

The Resurrection

John 20:1-18

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Memory Verse:

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her. —John 20:18

1. **Spiritual** Reality

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. —Romans 6:4

Spiritual darkness of the disciples' understanding

Mary—

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" —John 20:1-2

"while it was still dark..." _____

"...we don't know where they have put him!" _____

John—

He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. —John 20:5

"...did not go in." _____

Peter—

(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to their homes. —John 20:9-10

"...did not understand" _____

"...went back to their homes" _____

"Being saved and seeing Jesus are not the same thing. Many are partakers of God's grace who have never seen Jesus. When once you have seen Jesus, you can never be the same, other things do not appeal as they used to do." —*My Utmost*, Chambers, April 9

And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

—1 Corinthians 15:14

2. **Historical** Reality

The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. —Matthew 28:5-6

Non-Biblical witnesses

Total Eclipse of the sun Mark 15:33, (Darkness over the world for about 3 hours.)

Thallus (Samaritan by birth, wrote history of Rome 52 AD)

Phlegon (Greek author, wrote soon after 137 AD), 13th book, Acts of Pilate

Historical Truth: Jesus was crucified during Passover.

A solar eclipse could not have occurred on or near 14th of Nisan, because solar eclipses only occur during the new moon phase, and 14th of Nisan is during a full moon.

Empty Tomb

Matthew 28:11-15, (Disciples stole the body while guards slept.)

Justin Martyr and Dialogue with Trypho

Jews argue against Christianity, accusing disciples of stealing Jesus body

Self-contradiction, but best they could do.

Friends and foes accept the empty tomb.

Disciples' Transformation

Which explanation is more likely—Resurrection or stolen body?

Disciples did not understand _____

Disciples hiding for fear _____

Disciples went back home _____

3. **Personal** Reality

Mary—“*I have seen the Lord!*”—John 20:18

Thomas—“*My Lord and my God!*”—John 20:28

Paul—“*And last of all he appeared to me also.*”—1 Corinthians 15:8

“Our Lord’s Cross is the gateway into His life: His Resurrection means that He has power now to convey His life to me. When I am born again from above, I receive from the Risen Lord His very life.” —*My Utmost*, April 8

“‘Holy Spirit’ is the experimental name for Eternal Life working in human beings here and now.” —*My Utmost*, April 8

We receive the resurrection life of Jesus when we respond to His personal invitation.

I believe, I will follow, Come into my life and empower me to be a Christian.