

# THE RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION OF CHRIST

**BIBLE TEXT** : **Mark 15:42-47; 16:1-20; Acts 1:1-11.**

LESSON 435 Senior Course

**MEMORY VERSE:** "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption" (Psalm 16:10).

## **BIBLE TEXT in King James Version**

### **Mark 15:42-47**

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

<sup>43</sup> 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.

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

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

<sup>46</sup> 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.

<sup>47</sup> And Mary Magdalene and Mary *the mother* of Joses beheld where he was laid.

**Mark 16:1-20** <sup>1</sup> And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the *mother* of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

<sup>2</sup> And very early in the morning the first *day* of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.

<sup>3</sup> And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?

## **Bible References:**

### **I Burial of Jesus**

1. Jesus' body was taken by Joseph of Arimathaea.

**Mark 15:42-45** <sup>42</sup> And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath,

<sup>43</sup> 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.

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

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

2. Jesus was laid in a new sepulchre, Mark 15:46.

**Mark 15:46** <sup>46</sup> 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.

### **II Resurrection of Jesus**

1. Women came, when the Sabbath was past, to anoint the body Of Jesus, Mark 15:47; 16:1, 2.

**Mark 15:47** <sup>47</sup> And Mary Magdalene and Mary *the mother* of Joses beheld where he was laid.

2. The women found a young man sitting in the opened sepulchre, Mark 16:3-5.

**Luke 24:3** <sup>3</sup> And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.

**John 20:11-12** <sup>11</sup> But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and *looked* into the sepulchre,

<sup>12</sup> And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

3. The angel gave them the comforting news of the resurrection of Jesus, Mark 16:6-8;.

**Mark 14:28** <sup>28</sup> But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee.

**Matthew 26:32** <sup>32</sup> But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.

4. Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene, then to two disciples, and then to the others as they ate, Mark 16:9-14;

**1 Corinthians 15:5** <sup>5</sup> And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:.

### **III Christ's Commission to His Disciples**

1. Jesus gave a world-wide commission to all who follow Him, Mark 16:15, 16;

**Matthew 28:19** <sup>19</sup> Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

**John 15:16** <sup>16</sup> Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

**John 12:48** <sup>48</sup> He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

<sup>4</sup> And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.

<sup>5</sup> And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any *man*; for they were afraid.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept.

<sup>11</sup> And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

<sup>12</sup> After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.

<sup>13</sup> And they went and told *it* unto the residue: neither believed they them.

<sup>14</sup> Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

<sup>15</sup> And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

<sup>16</sup> He that believeth and is

2. Signs will follow the preaching of the Gospel. Mark 16:17, 18; **Luke 10:17** <sup>17</sup> And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

**Luke 10:19** <sup>19</sup> Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

**Acts 2:4** <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

3. Jesus showed Himself alive for 40 days, by many infallible proofs, Acts 1: 1-3.

#### IV Promise of the Father

1. Jesus commanded His disciples to wait for the Comforter, Acts 1:4, 5;

**Joel 2:28** <sup>28</sup> And it shall come to pass afterward, *that* I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

**Luke 24:49** <sup>49</sup> And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

**John 14:16** <sup>16</sup> And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

2. The disciples still had expectation of an earthly kingdom, Acts 1:6;

**Isaiah 1:26** <sup>26</sup> And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city.

3. Jesus told them that the Father had retained some things in His own power, Acts 1:7.

4. The Holy Ghost would come upon them and they would be witnesses for God, Acts 1:8

**Acts 2:1-4** <sup>1</sup> And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

<sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

<sup>3</sup> And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

<sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

#### V Ascension of Jesus

1. Jesus was taken up into Heaven, out of their sight, Acts 1:9;

**Luke 24:51** <sup>51</sup> And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

2. Two men in white apparel assured them of His return, Acts 1:10, 11; Mark 16:19

**Daniel 7:13** <sup>13</sup> I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *one* like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

**Matthew 24:30** <sup>30</sup> And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

**1 Thessalonians 4:16** <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

**Revelation 1:7** <sup>7</sup> Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so,

baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

<sup>17</sup> And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

<sup>18</sup> They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

<sup>19</sup> So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

<sup>20</sup> And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with *them*, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

### **Acts 1:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

<sup>2</sup> Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

<sup>3</sup> To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

<sup>4</sup> And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me.

<sup>5</sup> For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

<sup>6</sup> When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

Amen.

3. The disciples went forth preaching everywhere, the Lord confirming the Word with signs following, Mark 16:20.

### **Notes:**

**In** this lesson we have an account of the burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. At His arrest and trial, the disciples forsook Him and fled. Joseph of Arimathea, a rich man, who was also a counsellor, followed Jesus secretly for fear of the Jews. But after Jesus was crucified we find Joseph going boldly to Pilate and begging for Jesus' body. What seemed to put fear into the hearts of some, put boldness into the hearts of others.

It was the custom in those days to prepare a dead body for burial with sweet spices. For lack of time, because the Sabbath was drawing near, they buried Jesus hurriedly and expected to anoint His body when the Sabbath was past. At the first break of dawn a group of women bearing sweet spices began groping their way to the tomb. Although Jesus had repeatedly told them He would rise again, they never seemed to grasp that truth. They were surprised, afraid, and bewildered when they saw the stone rolled away, and an angel announced to 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."

The grave, with the stone that closed the door, could not hold the Son of God. He was the Resurrection and the Life! When the **time came** that He should arise, nothing could stop Him. The Roman soldiers fell as dead men. The seal of the government could not restrain the power of God. Jesus came forth, conquering death, hell, and the grave.

The soldiers fled to the city when they recovered from the shock of the tremendous event, and told the chief priests what had happened. These ungodly men instructed the soldiers to lie, guaranteeing that they would be protected in case military action would be brought against them for sleeping on duty. But the fact of His resurrection was known to many in those days in spite of the report that went abroad which was based upon the lies of the soldiers.

### **The Resurrection, an Established Fact**

It is an established fact of history that Jesus arose from the grave. The Resurrection is the Christian's faith and hope. Paul's preaching centred around the Resurrection. It was for the hope of the resurrection of the dead that Paul was called in question before the council. There were also some in the Corinthian church who were saying there is no resurrection of the dead, and Paul wrote that memorable fifteenth chapter of First Corinthians that has been the stay and hope of Christians down through the centuries. "But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: . . . And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins" (I Corinthians 15 :13, 17) .

Jesus appeared in a visible form to many of the saints after His resurrection. Sometimes it was to one alone, sometimes to a group of two or more, and at one time to above 500 who were gathered together. It was on one of these occasions that He gave them that commission: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." Every creature -- the rich, the poor, the high, the low, the learned, the unlearned -- all alike were to hear the Gospel message. Not a select few, chosen of the Lord, were to be saved and the others rejected. The call to the "Whosoever will" was to ring out, and he that believed would be saved. He that believed not would be

<sup>7</sup> And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

<sup>8</sup> But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

<sup>9</sup> And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

<sup>10</sup> And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

<sup>11</sup> Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

damned.

### **Power for Service**

Before Jesus ascended, He told His disciples to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on High. That endowment would give them the necessary authority for their ministry and also power over every power of the enemy. It would guarantee the fact that signs would follow their preaching. They were to speak with new tongues, which they did when they were baptised with the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost. Jesus also said: "They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them." Nowhere did the Lord ever tell them to make a demonstration or a show of their power. It was given them to glorify God and bless humanity. They were not to presume on God's mercy by going out and wilfully taking up serpents to demonstrate their power with God, as some are doing these days. The Lord's meaning is plain in Scripture. Toward the end of Paul's life he was gathering sticks to build a fire, and a viper fastened on his hand. The barbarians on the island saw it, and expected to see Paul fall down dead. They knew what the bite of that awful, venomous beast meant. But when Paul shook the serpent off into the fire and received no hurt from it, that proved to them the power of the Gospel (Acts 28:1-6). The Lord will protect His own from serpents and deadly poison if we accidentally come in contact with such, but we are not to make a show and brazenly try to demonstrate to the world, for our self-glory, that we have such power.

### **Ascension of Jesus**

For 40 days after His resurrection Jesus had appeared to His disciples, sometimes behind closed doors, sometimes out by the seaside. Being in His glorified body He could suddenly appear in their midst, and just as suddenly vanish out of their sight. The Word tells us that by many infallible proofs He showed Himself alive after His passion. He taught the disciples many things concerning the Kingdom of God. Their understanding seemed more enlightened after His resurrection, for before them were demonstrated in actuality many of the former teachings of Jesus.

One day, being assembled with them in Jerusalem, He led them out as far as Bethany on Mount Olivet. There He gave them His last command. They were not to depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me." Then He lifted up His hands toward Heaven and gave them His parting blessing. While He was blessing them, He was parted from them, and carried up into Heaven. With their eyes they followed Him until a cloud received Him out of their sight. While they were still looking toward Heaven, two angels stood by and said: "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." They returned to Jerusalem with great joy. How different they must have felt now from the way they did the night they buried Jesus in Joseph's new tomb!

### **The Coming of Jesus**

He is coming again! Those words have thrilled the saints of God down through the ages. We believe His coming is imminent. It is the glorious hope of the Church, and we are continually listening for the sound of the trumpet and for the shout of the archangel.

What a strange pathway God chose for His beloved Son here below! A lowly birth and a shameful death, but a glorious resurrection! Momentous events took place in a short period of time. The Son of God had been betrayed, crucified, placed in a



tomb; and then, on the morning of the third day, He arose! The earth quaked, rocks rent, graves opened, and the angels came down and rolled the stone away. Christ, the Son of God, laid down His life that He might take it up again.

After His resurrection He revealed Himself first to a woman. A woman was first in the transgression, but she was also first at the tomb and first to see the risen Saviour. A woman was also trusted with the first Gospel message: "Go . . . tell." She ran to bear the glad tidings that Jesus, the Son of God, had broken the power of death and was now alive -- alive forevermore!

Because He lives we shall live also. Glorious. Gospel! Who could reject it? He died for our sins; He arose for our justification. He ascended on High; He is coming again. Paul counted all things but loss that he might win Christ and know Him and the power of His resurrection. Are we counting all things but loss that we might make the Rapture? Are we earnestly striving to be ready when Jesus comes? "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection" (Revelation 20:6).

### **QUESTIONS**

1. Who buried Christ in his own new tomb?
2. To whom did Christ first appear after His resurrection?
3. Who rolled the stone away from the door of the sepulchre?
4. What was Christ's commission to His disciples?
5. Who will be saved? Who will be damned?
6. Name some occasions where Christ was seen after His resurrection.
7. From what place did He ascend into Heaven?
8. What announcement did the angels make when Jesus ascended?
9. Did it bring joy or grief to the hearts of the disciples?
10. What was the last command Jesus gave to His disciples?