

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE LIFE OF JESUS

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PART 20: THE RESURRECTION

JESUS LEFT HIS BODY ON THE CROSS

It was 3:00 PM when Jesus declared "It is finished" and voluntarily laid down His life. The Son of God left his body hanging on the cross and went to Paradise under the surface of the earth. We know this because the children of Israel saw the earth open up and swallow Korah and his followers. **Numbers 16:27-34**

Jesus stated there are two compartments under the earth. This Hebrew word "Sheol" means "place for the dead." One side was known as Paradise (Abraham's Bosom) and the other as Hell. **Luke 16:19-31**

God told Isaiah that hell is expanding as more and more prisoners are arriving. **Isaiah 5:13-15**

During his three days and nights in Paradise, Jesus crossed over to hell and told the people that the redemption of mankind was finished. There was no salvation for the people in hell since they had rejected the coming of the Messiah. The Greek word normally used for preaching is "kerusso," meaning that people can respond to the message of good news. Peter used the word "ekeruxen," which means "proclamation." **1 Peter 3:18-20**

THE HIGH SABBATH

Jesus was crucified on a Wednesday during the Passover week and the next day was the "High Sabbath." **John 19:31**

The teaching in the Talmud states that no person can be hanging on a cross during the High Sabbath. The High Priest and his cronies wanted to piously make sure they fulfilled their religious laws and asked that the legs of the three men on the crosses be broken so they would quickly die of asphyxiation and be taken down in preparation for the High Sabbath.

Pilate granted their request and soldiers used their spears to painfully break the legs of the two thieves. **verse 32**

However, when they came to the body of Jesus, the soldiers saw he was already dead and pierced his side with a spear, allowing blood and water to flow out from the wound, confirming the Son of God was dead. **verses 33-34**

This was a fulfillment of prophecy. **verses 35-37; Psalm 34:20; Zechariah 12:10**

THE BURIAL

Joseph of Arimathaea was a member of Sanhedrin and a secret follower of Jesus. He went to Pilate and sought permission to take down the body of Jesus and bury it. Pilate granted the request since Joseph was part of the Jewish leadership. Joseph had the



body wrapped it in linen and placed in a cave (tomb) that most likely had been prepared for himself. **Luke 23:50-56**

THE DEVIL GOT NERVOUS

The Devil got nervous and the next day (High Sabbath) he moved upon Caiaphas and his accomplices to fabricate a story that Jesus' body might be stolen since He had spoken about His resurrection. They were fairly certain Jesus' disciples would take the body and claim that He had risen from the dead. As a result, they requested that Pilate place a guard outside the tomb to make sure no one tampered with the body. **Matthew 27:62-64**

A unit of Roman soldiers was sent to secure the tomb. Caiaphas used his seal on the stone that covered the cave. The seal would be broken if anyone moved it. **verses 65-66**

The Devil heard Jesus state He would raise Himself up on the third day. It is my personal belief that the Devil nervously remained in Jerusalem along with legions of fallen angels and countless evil spirits waiting for the third day to arrive. **Mark 9:30-32**

THE DISCIPLES OF JESUS

The Gospel writers do not reveal what the apostles, 70 others and the 39 women did from Wednesday night until Sunday morning. Peter would not have been too popular since he had famously told Jesus he would never deny the Son of God even if the rest did. He subsequently denied Jesus three times when pressure was brought to bear. **Matthew 26:31-35**

Since Jesus and his followers had spent most of their time in Galilee, they would not have had dwelling places in Jerusalem, and would have stayed with local believers in Christ.

We are told in the Book of Acts that Mary, the mother of John Mark had a house in Jerusalem that was large enough for many people to assemble in. John Mark was the disciple that traveled with Paul and Barnabas and also the writer of the second Gospel. **Acts 12:12**

There was also the Upper Room that many of them occupied. **Acts 1:13**

Regardless of where they stayed, it was a difficult three days during which the followers of Jesus suffered from grief and disbelief that the Messiah had died on a cross and failed to display supernatural power. They all remembered that Jesus had said He would rise on the third day and this was their last hope. If this too failed, Jesus was not the Messiah.

My personal belief is that an intergalactic television network had their cameras trained on the tomb in Jerusalem as every angel civilization in the universe watched to see what would transpire on the third day.

Stationed over Jerusalem were 72,000 holy angels. **Matthew 26:53**

THE THIRD DAY

The third day began at 6:00 PM on Saturday evening. God never revealed to the Gospel writers the exact time Jesus left Paradise and re-entered His body lying in the tomb. There was a coordinated effort that took place at the resurrection:

- ❖ Jesus left Paradise and entered the tomb.
- ❖ The Holy Spirit surged through the dead body, making it come alive again and this was the moment Jesus re-entered the body. **Romans 8:11**
- ❖ An angel rolled away the stone from the tomb and scared the Roman soldiers so badly that they froze in fear and lay on the ground like dead men. **Matthew 28:2-4**
- ❖ The napkin that covered the head of the dead body was removed and folded neatly. The linen that had been wrapped around the body had been removed and laid upon the ledge and Jesus' resurrected body was clothed with heavenly garments. **John 20:1-7**

Caiaphas and the rest of the Sanhedrin were the first to hear that Jesus had been resurrected when the Roman soldiers came to tell their story. Caiaphas called for a meeting of the Scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees and Herodians and told them that Jesus was alive.

Instead of repenting and seeking Jesus, they hardened their hearts like Pharaoh of old and told the Roman soldiers to tell Pilate they had fallen asleep and Jesus' disciples had stolen the body. This required the soldiers to trust that Caiaphas would protect them since it was a death sentence for sleeping on duty. It would be suicide for the Roman soldiers to tell Pilate they failed to guard the tomb because they were sleeping.

The power of the Jewish leadership was evident when they promised that the Roman soldiers would be protected and not suffer any consequences. The soldiers guarding the tomb were given large sums of money in return for spreading the lies of the Jewish leadership. Pontius Pilate also must have been bribed because nothing happened to the Roman soldiers. **Matthew 28:11-15**

THE WOMEN

We should take note that Jesus did not go to His followers after the resurrection, rather, they came to him. The men did not plan to visit the tomb Sunday morning. The women went to attend to Jesus and give Him a proper burial procedure. They certainly did not expect Him to be alive. **Luke 24:1**

They found the tomb empty and two angels that suddenly materialized next to them. **verses 2-8**

The apostles and the rest of the 70 had no faith whatsoever when the women returned with the story that Jesus was risen from the dead. The men felt that the women were emotional and did not know what they were talking about. **verses 9-11**

Peter and John ran to the tomb and found it empty. John believed that Jesus was resurrected but Peter did not and they went back home. **John 20:3-10**

The first one to see the resurrected Jesus was Mary Magdalene, whom Jesus had ministered to after she was arrested for adultery. She loved Jesus with all her being and was the first one to speak with the resurrected Messiah. **verses 11-18**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?