

Then, the criminal said something amazing—*Jesus* [note he called Him by name], *remember me when you come into your kingdom*. Jesus was gracious—*Amen*, [Ἀμήν] *today you will be with Me in paradise*.⁵

Then around noon⁶ it happened—the sky was dark until around 3pm; this was no eclipse. The curtain of the Temple was torn in two, and Jesus the Christ called out, loudly, *Father, I commit My spirit into Your hands*. With this, He breathed His last.

A centurion was watching and praising God, he claimed: Surely this was a righteous man. Others who had come to see this travesty, beat their breasts with agony, and went away... But, all those who knew Him, including the women who'd followed Him up from Galilee, stayed, watching, standing by, at a distance.



- Q Did the criminal go to heaven when Christ Jesus was resurrected?
- Q What strikes you the most about the crucifixion of Jesus the Christ?
- Q Which insult, do you suppose, did Yeshua find the most irritating?
- Q Where was Father God? Did He indeed “abandon the Christ?” Psalm 22:1ff

Luke 23:50-56. Immediate Aftermath. A Godly believer, one named Joseph, from Arimathea, a member of the Sanhedrin had not consented to the decision regarding Jesus of Nazareth. He was on watch for the Kingdom of God to arrive.

He went to the Prefect and oddly asked for the body of Yeshua. Pilate consented, Joseph took the body down [note the use of the word “it,” αὐτόν] and placed it in a tomb cut from a rock ledge, a tomb no one had used before.

But, it was Preparation Day—Sabbath was about to begin. It turns out the women who had followed the Christ up from Galilee followed Joseph, saw the tomb and how Yeshua’s body was laid. So, they went home, prepared burial spices and perfumes, but nonetheless observed the Sabbath and did not deal with His body until later.

- Q Why did Joseph bury the body of Yeshua the Christ?
- Q What constitutes a “good and upright” man in the time of the Christ?
- Q How long was the body of Christ neglected because of Sabbath observance?

LUKE 23:50-56

Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man,⁵¹ who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and he was waiting for the kingdom of God.

⁵²Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body. ⁵³Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. ⁵⁴It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

⁵⁵The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it.

⁵⁶Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

⁵*paradise*. In the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures) the word designates a garden (Genesis 2:8-10) or forest (Neh. 2:8), but in the New Testament (used only here and in 2 Corinthians 12:4; Revelation 2:7) it refers to the place of bliss and rest between death and resurrection (cf. Luke 16:22; 2 Corinthians 12:2). Many do not like “paradise” being made equivalent to “heaven,” because it is not theologically useful to equate them. People need to claim “admission” to heaven is more than what Jesus the Christ declared here to the criminal. Hence, the interpretation of the story of Abraham, Lazarus and the rich man takes place in positive bliss and negative state, versus a contrast of heaven and hell. We do love our theories.

⁶Using the Jewish method of designating time. Jesus had been put on the cross at the third hour (9:00am, Mark 15:25). The “sixth hour” of John (John 19:14) may be Roman time (6:00am), when Pilate gave his decision (but see John 19:14).

HE REALLY IS THE CHRIST!

Luke 24:1-12. *Men Ignore the Evidence.* Late Saturday evening (after sundown),⁷ the women (at least 5, see v10) who'd followed Him from Galilee took spices to the tomb. Finding the tomb's cover stone rolled away, they found no body. While pondering this mystery, two men, dressed in gleaming, lightning-like clothes suddenly appeared—right beside them. Freaking, they put their faces to the floor, but the men asked the ultimate question:

Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here. He has risen! He told you all this, while you were still together in Galilee: "The Son of Man must be given over to evil men to be crucified, and on the 3rd day be raised again."

Then they remembered His words... Coming back from the tomb, they recounted all this to the remaining eleven apostles and the other disciples. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and at least two other women told them this great news. Of course, men are stupid, and refused to believe them. But Peter (and John, cf John 20:3-9) got up and ran to the tomb. Peter saw the linen used to cover the body, but he was dumbfounded and just went away, scratching his head, wondering what had happened. Not the sharpest knife in the drawer.

- Q Why were women the first to find that Jesus the Christ had arose from the dead?
- Q Some accounts identify different numbers of "men in gleaming clothes." To what extent does this demean the truthfulness of this record of His resurrection?⁸
- Q Why must "the Son of Man be delivered into the hands of sinful men?" Why not simply have righteous men do what needed to be done; i.e., sacrifice the Lamb?
- Q Why do suppose Peter & John acted on their "nonsense," apparently unlike the others who just listened to the five women's report?

⁷The first day of the week began by Jewish time at sundown on the last day of the week (American's "Saturday"). Spices could then be bought (Mark 16:1), and they were ready to set out early the next day. When the women started out, it was dark (John 20:1), and by the time they arrived at the tomb, it was still early dawn (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:2). Note: for many countries, e.g., the UK & America, Sunday is the first day of the week. In France, however, the first day of the week is Monday. —Adapted & corrected by D. Thomas Porter, Ph.D. from Compton's Interactive NIV Commentary © 1996.

⁸Other reports referring to them call them angels (v. 23; see also John 20:12). Although Matthew speaks of one angel (not two, Matthew 28:2) and Mark of a young man in white (Mark 16:5), this is not strange because frequently only the spokesman is noted and an accompanying figure is not mentioned. Words and posture (seated, John 20:12; standing, Luke 24:4) often change in the course of events, so these variations are not necessarily contradictory. They are merely evidence of independent accounts. —Compton's Interactive NIV Commentary © 1996.

LUKE 24:1-12

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵In 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? ⁶He 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 into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' " ⁸Then they remembered his words. ⁹When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. ¹²Peter, 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.

Luke 24:13-32. Walking & Talking & Eating with a Stranger. On that first day of the week, two disciples were returning home to Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. Excited about everything, they were talking a blue streak. Then without recognizing Him, Jesus the Christ Himself came up and walked alongside. Yeshua asked, "What are you two talking about as you walk?"

Standing still with faces downcast, Cleopas asked Him—*Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who doesn't know about the things happening there these days?* What things? Jesus asked.

You know, about Yeshua of Nazareth, a prophet, his rhetoric and deeds were powerful—to God and all the people (God's chosen; i.e., τὸν λαόν). Now the religious big wheels and our rulers handed Him over to be crucified, but we had hoped He was the One sent to save Israel. Here's the rub: it's the third day since this happened. Then some of our women told us about going to the tomb; His body wasn't there, but angels were who declared He was alive. Then two men went to the tomb and found it just as the women said—He was not there.

Jesus stiffened—*How foolish you are, how slow is your heart; you've ignored all the prophets' teachings. Did not the Messiah have to suffer and then enter His glory?* And then it happened, the Master Teacher taught the Scriptures, explaining all that had been written concerning the Messiah, Himself.

As they approached Emmaus, Yeshua pretended as if He were going on farther. But Cleopas and his buddy urged Him, strongly—*Stay with us; it's nearly dark.* So...He went into stay with them. And then it happened: At dinner when He blessed the bread, He broke it and began to give it to them. BOOM! They saw what they'd been kept from seeing earlier—Here was the Christ HIMSELF, right there. And then—He disappeared. Comparing notes, they asked were we not totally moved, our hearts burning within us while He talked and taught the Scriptures to us?

- Q What will you ask Cleopas one day?
- Q How did they recognize their dinner companion was Jesus the Christ?
- Q Why did He disappear from them then?
- Q What causes your "heart to burn" when opening the Scriptures?

LUKE 24:13-32

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶but they were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do 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. ²⁰The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹but 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. ²²In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

²⁵He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Did not the Christ [τὸν Χριστόν] have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"

²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. ²⁹But 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.

³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.

³²They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

BOOM!

Luke 24:33-53. *Back to Jerusalem.* It didn't matter that it was night—back to Jerusalem, right now. Finding the gathered disciples, they declared: It's true; the Lord has risen and appeared to Simon Peter. Then they told what happened on the way home and how Jesus was recognized when He broke the bread.

And then it happened—again. Jesus Himself stood among them—Reconciliation be with you. Startled and scared, thinking He was a ghost, the Christ challenged them:

Why are you freaked? Why the doubts rising? Look at the evidence: My hands. My feet. It is I, Myself. Touch—I'm no ghost. A ghost does not have flesh & bones as you see I have.

He showed His hands and feet; even so, they were in disbelief, this time because of joy and amazement. So, He asked them—gotta anything to eat? So broiled fish He ate, right there in front of them. No ghost here.

This is what I've been telling you. Everything must happen, just as that which was written in the Scriptures—the Law, the Prophets and the Psalms. He then blessed them by opening their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. *This was written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day. Repentance and forgiveness for sin will be preached by His authority to all people, beginning right here in Jerusalem. You're the witnesses; I am going to send you what the Father has promised [another in My place, Holy Spirit; John 14:16], but stay in the city until you've been clothed [ἐνδύσθηθε, as in Romans 13:14] with power from above.*

Leading them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands blessing them and left them for Heaven. They worshipped Him and returned back to Jerusalem with a spring in their walks. Staying continually at Temple, they praised the Lord God Almighty.

- Q When did Jesus the Christ appear to Simon? How did Cleopas & his friend know this?
- Q Why would the followers of Jesus when confronted with Him here, think of Him as a ghost?
- Q Was the Christ hungry? Was He not Deity yet?
- Q Why did they understand this “suffering and rising on the third day” now?
- Q Is this the same scene as depicted in volume 2, Acts 1:9?

LUKE 24:33-53

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together³⁴ 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 Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,⁴⁷ and repentance and 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."

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them.⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.