

CHRIST'S BURIAL AND RESURRECTION

BIBLE TEXT : Matthew 27:57-66; 28:1-15

LESSON 221 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead" (Acts 17:31).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Matthew 27:57-66

⁵⁷ When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple:

⁵⁸ He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered.

⁵⁹ And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

⁶⁰ And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

⁶¹ And there was Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulchre.

⁶² Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,

⁶³ Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

⁶⁴ Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

⁶⁵ Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make *it* as sure as ye can.

⁶⁶ So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

Matthew 28:1-15

¹ In the end of the sabbath, as it

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I Burial of Jesus Christ

1 Jesus was buried in a rich man's tomb, as was prophesied, Matthew 27:57-60;

Isaiah 53:9

⁹ And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither *was any* deceit in his mouth.

Mark 15:42-46

⁴² And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath,

⁴³ Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.

⁴⁴ And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling *unto him* the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead.

⁴⁵ And when he knew *it* of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph.

⁴⁶ And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre.

Luke 23:50-53

⁵⁰ And, behold, *there was* a man named Joseph, a counsellor; *and he was* a good man, and a just:

⁵¹ (The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) *he was* of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God.

⁵² This *man* went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus.

⁵³ And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid.

John 19:38

³⁸ And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave *him* leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus.

2 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary watched the burial of Jesus, Matthew 27:61;

Mark 15:47

⁴⁷ And Mary Magdalene and Mary *the mother* of Josès beheld where he was laid.

Luke 23:55-56

⁵⁵ And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid.

⁵⁶ And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.

II Pharisaical Connivance

1 The Pharisees solicited and received aid of the Romans in an attempt to prevent the resurrection of Jesus, Matthew 27:62-66;

Psalms 2:1

¹ Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

began to dawn toward the first *day* of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

² And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

³ His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

⁴ And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead *men*.

⁵ And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

⁶ He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

⁷ And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

⁸ And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

⁹ And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

¹⁰ Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

¹¹ Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done.

¹² And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers,

¹³ Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him *away* while we slept.

Psalm 2:3

³ Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

III The Resurrection Morning

1 The power of the Roman guard was set at nought by the angel of God, Matthew 28:1-4

2 An angel delivered the glad news of Jesus' resurrection, Matthew 28:2-7;

Mark 16:6

⁶ And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

Luke 24:6

⁶ He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,

3 The women were sent to tell Jesus' disciples of His resurrection, and that He would meet them in Galilee, Matthew 28:7;

Matthew 26:32

³² But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.

Mark 16:7

⁷ But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

4 The enemies of Jesus were confounded by His resurrection, Matthew 28:11-15;

Psalm 78:65-66

⁶⁵ Then the Lord awaked as one out of sleep, *and* like a mighty man that shouteth by reason of wine.

⁶⁶ And he smote his enemies in the hinder parts: he put them to a perpetual reproach.

Isaiah 51:9

⁹ Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. *Art* thou not it that hath cut Rahab, *and* wounded the dragon?

Isaiah 42:13-16

¹³ The LORD shall go forth as a mighty man, he shall stir up jealousy like a man of war: he shall cry, yea, roar; he shall prevail against his enemies.

¹⁴ I have long time holden my peace; I have been still, *and* refrained myself: *now* will I cry like a travailing woman; I will destroy and devour at once.

¹⁵ I will make waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their herbs; and I will make the rivers islands, and I will dry up the pools.

¹⁶ And I will bring the blind by a way *that* they knew not; I will lead them in paths *that* they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.

5 Jesus met the women as they went to do the angel's bidding, Matthew 28:8-10;

Mark 16:9

⁹ Now when *Jesus* was risen early the first *day* of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

NOTES:

Rich Man's Tomb

One of God's ministers of an earlier day said of the prophecies concerning the death and burial of Christ: "A keen-sighted man may forecast tendencies, and go far to anticipate events on a large scale, but only God can *see* trifles." Only God would have looked down through centuries of time and forecast so exactly the detailed happenings of the death of Christ. One

¹⁴ And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you.

¹⁵ So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

of these detailed predictions was spoken by the Prophet Isaiah: "And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death" (Isaiah 53:9).

Jesus did make His grave with the wicked in the sense that He was crucified as a malefactor between two thieves. These three men entered into death the same day, and their graves received their bodies. This in itself was a remarkable fulfillment of prophecy, for the prophets who spoke of Jesus did not understand and know all the events concerning His death and resurrection. Consequently, they could not have foretold the death of Christ unless God revealed it to them. Who but God could have said that Jesus would die with the wicked and yet be buried in the tomb of the rich?

The persecutors of Jesus had made it hazardous for His followers, but especially so at the time of the crucifixion. Nevertheless, in this perilous hour, Joseph of Arimathea stepped forward and desired the body of Jesus. Making his request known to Pontius Pilate, he was granted permission to bury His body. This Joseph did, and thus was Christ buried in the tomb of the rich ; for Joseph was rich, and had a tomb already prepared, as was the custom. Thus God proved the infallibility of His Word by the fulfilling of these detailed happenings that had been predicted many hundreds of years before.

Roman Watch and Seal

The Pharisees came to Pilate desiring him to grant them assistance to make sure that the body of Jesus would not be stolen from His tomb by His disciples. Pilate granted them their request. Guards were set at the tomb, and the Roman seal was placed upon the rock that prevented entrance into it.

The Pharisees had told Pilate they were afraid the disciples would steal the body of Jesus, and then claim He had been resurrected. They remembered Jesus' statements that He would rise again. It is remarkable that they seemed to have more faith in the possibility of Christ's- resurrection than did Jesus' own disciples. They knew that Jesus was dead but these Pharisees still feared and respected the power He had exercised during His life, and they took every possible precaution to prevent either a revival of His teachings or His resurrection. If human hands could have held Jesus Christ in His grave He would still be there. But His enemies had had their hour! The hour of darkness was almost gone, and soon the brilliant light of a new day in God's great plan was to burst forth. By coming out of His grave Christ became the firstfruits of our resurrection, the hope and surety of every Christian!

Jew and Gentile, the world, the flesh, and the devil had all conspired to kill the Lord of Glory, seeking to be rid of Him forever. They had done their worst, and now God was about to show them the power of His might and glory.

Empty Tomb

We can imagine the consternation of the Pharisees and the Romans when they heard of the resurrection of Christ. The news of the resurrection has been the cause for shouts of joy and victory by God's people that have never been successfully silenced. God's- great work had been accomplished, and salvation from sin was assured. The proud might of Rome, represented by the Roman guards, was swept aside, and the great stone guarding the entrance to Jesus' tomb was rolled away by an angel of God. How easily were these seeming obstacles to Jesus' resurrection moved aside by our Lord!

Death, hell, and the grave, were conquered as well. No

earthly hand could hinder Him in any other thing, and neither could any combination of Satan's power or devices hold the Lord in that grave. The war cry of the Church militant since that glad morning has been, "O death, where is thy sting? **O** grave, where is thy victory?" (I Corinthians 15:55). The words of Isaiah became true: "The kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider" (Isaiah 52:15; Romans 15:21).

Glad Message

Jesus had told His disciples that the time would come when they would be sorrowful because of coming events, but that their joy would return. "Ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.... And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh away from you" (John 16:20, 22). "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning" (Psalm 30:5).

The night of sorrow was over for those who loved Jesus. The women, brokenhearted because of their Master's death, had come early to the sepulcher, and had arrived in time to be the first to hear the glad news the angel had to proclaim: "He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay" (Matthew 28:6).

These women received with gladness the news of the resurrection, as have many since that time. It was with haste, and with hearts full of joy, that these women set off to do the angel's bidding, to tell Jesus' disciples what wonderful events had transpired.

The Risen Christ

The women had hardly started on their way to find the disciples when Jesus appeared to them in person. So it ever is. No sooner do we believe the witness of those who know than we shall see this resurrected Christ for ourselves. (**Acts 10:41** ⁴¹ Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead) Such is the blessed reward for those who are early seeking the Lord, for it is God's promise that "ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13).

The news of the resurrection of Jesus was no cause of rejoicing so far as the Pharisees were concerned. Faced with the fact of one of the most stupendous events that ever would occur in the world's history, they could resort only to more lies, more bribery, more falsehood, in an attempt to disclaim it. They bribed the soldiers, who had been watching Jesus' tomb, to say that the disciples had come and stolen the body of Jesus. Even so, God had performed His wonderful work. (**Isaiah 28:21** ²¹ For the LORD shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act. **Acts 13:40-41** ⁴⁰ Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets; ⁴¹ Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you. **Habakkuk 1:5** ⁵ Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvellously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you.) The mouths of those who spoke lies against Christ were silenced (**Psalms 63:11** ¹¹ But the king shall rejoice in God; every one that sweareth by

him shall glory: but the mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped. **Acts 13:30** ³⁰ But God raised him from the dead:).

Gospel Message

With the resurrection of Christ, the Christian Dispensation began. The message and hope of the resurrection as the foundation of the Gospel was to be proclaimed and preached wherever men could be found. Jesus did not tell His disciples to restrict their efforts to the Jews alone. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations" was the Gospel message. As Jesus had died for all men, so were all men to hear the tidings of His resurrection. The work of those who saw Him after His death and resurrection was to tell the glad tidings to those who had not seen, for that is God's way.

Not all would receive the message of God's Son who had died and had risen again for men's justification. Jesus told Thomas, who said he would not believe except he could place his hand into the wounds of Christ: "Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed" (John 20:29).

So we learn that there is no individual value in the story of Christ's resurrection except as we incorporate the truth of it into our souls. When we do that, God will bear vitalizing witness to us of its truth. We shall feel the power of that resurrection coming into our lives, enabling us **to** walk in newness of life, and giving us the hope of being forever with the Lord.

QUESTIONS

- 1 In what respect was Jesus' burial prophesied by the prophets?
- 2 Who were the first to see Jesus after His resurrection?
- 3 How did the Pharisees hope to prevent Jesus' resurrection?
- 4 Do you think they really believed He would be resurrected?
- 5 Why is the resurrection the Christian's vital hope?