

# Resurrection!

Matthew 27: 52, 53; Matthew 28: 1-10; Mark 16:1-18;

Luke 24:1-49; John 20: 1-29

As Christ's dying time was a process, I have come to understand His resurrection time is also a process. I think these processes were layered (physical and psychological) for Christ and for others.

I think, with the disciples, *hope* died and was "resurrected". Conversely, I think *terror* was born before Christ's death and was diminished, gradually, after.

I am seeing the events from the end of the Last Supper to the gathering at the end of John 20 and Luke 24:36 as a chiasm with the crucifixion of Jesus at its core. I also see some of the interactions as lessons for the early church and for us today.

## **To Begin,**

I am unabashedly inviting us to participate in completely unsubstantiated speculation. We Earthlings tend to be focused on ourselves.

1. What do you think it was like for the other two Persons of the Deity in the last hours before the resurrection?
2. How do you think Heaven's angels felt as the angel of the Lord and the two who met disciples at the tomb were getting ready to leave?
3. What do you think it was like for the beings who live on planets not in our solar system?
4. How do you think Enoch, Moses and Elijah felt?

## **Some Scriptural Notes:**

1. The Greek word "raised" (*egerthe*) is in the *divine passive* and points to the fact that Jesus was raised by God.
2. It is generally believed that the Mark ends his gospel at 16:8. I chatted with Tom about this and he says it's generally believed that the other ending (s) were written 100 years later by people who didn't like ending at vs. 8. The verses of Mark 16: 9-20 are missing from some very old copies of Mark.

## Onward Thru the Story

\*\*\*\*\**Intermezzo*\*\*\*\*\*

### ***The Earth Shakes***

Mathew 28: 2-4 is my absolute favorite telling of this event. I am pretty sure it is my 12-year-old self that just loves when the good wins in such spectacular fashion.

1. Why do you think the angel sat on the stone?
2. Why do you think the writers are very careful to say Jesus was raised *after* the Sabbath was over?
3. Mathew writes 28:5 – *He has been raised, just as he said*. Why would Matthew make sure to include that phrase?
4. What do you make of the mix (Matthew 28: 8) of *fear and great joy*?
5. Why do you think three writers made sure to note that women were sent as first ambassadors of the resurrection?
6. And about the skepticism of the men?
7. Why do you think Mary Magdalene gets such special mention in John 20: 10 – 18?
8. Mark 16: 7 – *Go tell my disciples, even Peter*. Why do you think this is important? (John will talk about how Jesus addressed the issue later.)

### ***Proofs***

1. Luke 24:11, 12 – despite the eye witness statements (of women) Peter “wonders” what is going on???? And the other men think the women’s words are “nonsense”  
*\*Any ideas here folks?*
2. Mark’s account leaves them “in terror and afraid”.  
*\*Do you have any sense of why the original text seems to end there?*
3. Matthew’s account leaves it with Jesus giving the women a mission to convince the men to meet Jesus in Galilee.  
*What is your sense of why it may have been easier for the women to believe?*
4. Jesus took the time to ground or remind Cleopas (looks like the name means “glory of the father”) and his fellow disciple on the prophecies that heralded Jesus as the Messiah. He also reminded them that glory has to

do with sacrifice and love.

*\*What is your sense of the benefit of this tactic?*

- 5.** Both Luke and John talk about the gathering where: Cleopas and his friend gave witness. Jesus appears and shows his scars. And they still are afraid until Jesus has a bite to eat. I am amazed at the level of proof needed by the closest male followers of Jesus that first day; and of Tomas eight days later. I am very appreciative of the patience and the care Jesus showed to these scared students who had still not learned many of His lessons or His prophecies.

- What are the gifts for us of Jesus in this resurrection day?
- What are the lessons?

This week I wish for each of you unexpected blessings.