

Resurrection Sunday

{The 1st Lord's Day – 30 A.D.}
{March 31, 2013 A.D.}

What is the significance of the Resurrection of Jesus and the empty tomb????

- ❖ **The Resurrection of Jesus was chief among all the signs to an unbelieving and skeptical world.**

Matthew 12:38-41 (NASB95)

³⁸ Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You." ³⁹ But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; ⁴⁰ for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. ⁴¹ "The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

- ❖ **God substantiated Jesus' claim to be the source of all life, eternal through the Resurrection.**

John 11:20-27 (NASB95)

²⁰ Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary stayed at the house. ²¹ Martha then said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² "Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You." ²³ Jesus said* to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said* to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her,

"I am the resurrection and the life;

he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die.

Do you believe this?"

²⁷ She said* to Him, "Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, *even* He who comes into the world."

John 20:30-31 (NASB95)

³⁰ Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

- ❖ **The Resurrection of Jesus is preached as an essential part of the Gospel and Confession/Proclamation of the Early Church (30-100 A.D.).**

1 Corinthians 15:1-8 (NASB95)

¹ Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; ⁷ then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; ⁸ and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

- ❖ **God validated the Person, Teaching and Ministry of Jesus.**

Person – Jesus is who He said He is: the Anointed One/Messiah/Christ, Son of God, the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, the Gate, the Good Shepherd, the Resurrection and the Life, the True Vine, the Way, the Truth and the Life, Lamb of God, the Redeemer, the Creator – to name a few of His claims

Teaching – all that He revealed was true and that He spoke for His Father in Heaven.

Ministry – especially the Cross – God accepted His sacrifice for our sins – in the Resurrection we can know that we are truly forgiven.

- ❖ **Resurrection to eternal life with God is the Hope of every Believer in Jesus Christ.**

1 Corinthians 15:12-20 (NASB95)

¹² Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. ¹⁵ Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁷ and

if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

²⁰ **But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.**

Evidence of a Real Physical Death:

- ✓ Roman Officials were convinced.
 - Their soldiers were experts at causing and recognizing death. The scourging and the crucifixion were designed to effect the most painful and dreaded of all forms of death.
- ✓ Of the literally thousands of crucifixions the Romans performed there were never any survivors!
- ✓ Pilate carefully checked reports before releasing the body of Jesus for burial (Mark 15:44).
- ✓ The Jewish officials were convinced of His death – they made no protest to the removal of His body from the Cross.
- ✓ Jesus' friends were convinced.
 - They were grief stricken.
 - They buried Him.

Evidence of a Real Physical Resurrection:

- ✓ The soldiers left their posts and ceased guarding the tomb (Matthew 28:11-25).
 - They were not overcome by fisherman, tax collectors and women.
 - They did not fall asleep.
 - Four Roman watches instead of three – customary of Jewish soldiers/death penalty
 - How would they know what happened?
 - Why would the valuable grave clothes be left behind?
- ✓ Instead of pointing to the convincing proof of Christ's remains, the Jewish religious leaders fabricated the story of the theft of the body.
 - They coerced/bribed the soldiers to lie about the body of Jesus (Matthew 28:11-15).
- ✓ Jesus' friends stopped caring for the tomb.
 - They found the grave clothes but no body.
 - They began reporting/confessing and proclaiming Jesus' Resurrection.
- ✓ 500 witnesses saw Him.
- ✓ He was seen by some who initially doubted (Luke 24:31-39).
- ✓ Jesus' disciples underwent radical transformation of belief/heart/attitude/life.

Radical Transformation:

Disciples/Apostles:

1. **Peter** was crucified upside down.
2. **Andrew** was crucified.
3. **James**, the son of Zebedee, was killed by the sword.
4. **John** was persecuted and exiled by Domitian (Titus Flavius Domitianus (A.D. 51-96), Roman emperor (A.D. 81-96)
5. **Phillip** was crucified.
6. **Bartholomew** was crucified.
7. **Thomas** was thrust through with a spear.
8. **Matthew** was killed by the sword.
9. **James**, the son of Alphaeus, was crucified.
10. **Thaddaeus** was killed by arrows.
11. **Simon** the Zealot was crucified.
12. **Paul** was beheaded.

Persecuted Church and its Christian Martyrs throughout History and Today:

Matthew 28:1-10 (NASB95)

Mark 16:1-13 (NASB95)

Luke 24:1-12 (NASB95)

John 20:1-18 (NASB95)

Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first *day* of the week, Mary Magdalene, from whom Jesus had cast out seven demons, and Mary the *mother* of James, Salome, Joanna and also the other women with them bought spices, which they had prepared, so that they might come and anoint Him. And they came to look at the tomb, while it was still dark. They were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?"

And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men.

Looking up, they saw the stone *already* taken away from the tomb, although it was extremely large. Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; But when they entered the tomb, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. And as *the women* were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, *the men* said to them, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him. "Why do you seek the living One among the dead? They saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed. The angel said to the women, "Do not be amazed and afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus, the Nazarene, who has been crucified. "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again." And they remembered His words. Come, see the place where He was lying. But "Go quickly and tell His disciples and Peter, that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him, just as He told you.; behold, I have told you."

Mary turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, and did not know that it was Jesus. And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where

you have laid Him, and I will take Him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher). And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; but go to My brethren and say to them, to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me." 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.' "

And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

They came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him," and Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and *that* He had said these things to her and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb;

So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying *there*; but he did not go in. And so Simon Peter also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying *there*, and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed. For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. So the disciples went away again to their own homes marveling at what had happened.