

RESURRECTION SUNDAY - March 27, 2016

Acts 12 - Compare Jesus and Peter

Today is Resurrection Sunday - Easter. This is the day we honor the most powerful event in history. Jesus, the Son of God, was crucified on a cross, buried in a tomb, and raised from the dead by the power of God! In doing so, He paved the way for Eternal Life for all who believe in Him, trust in Him, and follow Him. If it were not for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, our entire "belief" - or "religion" - would be **utterly useless!** There would be no good reason to follow Christ, serve others, pray, or go to church. (See 1 Corinthians 15:12-19)

Here's one account of The Resurrection Story according to Matthew 28:1-10

“After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. 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. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.

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.” So

the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 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."

And here's what Peter wrote regarding the Resurrection of Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 1:3-5 "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time."

There are a few resurrection "**types**" found in Scripture:

- **Isaac** (Genesis 22:1-14; Heb 11:17-19 " . . . ***figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from the dead.***")
- **Joseph** (Genesis 35 - 45: Joseph's brothers plotted to kill him, sold him into slavery, and Joseph later emerged as his family's type of savior)
- **Jonah** (Matt 12:39-40 "***For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.***") Jonah was as good as dead - but God rescued him to be as a savior to the Ninevites.

- **Baptism** (Romans 6:1-11) The whole symbolism in baptism gives the picture of death, burial, and resurrection.
- **A Seed** (John 12:24 - "***Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.***")

Now, let's read about another "type" of resurrection: **Acts 12:6-19**

Read the story of Peter's supernatural release from prison . . .

LET'S COMPARE Jesus and Peter (death and resurrection experience):

- Both Jesus and Paul were arrested during the Passover
- Everyone abandoned Jesus - however, the church banded together and prayed for Peter
- The first to encounter the risen Jesus were women - the first to encounter Peter was a woman named Rhoda
- The women ran back to tell the Disciples of the risen Jesus - Rhoda ran back to tell the church about Peter (whom they no hope that he would ever escape alive)
- The disciples did not believe women's testimony - the church/believers did not believe Rhoda's testimony
- The disciples thought the risen Jesus was a ghost - the church thought Rhoda saw Peter's angel
- The government leaders were very upset that the body of Jesus was not found - Herod was very upset that they could not find Peter

- A guard of Roman soldiers was posted at the tomb of Jesus - a guard of Roman soldiers was posted at the prison where Peter had been placed
- The soldiers guarding Jesus' tomb were bribed to tell a lie - the soldiers guarding the prison where Peter was held were executed

Thank God for the **Power of RESURRECTION!** (Awakening from the dead)
Praise God for this **LIVING HOPE** that we are assured of! If Christ had not risen from the dead we have no hope for our future - and neither do all those who died trusting in God . . . Especially those martyrs who gave their life for what they believed in. How confident are you that you believe the TRUTH and not a lie?

Christianity is not mythology - it's not a fairy-tale. YES, there is FAITH involved in believing the Gospel - the virgin-birth, the death, burial, and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. But this FAITH is based upon facts, prophecy, and eye-witness accounts of Jesus Christ. It's not just a "blind faith" we are often told we must have (and as one definition states - ". . . *faith is believing in something without proof*") - it's a REAL FAITH based on actual, personal accounts of what really happened!

So, we can see the reality of "resurrection" as types in historical biblical accounts as well as in nature (seeds). THE RESURRECTION IS THE MOST POWERFUL AND IMPORTANT EVENT IN HISTORY.