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Jesus Resurrection from The Tomb.

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Jesus Resurrection from the Tomb.

Topics.

- The scenario surrounding the tomb.
- The woman who went to the tomb.
- The stone rolled away and the angels at the tomb.
- Mary Magdalene the first to see Jesus.
- The length of a day in the Bible.

INTRODUCTION

The main witnesses who first saw the empty tomb were a group of women who had recently been under severe emotional strain. Immediately after the momentous discovery they scattered in order to take the news to different people. So, it is not surprising that the accounts vary in detail. It would be more surprising, and the evidence would in a sense be less valuable if they did not because the variation suggests that the writers collected their evidence from more than one source which makes the overall agreement of the four accounts all the more impressive.

The events in the records can be set out more or less as follows:

THE SCENARIO SURROUNDING THE TOMB

1

1. A group of women go to the tomb early on the first day of the week to embalm the body of Jesus.
(Matt. 28:1) (Mark 16:1-2) (Luke 24:1, 10) (John 20:1a).
2. They discover the stone has been rolled back.
(Matt. 28:2-4) (Mark 16:3-4) (Luke 24:2) (John 20:1b).
3. The body of Jesus is no longer in the tomb, instead they see an angel who explains the situation and gives them a message.
(Matt. 28:5-7) (Mark 16:5-7) (Luke 24:3-7).
4. The women run back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples and are greeted in the main with disbelief.
(Matt. 28:6) (Luke 24:8-11, 22-23) (John 20:2).
5. Mary Magdalene follows them back to the tomb and remains there after they have left.
6. Jesus then makes his first appearance to her (John 20:11-18) (Matt. 28:9).
7. Matthew names Mary Magdalene and the other Mary.

On the same day Jesus appeared to:

- Peter (Luke 24:34) (1 Cor. 15:5).
- The two going to Emmaus.

(Luke 24:13-32) see (Mark 16:12-13).

- The rest of the disciples back in Jerusalem (apart from Thomas).

(John 20:19-23) (Luke 24:36-43) (Mark 16:14).

OTHER APPEARANCES

Other appearances outside the scope of this article are recorded in:

- The four Gospels and (Acts 1) and (1 Cor. 15).

What emerges from all the accounts is a remarkable consistency on two points:

1. Jesus could now reveal himself and disappear at will.
2. He only showed himself to his followers.

WOMEN THAT WENT TO THE TOMB

The woman that went to the tomb were:

- Mary Magdalene.
- Mary the mother of James.
- Salome.
- Joanna.
- The other women from Galilee (Luke 23:55).

2

John singles out Mary Magdalene for mention (John 20:1), probably because it was Mary Magdalene who brought information back to Peter and the other disciples. She herself in (John 2:2) implies that there were others with her, but we do not know who they were, so the writers could each be mentioning by name those of the party, whose behavior made an impact on them and from whom they gained their information.

THE STONE ROLLED AWAY

Mark and Luke imply that the stone had been rolled back before they arrived on the spot (Mark 16:3-4) (Luke 24:2). It is most likely the great earthquake and the angel of the Lord descending in Matthew could have happened before their arrival (Matt. 28:2-4) and as a result the guards probably raced back to the city to tell everyone (Matt. 28:11-15). The guards have presumably already reached the city and are busy spreading their tale by the time the women are on their way back from the tomb.

THE ANGELS AT TOMB

When the women arrived, the angel who descended to roll back the stone has moved inside the tomb (Matt. 28:2) and has been joined by another angel (Luke 24:4) we know this because in (John 20:12) Mary Magdalene sees two angels. Matthew and Mark may refer only to the angel who acted as spokesman, and therefore engaged the attention of their informants to the singular, whereas Luke says, "the men said" (plural). Luke may be referring loosely to the fact that while one spoke the other corroborated (Luke 24:5). All the accounts need to be put together to help us see the full picture. The angel said:

- Do not be afraid, we know why you have come.
- Jesus is not here because he has risen.
- Look at the empty tomb.
- Tell his disciples, he is going to meet you in Galilee.
- Remember how he foretold all this.

MARY MAGDALENE WAS THE FIRST TO SEE JESUS

Mark chapter sixteen says, Jesus first showed himself to Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9), this agrees with John's story and there is nothing in Luke account to conflict with this. In (Matt. 28:9) Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene (the key figure) and the other Mary, it seems likely that this is the first appearance and natural that when the story went around, Mary Magdalene was named and the other Mary forgotten, just as the other Gospel writers mention Bartimaeus, but not the other blind man and Legion, but not the other demoniac. It is only Matthew in each of these cases that mentions the pair.

THE LENGTH OF A DAY IN THE BIBLE

A DAY IN GENESIS

During the era of Genesis, a day was twenty-four hours (Gen. 1:5) (Psalm 74:16). It was divided into three parts morning, noon and evening (Psalm 55:17) (Dan 6:10).

- Morning (the first part) -- Sunrise (6am) to Noon (12pm) = 6 hours.
- Day (the second part) -- Noon (12pm) to midnight (12am) = 12 hours.
- Evening (the third part) -- Midnight (12am) to Sunrise (6am) = 6 hours.

And the new day begins.

A DAY AFTER THE BABYLONIAN EXILE

After Israel's exile from Babylon the day was divided into two twelve-hour parts (probably Persian influence).

The first half was from:

- Sunrise (6am) (the 1st hour of the morning) to sunset (6pm) = 12 hours.

The second half was from:

- Sunset (6pm) (the 1st hour of the evening) to sunrise 6am = 12 hours.

And the new day begins.

(The morning was the 1st hour and the 6th hour was noon).

A DAY DURING THE ERA OF JESUS

In Jesus time the Jews changed the beginning of the day back to how it was in Genesis, starting the new day at sunset and ending it at sunset, but instead of dividing it into three parts they divided it into two twelve-hour parts.

The first part was:

- Sunset (6pm) to sunrise (6 am) = (12hours) darkness.

The second part was:

- Sunrise (6am) to sunset (6 am) = (12hours) light.

Sunset to sunset (24 hours) was one-day.

(Time could not be determined by clocks so the length of an hour depended upon the time of the year).

For further information see the titles:

- Three Days and Three Nights.
- Tomb (Events that Took Place on the First Day) (Third Day).

Both titles are in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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