

Resurrection. Shattered Dreams and New Dreams: the expectation of things to come, Matthew 27:57-28:20

*“But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, (and) your faith also is vain.” I Cor. 15:13-14
The hope of the disciples was initially shattered by the execution of Jesus, and then reestablished on terms entirely new to them: that the One they followed was now a new being physically and yet constantly available to them as the person of the Holy Spirit. From the moment Jesus appeared to them in his eternal form the disciples and the early church lived with the expectation of his imminent return as conqueror, judge, and redeemer: as we today still await.*

Jesus’ burial, 27:57-66

- The evening prior to the Jewish Day of Preparation
 - The annual Passover rite included a day for removal of leaven from households. _____
 - That year on the 14th of Aviv (or Nisan). _____
 - This would indicate that Jesus was likely crucified on Thursday and laid in the tomb that evening. _____
- Joseph of Arimathea
 - Provided the tomb and requested the body of Jesus from Pilate. _____
 - A wealthy believer and member of the Sanhedrin, Mark 15:42 _____
- Guarding the tomb
 - The rest of the Sanhedrin arranged to guard the tomb, assuming either:
 - Jesus’ followers would try to steal his body, or
 - Jesus would actually arise from the dead, which they desperately wanted to prevent. _____

Resurrection day, 28:1-15

- The morning after the weekly Sabbath, and Jesus had returned to life in his glorified body earlier in the morning.
 - *He is not here, for he has risen, v.6.* _____
 - An earthquake and an angel, v.2-5. _____

- The first visitors at the empty tomb
 - After the guards, terrified, had fainted. _____
 - Differing accounts of the number, but all included Mary Magdalene. Matt 28:1, Mark 16:1, Luke 24:10, John 20:1
 - They were met by first an angel and then Jesus himself.
 - These women were given the instructions to pass on to the disciples. _____

The work ahead: The Great Commission, 28:16-20

(Matthew’s account only includes the meeting at the “mountain in Galilee, Mark’s includes slightly more, Luke’s includes the encounter on the road to Emmaus, and John’s includes the testing of Thomas and extensive further dialogue with the risen Jesus.)

- The meeting in Galilee
 - V.16-17 hint at the dialogue in John. _____
 - A time to grow accustomed to this new revelation. _____
- The commission
 - *All authority has been given to me, v.18.* _____
 - *Therefore: make disciples of all nations.* _____
 - *Baptize in the name of the Triune Godhead.* _____
 - *Teach what you have observed me teaching.* _____
- The promise
 - *I am with you always, even to the end of the age.* _____
 - Luke 24:49, *I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you.* _____
 - And to Thomas, in John 20:29, *Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.* _____

Coming to terms with “The End of the Age”

- The Jewish expectation. _____
- The expectation of the Disciples and early church. _____
- Failed predictions. _____

It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth. Acts 1:7-8