The Story of Jesus’ Resurrection

**Experience understanding Jesus’ resurrection**

**Monday**

Read Matthew 28:2-4, John 20:1-18, Mark 16:9-11

* *Read this first part of the resurrection story.*

**Tuesday**

Read Mark 16:1-7, Luke 24:3-8, Mark 16:8, Matthew 28:9-10, Luke 24:9-12

* *Read this second part of the resurrection story.*

**Wednesday**

Read Luke 24:13-32

* *Read this third part of the resurrection story.*

**Thursday**

Read Luke 24:33-49

* *Read this fourth part of the resurrection story.*

**Friday**

Read John 20:24-29

* *Read this fifth part of the resurrection story.*

The Story of Jesus’ Resurrection

Jesus’ resurrection story has been the subject for many doubters and skeptics.

Have you ever come across something you read in the Bible that produced doubt? Has something in the Word of God ever shaken your faith to the core?

I imagine that an extreme of this feeling was felt by the disciples the day Jesus was executed. Their whole world came crashing in. All their hopes, dreams, and what they had been promised were completely dashed. It had to be worse than the most horrible nightmare.

It’s not over until it’s over.

Do you have doubts about the Bible? Are you a skeptical about God and who He is?

Good news: The different versions of the resurrection story found in the Bible are in complete harmony with one another.

If God is who God says He is and proves Himself, He is powerful enough to ensure the integrity of His Word.

When something doesn’t make sense to us about God or His word, our first reaction shouldn’t be doubt or skepticism but rather a trusting question that you know God has an answer for.

The various accounts of what happened after Jesus died are partial accounts. And in some cases could be taken to be divergent.

“A partial report is not a false report”

“A divergent report is not a false report”

Consider the audience

Consider the author and the point of view

Matthew - Written by a Jewish Christian for Jewish Christians. Written to prove that Jesus the the fulfillment of Jewish prophecy, the Messiah. Jesus was to be followed as the eternal King, who was establishing His kingdom. His focus was not necessarily provide every detail or context of what Matthew was writing.

Mark - Believed to be written by Peter’s associate and disciple John Mark, from Peter’s point of view. Mark came from a well-to-do family with a strong Greek influence. The book if fast-paced and is biographical in nature. Greatly focused on what Jesus did. It tends to have, broad, summary of details. Intended to be a quick read that is unforgettable.

Luke - A two-book, historical work, therefore detailed. Focused on what was important to salvation, Jesus’ life, death, resurrection, ascension, and purpose and power of the church. Written by a physician to a man named Theophilus, most likely a high ranking Roman, the letter was intended for a Gentile, God-fearing audience.

John - Focused on what Jesus said and His relationship with people. John was a highly relational individual and he got into the very personal and emotional aspects of divine-human interactions.

Let’s take the stories of Jesus’ resurrection and put them together in chronological order as best we can from Matthew, Mark, Luke and John’s point of view.

Matthew 28:2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel didn’t roll the stone away to let Jesus out, he rolled the stone away for us to see and know that Jesus is no longer dead. He is alive! A picture is worth a thousand words.

John 20

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.

As soon Mary Magdalene could see that the stone was rolled away, she turned around and ran to where Peter and John were staying. She saw no angel at this point.

2 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!”

Notice that her message to them is of no hope, no revelation of Jesus’ resurrection. This is important when piecing this together with the other accounts.

It seems that the the 11 disciples were all staying in different places, possibly out of fear and certainly out of grief. “I will strike the shepherd and the sheep will scatter.”

3 So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. 4 Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

Obviously, they were close by because it was within running distance both for Mary Magdalene, and Peter and John, all who were able to run back and fourth.

5 He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, 7 as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. 8 Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. 9 (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) 10 Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

11 Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying.

She must have followed Peter and John and stayed at the tomb after they left. It is clear that she is alone at this point as you will see shortly.

As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb 12 and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

13 They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” 14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

15 He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

16 Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

17 Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

18 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.

*Mark 16:9 When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene,* *out of whom he had driven seven demons.* *10 She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping.* *11 When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it.*

There were a number of women who either jointly or independently (Mary Magdalene) decided to go anoint Jesus’ body early the day after the Sabbath.

Obviously, there were some who met and walked together - Mary the mother of James, Salome, Joanna, and ‘others with them.’ (Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:1, Luke 24:10)

After the story in John 20, the story of Matthew 28, Mark 16 and Luke 24 occurs. Although Mary Magdalene is mentioned as one of the ladies who went to the tomb, she clearly wasn’t one of the group mentioned in the story of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

Mark 16 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body. **2**Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb **3**and they asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?”

5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. (Matthew describes the angel as sitting on the stone)

6 “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. 7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’”

Luke 24:3 … when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. 5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 7 ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” 8 Then they remembered his words.

The women received the same word twice in a matter of minutes, the second time with more intensity. Has God ever told you the same thing more than one time?

Mark 16:8 Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb, afraid… They said nothing to anyone.

They were also filled with an incredible joy! Could it be true? Is it possible this nightmare would be erased by Jesus actually being resurrected from the dead?

Matthew 28:9 Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

Luke 24:9 When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. 11 But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. 12 Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

13 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. 15 As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; 16 but they were kept from recognizing him.

17 He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?”

They stood still, their faces downcast. 18 One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

19 “What things?” he asked.

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. 20 The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; 21 but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. 22 In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning 23 but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. 24 Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

25 He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

28 As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. 29 But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. 32 They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

33 They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together 34 and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” 35 Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

36 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

37 They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. 38 He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? 39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

40 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. 41 And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate it in their presence.

44 He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46 He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

John 20:24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” 27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

28 Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

29 Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

| Table 1 |
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| Matthew 28 | Mark 16 | Luke 24 | John 20 |
|  |  |  | Early, while it was still dark, Mary M, saw the stone had been removed ran and told Peter and John. ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we don’t know where they have put him’ |
|  |  |  | Peter and John run to the tomb. John outruns Peter, bends over and looks in and sees the strips of linen but doesn’t go in. Peter arrives and goes straight in. He sees the strips of linen lying in its place, separate from the linen. John decides to go in, he sees and believes that Jesus has risen. |
|  |  |  | Mary M is standing outside the tomb crying, she bends over to look in the tomb she sees two angels in white, seated where Jesus lay, one at the head, one at the foot. |
|  |  |  | They ask her why she is crying and she answers they have taken my Lord away and I don’t know where they have put Him. |
|  |  |  | She turns around and sees Jesus standing there but doesn’t realize it. Jesus asks her Why are you crying? Who are you looking for? |
|  | When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. |  | Mary thinks He is a gardener and explains. Jesus says, “Mary”. Mary recognizes and says teacher. Jesus says don’t hold onto me. Instructs to go tell his brothers |
| After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. | When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?” | Very early in the morning, women took spices to the tomb. (Mary M, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them) |  |
| An angel who is outside the tomb (siting on the stone) | But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. | They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them.In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, |  |
| 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.Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.” | “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’” | but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee:‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” Then they remembered his words. |  |
| So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. | Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid |  | Mary Magdalene goes and tells the disciples |
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|  |  |  |  |
| Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.” |  |  |  |
|  | She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping. When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it. | When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others.  It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. |  |
|  |  | Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened. |  |
|  | Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country. These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either. | The two disciples on the road to Emmaus |  |
|  | Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen. | Jesus appears to the 11 disciples | Jesus appears to 10 disciples and then appears to Thomas |