

# He Is Risen

Saturday, April 3, 2021

8:02 AM

## **Matthew 28:1-7**

**28** After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

**2** There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. **3** His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. **4** The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

**5** The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. **6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.** **7** Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

I love what Matthew says... they went to look at the tomb. Not because they had faith that he was alive, they were sure he was dead.

Their world was devastated when Jesus was crucified. Everything they believed about him had been turned upside down. They needed answers, but where could they find them? So they went to look at the tomb, the last place they had seen his body, the only place that offered an answer and that answer was... He Is dead!

Maybe the shock of what had happened was so great that they still couldn't believe it really had happened. As horrible as the truth was that Jesus was dead, maybe they just needed to look one more time to be sure it wasn't all just a bad dream.

What they encountered would change their world and ours forever.

God sent an angel to deliver a message. A message that prophetically answers Christ's claims to be God and His resurrection from the dead. A message that continues to reverberate through history for it is what all mankind needs to hear. It is this message that I want us to examine today.

## He Is Not Here

Like these women, people look for answers about Jesus in many different ways. Some look for proof, scientific, historical, or otherwise to support their belief that the story of the resurrection is not true. Some listen to the voices of the skeptics that say Jesus never existed, that he was a myth made up by christian writers, that he was only a good teacher, that he didn't die on a cross, that he only appeared to be dead, that the disciples stole the body. Yet a careful investigation will show - He is not here

Some look for answers by immersing themselves in the things of this world... But He is not here.

Some look for him only as a historical figure... But He is not here.

Some try to find Him in performing good works... He is not here

Others think they have found him by celebrating Christmas and Easter...

By stating that Jesus was not there the Angel affirms the fact that He was there at one point.

One of the first objections to the Easter story is what happened to Jesus' body. Perhaps he never died in the first place. (an argument we will look at in a minute), perhaps he was burried somewhere else, perhaps his disciples took the body, perhaps the women went to the wrong place, perhaps the soldiers hid the body

But the encounter with the angel sets the record straight. He is not here. Not because they had come to the wrong place, not because he was never burried in the first place, not because he hadn't died, not because his disciples had stolen him, not because the soldiers had hidden him. He wasn't there because once He was and now He is not. He is not here because He has risen

*The empty tomb, as an enduring symbol of the resurrection, is the ultimate representation of Jesus' claim to being God. The apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:17 that the resurrection is at the very core of the Christian faith: "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins." Theologian Gerald O'Collins put it this way: "In a profound sense, Christianity without the resurrection is not simply Christianity without its final chapter. It is not Christianity at all."*<sup>1</sup> - **Strobel, Lee. The Case for Easter (p. 32). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.**

## He Is Risen

He was in agony and sweat great drops of blood  
He was taken into custody and questioned throughout the night  
He was beaten  
He was flogged  
He was beaten some more  
He was forced to carry his cross  
He was nailed to the cross beam and hoisted into place on the pole  
His feet were nailed as well  
His joints dislocated  
His lungs filled with fluid, His body racked with pain with each attempt to push himself up and try to take a breath  
His body was in shock from loss of blood  
A spear was thrust through his side and blood and water flowed as it pierced the right lung and went into the heart.

The point of all this is that there is no way he could have survived all of this.

*Dr. William D. Edwards, whose 1986 article in the Journal of the American Medical Association concluded, "Clearly, the weight of the historical and medical evidence indicates that Jesus was dead before the wound to his side was inflicted. . . . Accordingly, interpretations based on the assumption that Jesus did not die on the cross appear to be at odds with modern medical knowledge."*<sup>10</sup> - **Strobel, Lee. The Case for Easter (pp. 27-28). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.**

### **Acts 1:3**

**3** After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

## Just As He Said

*“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him [that is, Christ]: ‘I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God.’ That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse.... You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.” – C.S. Lewis*

### **From Science Speaks by Peter Stoner**

#### **8 Prophecies 1 chance in 10 to the 17th power**

*Let us try to visualize this chance. If you mark one of ten tickets, and place all of the tickets in a hat, and thoroughly stir them, and then ask a blindfolded man to draw one, his chance of getting the right ticket is one in ten. Suppose that we take 10 to the 17th power silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man, from their day to the present time, providing they wrote them in their own wisdom*

#### **16 Prophecies 1 chance in 10 to the 28th power**

*Let us try to visualize this as we did before. Take this number of silver dollars. If you make these into a solid ball, you will have a great sphere with a center at the earth, and extending in all directions more than 30 times as far as from the earth to the sun. (If a train had started from the earth at the time the Declaration of Independence was signed, and had traveled steadily toward the sun at the rate of sixty miles per hour, day and night, it would be about reaching its destination today. But remember that our ball of silver dollars extends thirty times that far in all directions.) If you can imagine the marking of one silver dollar, and then thoroughly stirring it into this great ball, and blindfolding a man and telling him to pick out one dollar, and expect it to be the marked one, you have somewhat of a picture of how absolutely the fulfillment of sixteen prophecies referring to Jesus Christ proves both that He is the Son of God and that our Bible is inspired. Certainly God directed the writing of His Word.*

## 48 Prophecies 1 chance in 10 to the 157th power

Any man who rejects Jesus Christ as the Son of God is rejecting a fact proved perhaps more absolutely than any other fact in the world.

It's ok to have questions - all of the followers of Jesus did. It's ok to have doubts - just look at Thomas. But there are answers to these questions and doubts. It begins with a journey to look at an empty tomb