

# THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

## Lesson Thirteen

### ***THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (1)***

Scripture reading: Matt. 28:1-9; Luke 24:13-43

#### **Burden to Impart:**

*The fact of the Lord's resurrection is the most important and vital matter of our Christian faith. This great fact is based on solid historical evidence with many, many witnesses. Many of these witnesses experienced the reality of the power of the resurrection life when they later overcame the fear of death at the time of their own martyrdom. Of the twelve Apostles who testified as eyewitnesses of Christ's resurrection, at least ten died as martyrs for their testimony. Surely they were not speaking lies or made-up stories.*

The fact that Jesus was raised from the dead sets Him apart from all mortal men. He was not only a very good man, or a prophet sent from God, nor merely the greatest teacher of the truth; He was who He said He was, the very Son of God. He possessed the all-powerful, death-overcoming resurrection life. Secondly, He was a perfect Man, a sinless sacrifice for the sins of the whole human race. We know that He fully satisfied God's righteousness and accomplished our redemption because God raised Him from among the dead (Rom. 4:25). Thus, He was approved and vindicated by God to be the Christ, the Savior, the Son of the living God.

(No one in history ever was resurrected in the same way as was the Lord Jesus, neither Confucius, nor Buddha, nor any other religious teacher. Only the Lord Jesus has the power of resurrection.)

**Memory Verse:** "I am ... the living One, and I became dead, and behold, I am living forever and ever, and I have the keys of death and Hades" (Revelation 1:18).

#### **Facts to Teach:**

1. Although the Scriptures in many places prophesied that the coming Savior would be put to death and raised from the dead (Psa. 16:10; 22:22; Isa. 53:10-12), and even Jesus Himself told this to His disciples at least three times, none of them understood. The fact that He would be resurrected from the dead was beyond the grasp of their human understanding.
2. Jesus rose from the dead because of two reasons:
  - a. Because He is God the Son, He has the divine life of God and He Himself is the resurrection and the life (John 11:25). Because this life could never be destroyed, He rose from the dead.
  - b. Because He became a man, lived a perfect human life, and was accepted by God as a perfect and sinless offering for us, God raised Him from the dead (Rom. 4:25).
3. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James who loved Jesus very much came very early in the morning on the third day after His death to look for His body at the grave where He was laid. This was the first day of the week, the Lord's day.
4. When they came they found that the large stone that covered the opening of the grave (a large hollowed rock) had been rolled away by an angel (Matt. 28:2). The angel told the women to look inside the grave to see that Jesus was not there, for He had risen from the dead! They looked in and saw the empty grave. Then they ran back to tell the rest of the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead.

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### Lesson Thirteen (continued)

5. After Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9; John 20:14-18), He also appeared to the other women who went to the tomb. They came to Him and held His feet and worshipped Him. When they returned and reported these things to the rest of the disciples, they did not believe them. Their words seemed like nonsense (Luke 24:11).
6. Later, on the same day, as two disciples were walking down the road toward a city called Emmaus, Jesus came near and walked with them. But He did not allow them to recognize Him at first. Later on, as they sat down to eat, Jesus gave thanks for the food. Suddenly their eyes were opened and He disappeared from them! They hurried back to Jerusalem and told the rest of the disciples that Jesus had truly risen from the dead and had appeared to them.
7. As they were all speaking to one another, the doors being tightly locked, suddenly Jesus Himself appeared and stood in the midst of the room and said, "Peace be to you." They were shocked and frightened because they thought they were seeing a ghost! How could Jesus get into a locked room? Was He not dead?
8. But the Lord Jesus assured them that He was not a ghost; it was really He Himself in resurrection. Although His body was different because it was now a spiritual body, He was the same Jesus whom they knew and loved! He showed them His hands and feet (where the nails had been) and allowed them to handle Him and touch Him. He even ate with them! His resurrected body was made of flesh and bones (Luke 24:39), not flesh and blood (1 Cor. 15:50). He had poured out His blood on the cross to wash away our sins. With His resurrected and spiritual body He could be with His disciples visibly or invisibly.
9. How happy His disciples were! Jesus was alive, alive, alive! He had overcome death and the grave! He had risen from the dead and came back to His beloved disciples! But that night not all of the disciples were there in the meeting. Thomas, was not there and did not see Jesus that night. We will learn more about him and Jesus' resurrection in the next lesson.

# THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

(Story for Lesson 13)

## THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS (1)

Memory verse: I am...the Living One, and I became dead, and behold, I am living forever and ever, and I have the keys of death and Hades.  
Revelation 1:18

Night was coming. The One on the middle cross had cried out, "It is finished!" and He was dead. The Roman Centurian exclaimed loudly, "Surely this was the Son of God!" The chief priests were still filled with fear. Now they had to secure the Lord's body in death, for fear the disciples might claim He had risen. They still needed the power of Rome to cover for this most dreadful crime of their's against God.

Pilate had given two of the disciples permission to take the Lord's body for burial. The grave, near to the crosses, belonged to a disciple called Joseph of Arimathaea. It was newly hollowed out of a huge rock in a garden. It had a large stone at its entrance. The Lord's disciples took His body and anointed it with costly spices and wrapped it in fine line. Then they laid His dear body to rest on a stone bed carved out inside of the rock. And as the darkness came they left the tomb, along with the women who stood together weeping near-by.

The next day the chief priests and Pharisees came to Pilate asking for a "watch" (soldiers) to guard the grave for fear the Lord's disciples would steal His body and say that He had risen from the dead. Pilate ordered the guard. To cover themselves still further these priests and elders requested that the stone at the entrance of the tomb should be sealed tight with the Roman seal. In this way no-one could go in or come out. We can see by this how fearful they all were. They thought that the Roman soldiers could guard the grave and that no-one could break that Roman seal.

When night came do you think any of these wicked priests or ruler could sleep? After what they had done? Do you think God was asleep? All the heavenly hosts were watching and waiting. All the hosts of Darkness were also watching and waiting. Three days and three night they watched and waited.

As the Sabbath drew to a close, early in the morning of the first day of the week, before dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to the tomb bringing spices. They asked each other, "Who will roll away the stone for us?"

Earlier that morning there had been an earthquake and an Angel of the Lord came down. He rolled the stone away. The Roman soldiers guarding the grave fell back as dead men.

The women came and saw the stone rolled away. Then they ran to tell this to Peter and John. Peter and John also ran quickly to see. John looked in first and when he saw he knew and believed that Jesus had risen. Not knowing what to do now, the two of them went back.

But Mary Magdalene stayed there weeping. How could she leave? Her grief had been so strong and now her love was even stronger. They had bound her Lord and laid Him there and she had come to take Him away. She looked inside the tomb. There were two Angels in white sitting at the head and at the feet of where Jesus had laid. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She answered, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." As she said this, she looked back. Jesus was standing there. Her eyes were so filled with tears that she did not know who He was. He said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" She said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away." Then Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (Her dear way of speaking to Him, or, Master).

She reached out.

She had found Him.

After this dreadful death and separation. Now she had found the One she loved. So she reached out. Jesus said to her, "Do not touch Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go and tell My brothers that I ascend to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God."

Now, filled with comfort and overflowing with joy, she came to the disciples and told them. Joanna and Mary, the mother of James and by now, other women with them were telling the disciples. But it was hard for them to believe. Peter and John ran to the tomb to see for themselves. They were amazed when they had looked into the tomb and saw the linen which had been wrapped around His body and the head-cloth folded neatly, no one would have carried away His body, out from that anointed binding, and left it so neatly behind. It was that the Lord, Himself, must have risen.

Soon they would all see Him.

The Roman soldiers had fallen back as dead men. Only His loved and redeemed ever saw Him after He rose from the dead. Just as now. Only we see Him. The whole world that rejects Him can only see Him if they believe. We have seen our Lord many many times; sometimes alone and often times with the redeemed believers while meeting together.