

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

BIBLE TEXT: John 19:31-42; Matthew 27:62-66; John 20:1-31.

LESSON 14 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth" (Job 19:25).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

John 19:31-42

³¹ The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away.

³² Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him.

³³ But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:

³⁴ But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

³⁵ And he that saw *it* bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.

³⁶ For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.

³⁷ And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.

³⁸ ¶ And after this Joseph of Arimathæa, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave *him* leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus.

³⁹ And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I The Crucified on the Crosses

1. The petition of the Jews that the three be killed and taken down, John 19:31.
2. The legs of the two thieves broken and Jesus' side pierced, John 19:32-34.
3. The perfect fulfilment of two Old Testament prophecies, John 19:35-37;

Exodus 12:46;

⁴⁶ In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth ought of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof.

Psalms 34:20;

²⁰ He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.

Zechariah 12:10;

¹⁰ And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn.

Revelation 1:7.

⁷ 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, Amen.

II Jesus' Burial in the Garden

1. The request of Joseph of Arimathæa for Jesus' body, John 19:38.
2. The body embalmed with spices by the disciple Nicodemus, John 19:39, 40.
3. His body laid in Joseph's new sepulchre, John 19:41, 42;

Matthew 27: 57-60;

⁵⁷ When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathæa, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple:

⁵⁸ He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered.

⁵⁹ And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

⁶⁰ And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

Isaiah 53:9;

⁹ And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither *was* any deceit in his mouth.

III The Vain Attempt to Conceal the Resurrection

1. The Pharisees' visit to Pilate on the day of the Passover, Matthew 27:62.
2. Their infamous accusation a proof of their knowledge of Jesus' teachings regarding Himself, Matthew 27:63;

Matthew 16:21;

²¹ ¶ From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day

aloes, about an hundred pound weight.

⁴⁰ Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.

⁴¹ Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid.

⁴² There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.

Mathew 27:62-66

⁶² ¶ Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,

⁶³ Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

⁶⁴ Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

⁶⁵ Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make *it* as sure as ye can.

⁶⁶ So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

John 20:1-31.

¹ The first *day* of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

² Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the

John 2:19-22.

¹⁹ Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

²⁰ Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?

²¹ But he spake of the temple of his body.

²² When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

3. A favour asked to prevent His disappearance from the tomb, Matthew 27:64.

4. A watch granted, and the Roman seal put upon the stone, Matthew 27: 65, 66.

IV The Visits to the Empty Tomb

1. Mary Magdalene's discovery. Her despair: "They have taken away the Lord," John 20:1, 2.

2. The arrival of Peter and John at the empty sepulchre, John 20:3-10.

3. Weeping Mary met and greeted by her risen Lord, John 20:11-18.

V Christ's Appearances after His Resurrection

1. His appearance to the disciples on the evening of His resurrection day, John 20:19-23;

Luke 24:36-48.

³⁶ ¶ And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you.

³⁷ But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

³⁸ And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?

³⁹ Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

⁴⁰ And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them *his* hands and *his* feet.

⁴¹ And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?

⁴² And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.

⁴³ And he took *it*, and did eat before them.

⁴⁴ And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me.

⁴⁵ Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

⁴⁶ And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

⁴⁷ And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

⁴⁸ And ye are witnesses of these things.

2. Thomas' doubting an indication of a sincere quest for truth, John 20:24, 25.

3. Jesus' appearance to the disciples, Thomas included, the next Lord's Day, John 20:26-28.

4. The benediction on believers of all ages, John 20:29-31.

NOTES:

The resurrection of Jesus has been established as a historical fact by the testimony of the disciples who witnessed His crucifixion and then afterwards met their risen Lord. This fact is further verified by the

sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.

³ Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.

⁴ So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.

⁵ And he stooping down, *and looking in*, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.

⁶ Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie,

⁷ And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

⁸ Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.

⁹ For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.

¹⁰ Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

¹¹ ¶ But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, *and looked* into the sepulchre,

¹² 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.

¹³ And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.

¹⁴ And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? Whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell

Apostle Paul, who writes that above 500 brethren at once saw Jesus before He ascended into Heaven: and that he himself also saw the Lord as "one born out of due time" after Jesus' ascension (**I Corinthians 15:5-8**); ⁵ And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: ⁶ After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. ⁷ After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. ⁸ And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time).

Much doubt lingered in the hearts of Jesus' disciples concerning His resurrection, in those dark hours after His crucifixion and prior to the appearances that He made to them in the days preceding His ascension. During His ministry He had taught them much about His death and resurrection but they seemed slow to grasp the truth. For these doubts, and also because they did not believe the testimony of those who first saw Him, Jesus reproveth them.

Today, we have the testimony of these trustworthy disciples who were with Jesus for 40 days before His ascension, but there are still those who doubt His literal resurrection; and as then, a great number of these are found among the ones who profess to be His disciples.

We know that Christian faith rests upon the resurrection of Jesus; for if Christ is not risen from the dead, faith is in vain. Our salvation, our Christian walk, and, above all, our hope of attaining to the first resurrection depend upon Christ's resurrection. He arose, the firstfruits of our resurrection. If He is not risen, we have no hope whatsoever; we are still in our sins; pardoning grace is unknown to man; and the hope of eternal life merely a superstition (**I Corinthians 15:17**; ¹⁷ And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins).

In studying a lesson in the Gospels it is a good thing to read the accounts recorded in each Gospel. They were not written from the same viewpoint, but agree in a manner, which shows that they were inspired by God Himself. Because of these different accounts we have a better understanding of the incidents than we would if only one person had recorded them.

In the Jewish method of recording time, any fraction of a 24-hour day was referred to and counted as a whole day, or a "day and a night." Jesus was crucified at 9 o'clock Friday morning and died about 3 o'clock that afternoon. The Jewish day ended at sundown, but nevertheless, these few remaining hours are referred to as a whole day. Jesus arose early Sunday morning, and this portion of the day, from sundown the evening before, was also counted as a whole day. Jesus, therefore, was dead for what the Jews call "three days and nights."

The Jews were very particular about keeping the details of the law, and the traditions that they had added to it. In order that the crucified might be taken down from the cross before the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to hasten the death of the three by breaking their legs. Pilate granted their request, but the soldiers found Jesus already dead. The Roman soldiers did not know, but the Jews should have known, that the Scriptures said that not a bone of His should be broken (**John 19:36**; ³⁶ For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken). One of them pierced His side, and Blood and water came out.

The whole world is guilty of Jesus' death. He was tried by the high priest, who represented the Jews; being brought there by the scribes and Pharisees, also Jews. He could not be put to death without a trial by the Roman authority, so He was brought before Pilate. The soldiers carried out the orders of their Gentile commander. His tomb was guarded by both Jew and Gentile, since the Pharisees requested that a guard be placed there to prevent His body from being taken; and the Gentile soldiers represented the military power of the world. The stone was sealed with the Roman seal, the signature of a world power. Taking with them sweet spices for anointing the body, the two

me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

¹⁶ Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

¹⁷ Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and *that* he had spoken these things unto her.

¹⁹ ¶ Then the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you.

²⁰ And when he had so said, he shewed unto them *his* hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you: as *my* Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

²² And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

²³ Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; *and* whose soever *sins* ye retain, they are retained.

²⁴ ¶ But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

²⁵ The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

²⁶ ¶ And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: *then* came Jesus, the

Marys and Salome went there, not with the expectation of meeting their risen Lord, but to anoint His blessed body and to mourn His departure.

When they came, they saw the broken seal and opened tomb. The soldiers who had been on guard were gone. The women did not know about the earthquake. They did not know, as yet, that the angel that spoke to them had come down to roll the stone away. For fear of this angel, with his flashing face and dazzling garments, the soldiers fell to the ground and later fled from the spot they were told to guard. But the angel reassured the women, telling them that Jesus was not there, for He had risen.

In obedience to the angel's command, the women went to tell the other disciples; and Peter and John came to the tomb and saw for themselves. After this, Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene. She did not recognise Him at first, but, supposing Him to be the gardener, asked where the body of Jesus had been taken. It seems that it was almost impossible for her to accept the fact that Jesus was no longer dead; but when He spoke to her and called her by name she realised it was true, and addressed Him "Rabboni" -- Master. Matthew tells us that Jesus met the women and greeted them. They clasped His feet, worshipping Him.

The Bible says that Jesus was in "the heart of the earth" between His death and resurrection. Some think He went to the realm of the dead and preached to those who lived before the flood.

Since He arose on the first day of the week, which is our Sunday, and because the resurrection of our Lord is so important for faith and salvation, we Christians observe the Lord's Day, or the first day of the week, as our Sabbath. The seventh day of the week had been observed as the Sabbath, since it was set aside by God when He created the world, and instituted as such in the Law given to the Children of Israel on Mount Sinai.

We have evidence that Jesus set His approval on the first day of the week as the day for worship. Several times He appeared to the disciples when they were together on that day. By appearing among them, and blessing them, He let them know that He approved of their worship of Him on that day. We know from our own experience that He has put His approval upon it, for we have the memory of the many times of blessing when His presence was very real among us -- almost as real as He was to the disciples as they gathered in their rooms, behind bolted doors for fear of the Jews, to worship Him and to recall the days they spent with Him during His ministry.

The fact that Jesus had a glorified body after His resurrection is clearly stated in this lesson. It is an example of the body that will be given God's children when they answer the resurrection call and go to be with the Lord. He had flesh and bones; He ate food, talked, and reasoned with His disciples; yet He appeared to them in rooms where the doors were barred. After talking with them, He vanished from their sight. In addition, He knew their thoughts and conversations when He was absent. Some of these qualities are present now only in the Godhead and may never be given to us, but Jesus' glorified body is an example of the one we shall have if we are faithful to the end.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection, and the life." It was not hard for Him to restore a person to life again. He merely gave a command and it was done. It will not make any difference where our place is, or what is our manner of death: whether by natural causes or by drowning, burning, or being torn by wild animals. When that power-laden, life-giving Voice calls out, "Come forth," all the dead of all ages will rise to stand before Him, the Judge of all the earth -- each in his own order, "Some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt" (Daniel 12:2; ² And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to

doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace *be* unto you.

²⁷ Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust *it* into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

²⁸ And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

²⁹ Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed *are* they that have not seen, and *yet* have believed.

³⁰ ¶ And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

³¹ But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

shame and everlasting contempt). What a glorious hope for the overcomers!

QUESTIONS

1. Who buried Jesus after His death, and where was the tomb?
2. Who prepared the body for its burial, and what precautions were made to prevent the body from being stolen?
3. Upon whom does the guilt for Jesus' crucifixion rest?
4. Who of the followers of Jesus first saw their risen Lord?
5. Which of the Apostles went to the tomb first?
6. To what group did He make His first public appearance?
7. Why do we worship on Sunday instead of Saturday?
8. What did Jesus say about those who did not see Him after His resurrection but who nevertheless believed it?
9. Why is the resurrection of Jesus important to us?
10. How many days was Jesus on earth after His resurrection?