
 - We are given the GREAT commission - made up of FOUR verbs...
 - But there is ONLY one command [imperative] - make DISCIPLES of [πᾶς] nations [ἔθνος]!
 - Because the heart of our God is that EVERYONE goes to HEAVEN - **II Peter 3:9**
 - Jesus died on the CROSS so that ANYONE could be saved - **John 3:16**
 - And all SOMEONE had to get to heaven is to BELIEVE - **Romans 10:13**
 - But how can they BELIEVE - if we do NOT tell them...

- And how can we TELL them - if we do NOT go out and SHARE!
- **Romans 10:15** - "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace. Who bring glad tidings of good things!"
- How to do it... vs. 19-20
 - Go... baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
 - Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you!
 - The other THREE verbs in the GREAT commission tell us HOW to make DISCIPLES...
 - FIRST - we are [aorist] SENT [passive] to tell people about Jesus...
 - SECOND - we BAPTIZE [present] them - as a public confession of their faith in Jesus...
 - We baptize them into the [singular] NAME [εἰς τὸ ὄνομα] of our God...
 - THE Father [τοῦ πατρὸς] - THE Son [τοῦ υἱοῦ] - and THE Holy Spirit [τοῦ ἁγίου πνεύματος]
 - THIRD - we TEACH [present] them EVERYTHING [πᾶς] - so they GROW in Jesus...
 - This makes them DISCIPLES of the Lord - fulfilling the COMMAND!
 - The biggest problem in the world today - people do NOT know the WORD of God...
 - They do NOT know the dangers of hell - or the REWARD of heaven...
 - About the coming JUDGEMENT of God - or His amazing LOVE and salvation...
 - They do NOT know Jesus - because they do NOT know His WORD...
 - And so we go to teach them – so they can become the CHILDREN of God!
- Not alone... vs. 20
 - Lo I am with you always - even to the end of the age. Amen!
 - LOOK [imperative] - Jesus is [present] ALWAYS with us...
 - TODAY [τὰς ἡμέρας] - and until the END of the AGE [τοῦ αἰῶνος]
 - Meaning we are NOT alone - and we will NEVER be alone...
 - God does NOT just send us - He goes with us as we share the GOOD news...
 - Which brings us to the end of the book of Matthew - which ends with - AMEN [ἀμήν]!