

Sunday, August 5, 2012—Mark Dispensationally Considered—Mark 16:1-8—The Resurrection of Christ

Mark 16:1-8

- **1) 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.**
- **2) And very early in the morning the first [day] of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.**
- **3) And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?**
- **4) And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.**
- **5) 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.**
- **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.**
- **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.**
- **8) 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.**
- Mark 16:1—when the Sabbath was passed Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome (the wife of Zebedee, i.e., the mother of the Apostles James and John) brought their sweet spices to anoint the body of Jesus. Please recall from our last study that these women saw the place where the Lord was laid.
 - Mark 15:40-41, 46-47
 - Luke 23:48-49, 55-56—the spices and ointment were prepared before the Sabbath Day so that they could be brought immediately following the Sabbath.
- Mark 16:2—it was very early in the morning, following the Sabbath that the women came to the sepulcher at the rising of the sun.
 - Matthew 28:1—the first day of the week has typically been understood to have been Sunday because the Jewish Sabbath was observed on the seventh day of the week from sunset on Friday through sunset on Saturday. Therefore at the next Sun rise it would have been Sunday morning, i.e., the first day of the week.
 - Luke 24:1
- Mark 16:3-4—as the women are making their way to the sepulcher they are discussing amongst themselves how they are going to remove the stone from the door. According to verse 4 the stone has already been rolled away upon their arrival.

- Matthew 28:2-4—the indication from the verses is that as the women were on their way to the sepulchre very early in the morning there was an earthquake and the angle of the Lord descended from heaven and rolled back to stone. Therefore when the women arrive they find that the stone has already been moved. This was not done to let Jesus out but to let the witnesses in to behold the empty tomb with the grave clothes still in their place.
- Luke 24:2
- John 20:1-2—Mary Magdalene upon seeing the stone moved away from the sepulchre runs to get Simon Peter
- Mark 16:5-6—when the women (now Mary the mother of James, and Salome) enter the tomb they see a young man clothed in a long white garment. Remember that angels in the Bible are always men. The angel tells the women not to be afraid because Jesus which was crucified has risen from the dead.
 - Matthew 28:5-6
 - Luke 24:3-8—here again we see that these women did not understand about the resurrection until after it was explained to them by the angels.
- Mark 16:7-8—the angles tell the women to go and tell Peter and the apostles that Jesus would meet them in Galilee just as he said to them in Mark 14:28. The women then leave the sepulchre in verse 8 trembling and amazed and on their way back the disciples they tell no one about what they saw.
 - Matthew 28:7-10—as they are on their way back to tell the disciples Jesus appears to them and reiterates what the angles told them about going into Galilee.
 - Luke 24:9-12
 - John 20:2-10—please note verse 9 that now even after the fact Peter “knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.”
 - John 20:11-18—Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene because she had not been with the other women who saw him earlier at the tomb.
- Whether or not this is the exact chronology is not important. The fact that Jesus rose from the dead is the key point. It is important to notice that the exact time of the resurrection is not recorded; all we know is that it had to have occurred before the women arrived at the tomb at sunrise.

Resurrection Hoax or History?

- I Corinthians 15:12-19—the resurrection of Jesus Christ and Christianity stand or fall together.
- The options: The resurrection of Jesus Christ is one of the most wicked, vicious, heartless hoaxes ever devised by the minds of men, OR it is the most fantastic fact of history.
- Gary Habermas wrote a book entitled *The Risen Jesus and Future Hope*. The book investigates to date what scholars believe about the resurrection. Habermas reports that virtually all scholars from across the ideological spectrum—from ultra-liberals to Bible-thumping conservatives—agree that the following points concerning Jesus and Christianity are actual historical facts.
 - Jesus died by Roman crucifixion.
 - He was buried, most likely in a private tomb.
 - Soon afterwards his disciples were discouraged, bereaved, and despondent, having lost hope.
 - Jesus' tomb was found empty very soon after his interment.
 - The disciples had experiences that they believed were actual appearances of the risen Jesus.
 - Due to these experiences, the disciple's lives were transformed. They were even willing to die for their belief.
 - The proclamation of the Resurrection took place very early, from the beginning of church history.
 - The disciples public testimony and preaching of the Resurrection took place in the city of Jerusalem, where Jesus had been crucified and buried.
 - The gospel message centered on the preaching of the death and resurrection of Jesus.
 - Sunday was the primary day for gathering and worship.
 - James, the brother of Jesus and a skeptic before this time, was converted when he believed he also saw the risen Jesus.
 - A few years later, Saul of Tarsus (Paul) became a believer, due to an experience that he also believed was an appearance of the risen Jesus.
- Knowing that Christianity rises or falls on the resurrection of Jesus Christ many skeptics, agnostics, and atheists have advanced theories to try to explain the empty tomb.
- *Hallucination Theory*—this theory states that the disciples were all deceived by hallucinations.
 - Hallucinations are not experienced by groups but only by individuals.
 - Jesus did not appear to just one person—he appeared on a dozen separate occasions, in a variety of settings to different people over a 40 day period. Jesus was seen by men and woman, inside and outside, eating and talking. Jesus was seen by more than 500 people and they were not all seeing the same hallucination.

- *The Witnesses Went to the Wrong Tomb*—this theory states that the disciples went to the wrong tomb and then assumed that Jesus had risen from the dead. (Read pages 302-303)
- *Swoon Or Apparent Death Theory*—this theory states that Jesus didn't really die on the cross. In other words, he was still alive when he was placed in the tomb, but he somehow escaped and convinced his disciples that he had risen from the dead. (Read pages 304-305)
- *The Disciples Stool the Body*—this theory states that the disciples stole Jesus' body. (Read pages 306-307)
- *A Substitute Took Jesus Place on the Cross*—this theory states that Jesus was not crucified, but someone like Judas was killed in his place. Many Muslims offer this theory. (Read pages 310-311)
- There are only two explanations for the empty tomb
 - A Human Work
 - Removed by Enemies—No Motive
 - Removed by Friends—No Power
 - A Divine Work
 - Most logical explanation
 - The Scriptures teach that Jesus miraculously rose from the dead
- I Corinthians 15:3-4—what are you going to do with the crucified and resurrected Christ? How will you respond?