

*September 23*

## **The Stone was Rolled Away**

Read Mark 16:1-8 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-8. What do these passages have in common?

And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the *mother* of James, and Salome, Sal-o-may 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.

1Cor 15:1-8

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

**2** By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

**3** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

**4** And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

**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.

The story of the resurrection appears in each of the Gospels. Each Gospel writer presents the story from a different perspective, but they all contain the core concepts that appear also in 1 Corinthians 15:1-8.

Four ideas appear again and again—*died, buried, risen, seen*. In Mark the *died* and *buried* are in chapter 15. The *risen* and *seen* appear in chapter 16, but with a twist. Mark 16:7 speaks of a meeting in Galilee, and *there you will see Him (see John 21)*.

Some people find it incredible that Christians believe in a risen Lord. But the evidence for His resurrection is substantial and consistent with reason.

For starters, all one has to do is believe in God as the Creator (*see Genesis 1 and 2*) and the idea of the resurrection, of a miracle, becomes reasonable. The God who created the universe, and then life on earth, certainly had the power, if He chose, to resurrect Jesus. The existence of God doesn't make the resurrection of Jesus inevitable, only reasonable.

Next, the tomb was definitely empty. Even atheist historians accept that fact. If it were not, the claim about His resurrection would fail right from the start, because the

existence of His body there would destroy any claims of His having risen.

Next, the explanation that His disciples stole the body does not work. The disciples surely couldn't have gotten past the guards. And even if they had done so, and got the body, why were the disciples never arrested for stealing it? The answer is that the religious leaders knew that the disciples had not done it.

Also, numerous people testified that they saw the risen Christ. Many, including the disciples, did not at first believe. And one very solid enemy, Paul, not only claims to have seen the risen Lord, but that this experience changed the whole trajectory of His life, in very radical ways too.

Finally (though there are many other reasons), how does one explain the rise of the Christian church, founded by people who claimed to have seen the risen Lord? Why would these people have been willing to die for what they knew was a lie? Their consistent testimony, both right after His death (*Acts 3:15*), and years later (*1 Pet. 1:3*) provides powerful evidence for His resurrection.

REV 12:11 -

SHELLEY - don't tell, don't tell, don't tell, don't tell. GO  
TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN OVER THE HILLS AND EVERYWHERE!

What would you say if someone were to ask you, What evidence do you have for Christ's resurrection?

