

# STONE OF STUMBLING & ROCK OF OFFENSE

Isaiah 8:14 “And He shall be a sanctuary for you, but for a stone of stumbling, and for a rock of falling to both the houses of Israel, for a trap and for a snare to the people of Jerusalem.”

Isaiah 28:16 “Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation: he who believes shall not make haste.”

**Matthew 21:42 Jesus said to them, Did you ever read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?  
Matthew 21:44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.**

**1 Peter 2:6 “Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious: and he that believes on him shall not be confounded.”**

**1 Peter 2:7 “Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,”**

**1 Peter 2:8 “And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.”**

Two individual examples of people broken on the stone and not allowing themselves to turn away from Jesus in rejection:

## **Examples of Rock of Offense**

### **1. Nicodemus John 3:1-16**

3:1 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.  
2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."  
3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."  
4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he

enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." **9 Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?**

Can you understand how this Pharisee, a leader in the Sanhedrin, felt when Jesus spoke these words? Nicodemus could have left with bruised pride and anger. However he stayed to hear more of the Words of Jesus.

## **2. Matt 15:21-28 Jesus' Words to the Syro-Phoenician Woman**

21 Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. 22 A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession."

23 Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."

24 He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

25 The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said.

**26 He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs."**

**27 "Yes, Lord," she said, "but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."**

This conversation between Jesus & the Syro-Phoenician woman probably took place in the Greek language. Since Nazareth was so close to the markets at Capernaum, Jesus was exposed to the Greek language early in His life.

Here our Lord's words to this Syro-Phoenician woman seem harsh. She could have left with bruised pride and anger too. However she wanted what Jesus had to give and was determined to stay in faith until she received it. This gentile woman addressed Him with Jewish Messianic titles to which she had no claim. Jesus had performed miracles for gentiles, but only in Israel (Matt 8:8, 13). He was not yet fully rejected by Israel that He could completely outreach to the gentiles. Jesus, with these words, becomes "a

stone of stumbling and a Rock of offense (1Peter 2:8, Isaiah 8:14) to this woman and performs His first miracle for a gentile outside of Israel.

28 Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

NIV The woman overcomes the offense with her faith and receives from Jesus deliverance for her daughter.

## **An Example of Many Who Become Offended and Reject Jesus**

### **John 6**

Jesus is speaking about “belief” (pistis, pistueo) in Him while the crowd s Thinks and speaks about being fed physical bread and “working the works of God”.

When Jesus refers to Himself as the Bread of Life, He is not using a parable. There are not parables in the Gospel of John despite the use of the word in John 10:6. The word “paroimia” is used which means metaphor (a word suggesting a comparison). A parable is the use of a comparative principle or allegorical story e.g. The Prodigal Son.

Please note that three groups of people are addressed here: the people v. 24, The Jews vs. 41 and 52, and the disciples – v.60. All of these are Jews. Therefore, when the term “The Jews” is used in the Gospels, it refers to the Jewish religious leaders only

John 6:1-15 is the **Account of feeding 5000 people.**

John 6:8-15 John 6:8-15

8 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, 9 There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" 10 Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down."

Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. 11 And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. 12 So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost." 13 Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. 14 Then those men, when they had seen the

sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."

15 Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone. NKJV

**(NOTE: Jesus did not want to be received as King by those who wanted Him only because He could feed them with bread and perform miracles for them. This large assembly may have wanted Him to state clearly that He is the Messiah and lead them in battle against Rome. Of course, this was not the Father's will for Jesus at this time.)**

John 6:16-25 Jesus crosses the Sea of Galilee by walking on water. The people had seen the disciples leave in a boat but saw Jesus stay and go to a secluded place for prayer.

John 6:26-30

26 Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. 27 Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him." **28 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."** NKJV Notice that the people want to know what works they must do to do the work of God. Jesus answered and said believe on Him. The pattern develops that the people are seeing only the physical – eating bread, doing works of God. Jesus is responding to them spiritually to believe in Him.

John 6:40-71

**40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."**

41 At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." 42 They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

**47 I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life. 48 I am the bread of life.** 49 Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. 50 But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

52 Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

**53 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.**

60 On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?" (NOTE: Now they are greatly offended. They are interpreting His words sensually, in terms of flesh and blood, not spiritually.)

61 Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? 62 What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! Jesus explains that His Words are spiritual not earthly.

**John 6:63-64**

**63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. 64 But there are some of you who do not believe."** Jesus wanted the people to receive Him in faith who were internally convicted by the Holy Spirit as Peter was in Matt 16.

**John 6:66-69 "From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."** NKJV Here we see that many of Jesus' followers rejected Him because they did not understand His words. Note their attitude compared to the 12 disciples, compared to Nicodemus, compared to the Syro-Phoenician woman.

## **The Offense to the Religious Leaders & Their Rejection of Him**

The sacrifices in the Temple could no longer be offered at the Mercy Seat of the Ark (in Herod's Temple there was only a concrete block where the Ark of the Covenant would sit if the priests still had it. The Pharisees, with no Ark, emphasized the Torah in general (along with their many traditions) and the Sabbath in particular. The Sabbath and the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment became the central theme of the Pharisees who added approximately 39 more sets of laws as sub-categories under the Sabbath.

- **Prohibition against tying knots on the Sabbath: Explain how to fetch water from a well on the Sabbath and the woman's girdle.**
- **Prohibition against harvesting or plucking grain on the Sabbath had a sub-law that forbade the plucking of more than one gray hair from your head on the Sabbath.**

**Into this area so sensitive to the Pharisees, Jesus announces:**

**Mark 2:28 'Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath.' KJV**

Usually when Jesus healed or delivered someone, that person had to ask Jesus first even if the need was obvious as in the case of blind Bartimaeus:

**Mark 10:46-52**

**"Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to him, "Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you." And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus. So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight." Jesus knew exactly what this blind man wanted, yet he still had to ask Jesus for his sight to be restored. Then Jesus said**

to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road. **NKJV**

**There are examples of Jesus performing unsolicited miracles, 7 in number, and all on the Sabbath. The Lord of the Sabbath was now going to prove He is Lord of the Sabbath even over the protests of cold-hearted Pharisees.**

**Recorded unsolicited healings performed by Jesus on the Sabbath:**

- **John 5:8-10 (pool of Siloam, paralytic\*),**
- **Mark 3:4-5 (man with withered hand),**
- **Luke 14:1-6, (man with dropsy)**
- **Luke 13:12-14 (women with demon of infirmity),**
- **John 9:14 (blind man)**
- **Mark 1:29 Peter's mother-in-law**
- **Mark 1:21 Deliverance from demon**

\*Jesus did make this man ask.

Let's examine one such healing: **John 9:1-18**

**"Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he." Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight." Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know."**

**They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight." NKJV**

### **John 9:24-34 An Example of Unmovable Faith in Jesus**

“So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner." He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see." Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from." **The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.”** (meaning they cast him out of the synagogue and out of Judaism) NKJV

As a side note, there are a couple of theories as to why Jesus used dry earth and spittle to make clay used to heal this man:

- Man is made from the dust of the earth. Jesus performed an act of creation by giving this man eyes with which to see. This was not just a healing but an act of creation. The account appears in John's Gospel which purpose it is to establish the truth that Jesus is the Son of God.



- The Pharisees, in their traditional writings, added to the words found in **Malachi 4:2** **“The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings;”** NKJV inserting the words that the Messiah will come with healing even in His spittle. This miracle was a way that Jesus had to tell the Pharisees by a miracle that He came to fulfill the Word & Will of the Father. However, so that you might believe, I’ll fulfill your words too.

Why did Jesus do these miracles on the Sabbath? Because He was Lord of the Sabbath, He was fulfilling the Messianic prophecy of Luke 4:18 and Isaiah 61:1 that he will restore sight to the blind.

We will see the reaction of the religious leaders to Jesus’ healings on the Sabbath next.

## **The Rejection of Jesus**

Jesus is rejected by the religious leadership and recorded in Mark 3, Matt 12, Luke 11 and John 8. Matthew 12 and Luke 11 come to a climax when the Pharisees charge that Jesus does miracles by the power of demons. Jesus warns them against Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. We’ll select the example in John 8 to look at.

John 8:13 **“The Pharisees therefore said to Him, "You bear witness of Yourself; Your witness is not true." NKJV**

John 8:14 **“Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from and where I am going.**

John 8:19 **“Then they said to Him, "Where is Your Father?" (since the Pharisees and Sadducees had genealogical records and marriage certificates on file in the Temple, they knew that Jesus was born less than 9 months and were implying that He was illegitimate.) Jesus answered, "You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also." NKJV**

John 8:24

**Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am, you will die in your sins." NKJV**

John 8:37-44

37 "I know that you are Abraham's descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. 38 I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father." **39 They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. 40 But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. 41 You do the deeds of your father." Then they said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father--God." 42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. 43 Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. 44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."**

**John 8:56-59**

"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, **"Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.** " NKJV

- Besides the Sabbath conflict & Jesus' claims to have been sent by the Father, there is an underlying economic tension between Jesus, in cleansing the Temple, and the monopoly on money-changing & sacrificial animals exercised by Annas & Caiaphas, both wealthy Sadducees who price-gouged the people when they came to worship God.
- Finally, Jesus sealed His rejection when He pronounced the 7 Woes of the Pharisees Matt 23. In the climax of this dialogue, Jesus says to the Pharisees "You serpents, you generation of vipers, how can you escape the damnation of hell? Matt 23:33

Practical Application: Galatians 5:11 “**And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.**” Paul clearly indicates that his preaching of the cross is an offence for which he was being persecuted. Beware of those men today who want to present the Gospel of Grace to people without offending them with words such as sin, naming the sins of 1 Cor 6:9, and referencing hell and damnation.

Example: **(SLIDE 1)**

**KJV** 1 Cor 6:9. "Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God."

**The Message** "Don't you realize that this is not the way to live? Unjust people who don't care about God will not be joining his kingdom. Those who use and abuse each other, use and abuse sex, use and abuse the earth and everything in it, don't qualify as citizens in God's kingdom"

**1 Cor 6:18 (SLIDE 2)**

**KJV** “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.”

**(SLIDE 3)**

**NKJV** “Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.”

**The Message:** "There's more to sex than mere skin on skin. Sex is as much a spiritual mystery as a physical fact. As written in Scripture, "The two become one." Since we want to become spiritually one with the Master, we must not pursue the kind of sex that avoids commitment and intimacy, leaving us more lonely than ever - the kind of sex that can never "become one." ....In sexual sin we violate the sacredness of our own bodies, these bodies that were made for God-given and God-modeled love, for "becoming one" with another?"

## **SLIDE 4**

### **1 TIMOTHY 3:16**

**KJV** "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh."

**NKJV** "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh,

**TLB** "It is quite true that the matter to live a godly life is not an easy matter, but the answer lies in Christ who came to earth as a man."

Let's have no fear of offense when we witness for Jesus and when we give people the Gospel. Remember that Jesus is an attraction not a promotion to be made by Christians or Churches seeking not to offend unbelievers with talk about sin and its consequences.

## THE CRUCIFIXION of JESUS

**In the Forty Days of Purpose we were encouraged to pray and to mediate on God's Word, to think about how Jesus suffered and died for us. If we understand Jesus' sufferings and death, you will be able to meditate upon Him in times of temptation, trouble and pain. (My experience in the hospital after back surgery and the foot of the Cross)**

**Heb 12:2 - "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."**

In the last few hours of Jesus' life what did He endure, and what shame did He suffer? The word "**EXCRUCIATE**": (the root of the word "*excruciating*") which refers to something which causes great agony or torment. The Latin roots of the word are : "*ex*", meaning from or out of, and "*cruciate*", meaning cross. The word "*excruciate*" comes from the Latin for "*from, or out of, the cross*". (Websters)

**GENERAL OVERVIEW** Jesus spent the last hours before the crucifixion at several places in Jerusalem. He started the evening in the Upper Room, in southwest Jerusalem. At the Last Supper, He told the disciples that His body and His blood were to be given for them (Matt 26: 26-29) He went outside of the city to the Garden of Gethesemane. He was then arrested and brought back to the to the palace of the High Priest. where He was questioned by Annas, a former High Priest, and Caiaphas, Annas' son-in-law. Afterwards, He was tried by the Sanhedrin, and found to be guilty of blasphemy by proclaiming Himself the Son of God. He was sentenced to the death penalty. Since only the Romans were able to execute criminals, He was sent to Pontius Pilate at the Antonia Fortress. Pilate, not finding anything wrong, sent Him to King Herod , who returned Him back to Pilate. Pilate, submitting to the pressure of the crowd, then ordered that Jesus be flogged and crucified. He was finally led out of the city walls to be crucified at Calvary.

**THE HEALTH OF JESUS AND DEMANDS OF THE ORDEAL** It is reasonable to assume that Jesus was in good health prior to the ordeal that He faced in the hours before His death. Having been a carpenter and traveling throughout the land during His ministry would have required that He would be in good physical condition. Before the crucifixion, however, He was forced to

walk 2.5 miles over a sleepless night, during which He suffered great anguish through His six trials, was mocked, ridiculed and severely beaten, and was abandoned by His friends and Father. (Edwards)

**THE UPPER ROOM OR CENACULUM** The ordeal began in an upper room of a house at what we now call the Last Supper, where Jesus, in giving the first communion, predicted that His body and blood would be given. (Matt 26:17-29) Today in Jerusalem, one can visit the Cenacle or Cenaculum (Latin for dining hall), a room which is built over what is believed to be the site of the Upper Room, (Kollek) which was located on the southwestern aspect of the old city.

**GETHESEMANE: Luke 22:44** *And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.* From the upper room, Jesus went outside of the city walls where he spent time in prayer at the Garden of Gethesemane. The garden has many ancient olive trees today, some of which may have grown from the roots of the trees that were present in Jesus' time. (All trees in and around Jerusalem were cut down when the Romans conquered the city in 70 A.D. Olive trees can regenerate from their roots and live for thousands of years.) The name "*Gethesemane*", comes from the Hebrew Gat Shmanim, meaning "*oil press*" (Kollek).

It was here that Jesus agonized in prayer over what was to occur. It is significant that this is the only place in the KJV where the word "*agony*" is mentioned. (Strong's agonia = "struggle for victory") Jesus agonizes over what He is to go through, feeling that He is at the point of death. (Mark 14:34). Yet He prays, "*Not my will, but thine be done.*"

Of medical significance is that Luke mentions Him as having sweat like blood. The medical term for this, "*hemohidrosis*" has been seen in patients who have experienced, extreme stress or shock to their systems. (Edwards) The capillaries around the sweat pores become fragile and leak blood into the sweat.

A case history is recorded in which a young girl who had a fear of air raids in WW1 developed the condition after a gas explosion occurred in the house next door. (Scott) Another report mentions a nun who, as she was threatened with death by the swords of the enemy soldiers, "*was so terrified that she bled from every part of her body and died of hemorrhage in the sight of her*

*assailants.*"(Grafenberg) As a memorial to Jesus' ordeal, a church which now stands in Gethesemane is known as the Church of the Agony. (also called the Church of the Nations because many nations donated money to its construction.(Kollek)

**ABANDONED BY MAN** **Matthew 26:56:** *"Then all the disciples deserted him and fled."* **Psa 22:11:** *"Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help."* While in Gethesemane, Jesus is betrayed by Judas and arrested by the Jews. His disciples all desert Him, even at the expense of running away naked (Mark 14:51-52).

**Mark 14:51-52** **“And there followed him a certain young man, having a linen cloth cast about his naked body; and the young men laid hold on him: And he left the linen cloth, and fled from them naked.”** Who was this young man? He was not one of the twelve. We believe that it was the author of this Gospel, John Mark. Since Judas went to betray Jesus, he probably brought Jesus’ enemies to the Upper Room, probably the home of John Mark’s parents. Not finding Jesus nor the Apostles there, Judas led the mob to the place nearby where Jesus would often go with His disciples for peace, quiet and prayer.

Jesus is bound (John 18:12) then brought back to the city to the court of the High Priest, which is located near the Upper room.

## **ILLEGAL ASPECTS OF THE TRIAL OF JESUS**

### **Legal Errors of the Sanhedrin:**

1. It was illegal to hold criminal proceedings in the evening after the evening sacrifice. Trials could not occur on the eve of the Sabbath or Feast Days.
2. Trials could occur only in the regular meeting places of the Sanhedrin (not in the palace of the High Priest).
3. A sentence of 'guilty' might only be pronounced on the day following the trial.
4. **Deut 19:15:** **"One witness is not enough to convict a man accused of any crime or offense he may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses."** **Deut 17:6:** **"On the testimony of two or three witnesses a man shall be put to death, but no one shall be put to death on the testimony of only one witness."** Two witnesses were needed for conviction coming from Numbers 35:30. According to Matthew 26:60, only two witnesses came forward neither of which wanted to be the “prosecuting witness”.

5. The witnesses must concur on all of the essential details. The two witnesses that came forward were unable to agree on the circumstances and the time that Jesus allegedly blasphemed. Matthew 14:57-58 indicates that witnesses were not sequestered to protect the accused presumption of innocence. (Even then their testimony did not agree. Mark 14:59). Jesus was not given the right to interrogate His accusers.

**6. Under Jewish Law a man was not required to bear witness against himself. Although He could have defended Himself, Jesus was silent before His accusers Matt 26:63, in order to fulfill the prophecy:**

**Isaiah 53:7 “He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.”**

However:

Caiaphas asked Jesus if He was the Son of God, to which Jesus answered “I am”. Luke 22:70 – compelling Jesus’ own words to be testimony against Him.

**Jesus had to answer the high priest:**

**Lev 5:1-2**

**“If a person sins in hearing the utterance of an oath, and is a witness, whether he has seen or known of the matter--if he does not tell it, he bears guilt. “ NKJV**

7. The high priest tore his robes after hearing what he believed to be blasphemy. This violated another Judaic Law which charged that the youngest men would vote first with the elderly and the Chief Priest voting last in order to ensure that the older men did not influence the younger men.

Also the high priest is forbidden to rent his garments as we covered. **(Lev 21:10 “And he that is the high priest among his brethren, upon whose head the anointing oil was poured, and that is consecrated to put on the garments, shall not uncover his head, nor rend his clothes;”)**

8. The Sanhedrin was without authority to instigate charges. It was only supposed to investigate charges brought before it. In Jesus' trial, **the court itself formulated the charges.** Under law, the Sanhedrin were not allowed to convict and put the death sentence into effect. (John 18:31)

9. The charges against Jesus **were changed during the trial.** He was initially



charged with blasphemy based upon His statement that He would be able to destroy and rebuild the Temple of God within three days, as well as His claim to be the Son of God. **When He was brought before Pilate, the charge was that Jesus was a King and did not advocate paying taxes to the Romans.**

### **Roman Law (Lex Romana)**

Pilate's own wife warned him about Jesus and not to have anything to do with this innocent man. Matt 27:23

A Roman trial consists of 4 elements: indictment, examination, defense and verdict.

The Roman prosecutor or the judge could ask questions of the accused. The accused could also call witnesses in his defense. Trials were held in the day time. The Jews were unwilling to charge Jesus with blasphemy in writing to Pilate. Therefore Pilate began the **citatio**, bringing the accused before him. At one point in the questioning, Pilate asked "What crime has He committed?"(Matt 27:23)

Pilate washes his hands symbolically to try to show that Jesus' blood would not be upon his hands. Pilate may have been emulating a Jewish practice by washing his hands at this point. If a murdered body is found near a town, the town elders will ceremonially wash their hands indicating that they are without guilt. Deut 21:6-7.

Pilate had the authority to release Jesus and to quell any riot of the people. Instead of enforcing Roman law, Pilate tries to absolve himself of any responsibility:

Matthew 27:24 "When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see to it yourselves."

### **LEGAL ERRORS UNDER LEX ROMANA**

1. Romans did not convict a man without a formal charge against him
2. The accused was presumed innocent unless otherwise proved guilty.

3. enforcement of Roman law was not an option open to the discretion of Roman governors. They were required to follow and to execute that law. Pilate's actions of turning an innocent man over to His accusers, while at the same time, providing Roman soldiers and the Roman method of execution (crucifixion) makes Pilate guilty of condemning an innocent man. Tradition has it that Pilate was later exiled to Gaul where he committed suicide.
4. As stated above, the requirement of two witnesses in agreement to merit the death penalty was not met.

**PILATE'S VERDICT** Mark 15:15 - **"Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified."**

In spite of all the charges, Pilate finds nothing wrong. He sends Jesus to Herod. Jesus is speechless before Herod, except to affirm that He is King of the Jews. Herod sends Him back to Pilate.

Pilate is unable to convince the crowds of Jesus' innocence and orders Jesus to be put to death. Some sources state that it was Roman law that a criminal that was to be crucified had to be flogged first.(McDowell) Others believe that Jesus was flogged first by Pilate in the hope of getting Him off with a lighter punishment .(Davis) In spite of his efforts, the Jews allow Barabbas to be released and demand that Jesus be crucified, even crying that **,"His blood be on us and on our children!" (Matthew 27:25).**

(Pilate's end according to historical tradition: He was demoted and exiled to Spain in 36 AD where he committed suicide.)

Pilate hands Jesus over to be flogged and crucified. It is at this point that Jesus suffers a severe physical beating. (Edwards) During a flogging, a victim was tied to a post, leaving his back entirely exposed. The Romans used a whip, called flagellum which consisted of small pieces of bone and metal attached to a number of leather strands, usually nine. The number of strikes is not recorded in the gospels.

The number of blows in Jewish law was set in Deuteronomy 25:3 at forty, but later reduced to 39 to prevent excessive blows by a counting error (believed to

be an act of mercy). (Holmans). The victim often died from the beating. (39 hits were believed to bring the criminal to the point of death. Roman law did not put any limits on the number of blows given. (McDowell) During the flogging, the skin was stripped from the back, exposing a bloody mass of muscle and bone. Extreme blood loss occurred from this beating, weakening the victim. perhaps to the point of being unconscious.

**ROMAN SOLDIERS MOCK AND BEAT JESUS** Matthew 27:28-30 (The soldiers) stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. *"Hail, king of the Jews!"* they said. They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. Jesus was then beaten by the Roman soldiers. In mockery, they dressed Him in what was probably the cloak of a Roman officer, which was purple in color. (Mk 15:17, 20 and John 19:2, 5). When they removed the robe there was further pain as flesh and blood were pulled from Jesus' Body.

He also wore the crown of thorns. Unlike the traditional crown which is depicted by an open ring, the actual crown of thorns may have covered the entire scalp.(Lumpkin) The thorns may have been 1 to 2 inches long. The gospels state that the Roman soldiers continued to beat Jesus on the head. The blows would drive the thorns into the scalp and forehead, causing severe bleeding and shock.

**THE CROWN OF THORNS AND THE ROBE** Genesis 3:17-18: **"Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field."** The significance of the thorns goes all the way back to the Garden of Eden and one of the signs of the curse.

**THE SEVERITY OF THE BEATING** Isaiah 50:6: **"I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting."** Isaiah 52:14: **"..... Just as there were many who were appalled at him -- his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness--"** The severity of the beating is not detailed in the gospels. However, in the book of Isaiah, it suggests that the Romans pulled out His beard.(Isaiah 50:6) .

**It is also mentions that Jesus was beaten so severely that His form did not look like that of "a son of a man" i.e. that of a human being. The literal translation of the verse reads, "So marred from the form of man was His aspect, that His appearance was not as that of a son of a man." People were appalled to look at Him (Isaiah 52:13).**

Jesus walked on a path, now known as the Via Dolorosa or the "*way of suffering*", to be crucified at Golgotha. The total distance has been estimated at 650 yards. (Edwards). A narrow street of stone, it was probably surrounded by markets in Jesus' time. He was led through the crowded streets carrying the crossbar of the cross (called a **patibulum**) across His shoulders. The crossbar probably weighed between 80 pounds. He was surrounded by a guard of Roman soldiers, one of which carried a **titulus**, a sign which announced His crime of being "*the King of the Jews*" in Hebrew, Latin and Greek. On the way, He was unable to carry the cross.

Some theorize that he may have fallen while going down the steps of the Antonio Fortress. The roughly hewn cross further cut into Jesus' back as large slivers would pierce Him. A fall with the heavy patibulum on His back may have led to a contusion of the heart, predisposing His heart to rupture on the cross. (Ball) Simon of Cyrene (currently North Africa (Tripoli)), who apparently was affected by these events, was summoned to help.

The present Via Dolorosa was marked in the 16th century as the route over which Christ was led to His crucifixion.(Magi) As is the location of Calvary, the true location of the Via Dolorosa is disputed.

**SUFFERING ON THE CROSS Psalm 22:16-17: Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me."**

**In John 3:14, Jesus talks about His fulfillment of that prophecy when He says, "Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life."**

Jesus refers to the events recorded in Numbers 21:6-9. The Lord had sent a plague of fiery serpents on the people of Israel and they bit the people so that many of the people died. After the people confessed their sin to Moses, the

Lord forgave them by having a bronze serpent made. Whoever was bitten by a serpent and then looked at the bronze serpent, was saved from death.. These verses are prophecies that point to the crucifixion, in that Jesus would be (lifted up ) on the cross for the judgment of sin, so that whoever believed in Him should not die (an eternal death), but live an eternal life. **The brazen serpent that God told Moses to raise up for the people in Numbers 21:4-9 is a type of Christ (Bronze the symbol of judgment, serpent a symbol of sin).** (The people apparently kept this brazen serpent and worshipped it. Calling it “Nehushtan”, King Hezekiah ordered it to be destroyed in order to end the idolatry. 2Kings 18:4).

**II Cor 5 :21 amplifies this point, in that "He (the Father) made Him who knew no sin (the Son) to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."**

It is interesting that the sign of Aesculapius which is the symbol of the medical profession today, had its roots from the making of the bronze serpent.(Metherall) This figuratively shows that Jesus is the healer of all!

Jesus is led to the place of the skull (Latin Calvary, Aramaic :Golgotha) to be crucified. The actual location of Calvary is also in dispute. At the end of the Via Dolorosa, there is a "*T intersection*". If one turns left, we go to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. If one turns to the right, one goes to Gordon's Calvary. The Church of the Holy sepulcher has long been believed to be the traditional site of the crucifixion. **Gordon's location of Calvary has a possible prophetic reason for being the actual site of the crucifixion .In Genesis 22, Abraham is tested by God to sacrifice Isaac on the top of a mountain. Abraham prophetically answered his son that "God Himself will provide a Lamb", Gen 22:8. Abraham calls the place of the event "Jehovah Jireh", meaning "In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen."(Genesis 22:14) (Jehovah Jireh means "Jehovah sees" it also means Jehovah provides)** If we take this as a prophetic event of Jesus' death, then Jesus' died on the high ground of Jerusalem. Gordon's location of Calvary is the highest point of Jerusalem, 777 meters above sea level  
At the location of Gordon's Calvary, caves in the rock are situated which give the site the appearance of a skull.

Jesus was then crucified. Crucifixion was a practice that originated with the Persians and was later passed on to the Carthaginians and the Phoenicians. The Romans perfected it as a method of execution which caused maximum pain

and suffering over a period of time. Those crucified included slaves, provincials and the lowest types of criminals. Roman citizens, except perhaps for soldiers who deserted, were not subjected to this treatment. (McDowell)

**The crucifixion site "was purposely chosen to be outside the city walls because the Law forbade such within the city walls...for sanitary reasons ... the crucified body was sometimes left to rot on the cross and serve as a disgrace, a convincing warning and deterrent to passers by."** (Johnson) The Romans wanted the execution to be publicly viewed so that crucifixion became an example of state terrorism and a warning to all who even considered violating Roman Law. Sometimes, the subject was eaten while alive and still on the cross by wild beasts or thrown into the local garbage dump (In Jerusalem, that would be the Valley of Hinnon from which Gehenna, the lake of fire will be formed in the end of the age. (Lipsius)

The procedure of crucifixion may be summarized as follows.

- The patibulum was put on the ground and the victim laid upon it. Nails, about 7 inches long and with a diameter of 3/8 of an inch) were driven in the wrists . The points would go into the vicinity of the median nerve, causing shocks or explosions of pain to radiate through the arms. It was possible to place the nails between the bones so that no fractures (or broken bones) occurred. Studies have shown that nails were probably driven through the small bones of the wrist, since nails in the palms of the hand would not support the weight of a body. In ancient terminology, the wrist was considered to be part of the hand. (Davis)
- Standing at the crucifixion sites would be upright posts, called **stipes**, standing about 7 feet high.(Edwards) In the center of the stipes was a crude seat, called a **sedulum**, which served a support for the victim. The **patibulum** was then lifted on to the stipes. The feet were then nailed to the stipes. To allow for this, the knees had to be bent and rotated laterally, being left in a very uncomfortable position.
- The titulus was hung above the victim's head. This titulus contained the crimes for which the prisoner was found guilty. Pilate created controversy with the religious leaders when he ordered the charge or the libellus to be written in Latin, Greek and Hebrew: "This is the King of the Jews"  
Luke 23:38

**PHYSICAL SUFFERING ON THE CROSS Psalm 22:14-15: "I am**

**poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd (baked clay), and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death."** Having suffered from the beatings and flogging, Jesus had a severely diminished blood supply and dehydration. The verses above describe His dehydrated state and loss of His strength. When the cross was erected upright, there was tremendous strain put on the wrists, arms and shoulders, resulting in a dislocation of the shoulder and elbow joints.(Metherall) The arms, being held up and outward, held the rib cage in a fixed end position which made it extremely difficult to exhale, and impossible to take a full breath. The victim would only be able to take very shallow breaths.

- As time passed, the muscles, from the loss of blood, loss of oxygen and the fixed position of the body, would undergo severe cramps and spasmodic contractions

**ABANDONED BY GOD -- SPIRITUAL DEATH Matthew 27:46: "About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"--which means, My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"** With the sin of the world upon Him, Jesus suffered spiritual death (separation from the Father ). Isaiah 59:2 says that sins cause a separation from God, and that He hides His face from you so that He does not hear. The Father must turn away from His Beloved Son on the cross. For the first time, Jesus does not address God as His Father.(Courson)

**DEATH BY CRUCIFIXION : SLOW SUFFOCATION** Shallowness of breathing causes small areas of lung collapse. Decreased oxygen and increased carbon dioxide causes acidic conditions in the tissues. Fluid builds up in the lungs. Heart is stressed and eventually fails. It appears likely that the mechanism of death in crucifixion was suffocation. Furthermore, movement of these muscles was opposed by the weight of the body. With the muscles of respiration thus stretched, the respiratory bellows became relatively fixed.

Pain in the wrists and arms increased, the victim was forced to raise the body off the sedulum, thereby transferring the weight of the body to the feet. Respirations became easier, but with the weight of the body being exerted on the feet, pain in the feet and legs mounted. When the pain became unbearable, the victim again slumped down on the sedulum with the weight of the body

pulling on the wrists and again stretching the muscles. Thus, the victim alternated between lifting his body off the sedulum in order to breathe and slumping down on the sedulum to relieve pain in the feet. Eventually, he became exhausted or lapsed into unconsciousness so that he could no longer lift his body off the sedulum. In this position, with the respiratory muscles essentially paralyzed, the victim suffocated and died. (DePasquale and Burch) One theory states that Jesus died of cardiac rupture." (Bergsma)

**A LAST DRINK OF WINE VINEGAR** John 19:29-30 "A jar of **wine vinegar** was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips." When he had received the drink, Jesus said, **'It is finished'**. "With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit." Having suffered severe blood losses from His numerous beatings and thus in a dehydrated state, Jesus, in one of His final statements, said *"I thirst."* He was offered 2 drinks on the cross. The first, which He refused, was a drugged wine (mixed with myrrh). He chose to face death without a clouded mind. Edersheim writes: *"It was a merciful Jewish practice to give to those led to execution a draught of strong wine mixed with myrrh so as to deaden consciousness"* (Mass Sem 2.9; Bemid. R. 10). The draught was offered to Jesus when He reached Golgotha. But having tasted it....He would not drink it. ....He would meet Death, even in his sternest and fiercest mood, and conquer by submitting to it fully....(p.880). The second drink, which He accepts moments before His death, is described as a wine vinegar. **Two points are important to note. The drink was given on the "stalk of a hyssop plant". Remember that these events occurred at the Feast of the Passover. During this feast, (Exod 12:22) hyssop was used to apply the blood of the Passover lamb to the wooden doorposts of the Jews. It is interesting the end of this hyssop stalk pointed to the blood of the Perfect Lamb which was applied to the wooden cross for the salvation of all mankind. (Barclay)** In addition, the wine vinegar is a product of fermentation, which is made from grape juice and yeast. The word literally means *"that which is leavened"*. (Holmans) Yeast or leaven, is a Biblical symbol of sin. When Jesus took this drink, (i.e. a drink which was *"leavened"*) it is thus symbolic of His taking the sins of the world into His body.

**CELEBRATION OF THE OPPOSITION SPIRITUAL WARFARE**  
**Psalm 22:12-13: "Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me. Roaring lions tearing their prey open their mouths wide**



**against me."** While He was on the cross, darkness covered the land (noon to three p.m.). Jesus, in Luke 22:53, associates those who arrested Him with the power of darkness. Where were the evil forces while Jesus was on the cross? The verses above from Psalm 22 seem out of place when first read. There seems to be no mention of "*bulls*" and "*lions*" around the cross. The verses, however, have a deeper meaning. (Courson) Bashan was an area to the east of the Jordan River which was famous for its fertility. Cattle were raised there which grew to enormous sizes. The people there worshipped demon spirits (associated with Baal) within the cattle. In **1 Pet 5:8, Satan is described as "a roaring lion...seeking those who he may devour"** These verses are thus suggestive of the spiritual activity of Satan and his demons, celebrating as Jesus was suffering on the cross.

**JESUS LAID DOWN HIS LIFE John 10:17-18 "The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life--only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."** Luke 23:46 "**Jesus called out with a loud voice, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit'.**" When he had said this, he breathed his last. The average time of suffering before death by crucifixion is stated to be about 2-4 days (Tenney).

Jesus died a quick physical death (Pilate was surprised that He had died so soon.(Mark 15:44). While many of the physical signs preceding death were present, one possibility is that Jesus did not die by physical factors which ended His ability to live, but that **He gave up His life of His own accord.** His last statement, "*Into your hands I commit my Spirit*" shows that Jesus' death occurred by giving Himself up. In John 10, He states that only He has the power to lay down His life. He proved His power over death by His resurrection. Jesus' deliberately timed His death to coincide with the death of the last Passover Lamb at 3pm (The ninth hour).

**DEATH BY CRUCIFIXION: HASTENED** by the breaking of the legs, so that the victim could not push up to take a good breath. **John 19:32-33: The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. CONFIRMED** by a spear thrust into the right side of the heart. **John 19:34: Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear,**

**bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.** Jesus fulfills one of the prophetic requirements of the Passover Lamb, that not a bone shall be broken.(Exodus 12:46, John 19:36) To confirm that a victim was dead, the Romans inflicted a spear wound through the right side of the heart. When pierced, a sudden flow of blood and water came Jesus' body . The medical significance of the blood and water has been a matter of debate.

One theory states that Jesus died of a massive myocardial infarction, in which the heart ruptured (Bergsma) which may have resulted from His falling while carrying the cross. (Ball) Another theory states that Jesus' heart was surrounded by fluid in the pericardium, which constricted the heart and caused death.(Davis) **My belief is that Jesus literally died of a broken-heart when, becoming sin for us, the Father's wrath upon sin brought His wrath on His only son. Jesus handled his human tormentors, but had His heart broken when He could not call God His Father for that time period of three hours.**

**The important fact is that the medical evidence supports that Jesus did die a physical death.** The greatest event that separates Jesus from all others is the fact that He rose again and lives today. He intercedes for those who follow Him at the right hand of the Father.(Heb 7:25)

**APPEARANCE IN HEAVEN Revelation 5:6: Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders.** In eternity, Jesus will bear the marks of His crucifixion. Rev 5:6 suggests that He appears in heaven with the marks as a Lamb "*looking as if it had been slain*". We know that when He appeared to Thomas that He bore the scars of the nails and the spear in His side. (John 20:26-28). Since Jesus still bears the scars in His Body (Zech 12:10) and was marred beyond recognition by the terrible beatings, Jesus was not immediately recognized by those to whom He appeared after His Resurrection. (Example: Luke 24:13-31 the two disciples on the road to Emmaus)

**FOLLOWING JESUS CHRIST Luke 9:23:** *Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."* When He was on earth, Jesus stated that , "*If any man would come after me, let him take up his cross daily and follow me.*" (Luke 9:23)

We are challenged by the example of **Simon of Cyrene. Scripture mentions Him as being the father of Alexander and Rufus.(Mark 15:21) Rufus ("a**

**choice man in the Lord") and Simon's wife were both addressed warmly by Paul in his letter to the Roman church. (Romans 16:13)** Here was a man, who indeed carried the cross...and made an impact for Christ in eternity.

Medical evidence compiled by David Terasaka M.D.

## **FOLLOW WITH THE EXCHANGES AT THE CROSS**

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## The Burial and Resurrection of Christ

**(if no time, go to Resurrection of Jesus -----p. 5)**

(John 19:38-20:31; Matt. 27:57-28:15; Mark 15:42-16:18; Luke 23:50-24:43)

### Introduction

In the mind of the Jewish religious leaders, the crucifixion of Christ had once and for all dissolved the popular movement that centered about Jesus the Nazarene, which so threatened their position of leadership in the nation Israel.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ overruled the verdict of the Sanhedrin. When He rose triumphant from the dead, the claims and teachings of our Lord were undeniably validated. This event revitalized the feeble faith of the disciples and became the heart of the message which the apostles began to preach. It forced the enemies of the cross to face their responsibility for rejecting God's Messiah and to reconsider the person and work of Jesus Christ.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead not only demonstrated the truth of His teaching, but the value of His death. It proved Him to be the Son of God. It transformed discouraged and disbelieving disciples into fearless preachers of the gospel. Those who shrank back from suffering were now gladly willing to suffer and die for the cause of Christ. The fact was that resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave transformed the course of history..

The importance of the resurrection can hardly be overstated. We should recall that our Lord had publicly staked His credibility on one final and conclusive sign to the nation, the sign of the prophet, Jonah.

**“Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered Him saying, ‘Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.’ But He answered and said to them, “But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.**

**"For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” (Matthew 12:38-40).**

The effectiveness of our Lord's entire ministry hung upon His ability to rise from the grave. And lest we think of this only as a theoretical and historical issue, we must also recognize how crucial the resurrection of our Lord is to Christians today.

A. It is an essential part of the gospel message that men must believe in order to be saved: **"...That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.**

**For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."** (Romans 10:9-10).

B. The resurrection is also the cornerstone of the Christian faith and our assurance of life beyond the grave: **"...And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.**

**Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise.**

**For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen.**

**And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!"** (1 Corinthians 15:14-17).

## **The Burial of Jesus**

In several ways the burial of our Lord prepared the way for His resurrection. It may seem needless to say, but the burial of our Lord testifies to the reality of His death. Skeptics and unbelievers have sometimes advocated a 'swoon theory' which explains away the resurrection as merely the physical recovery of a dying Christ. Our Lord, they tell us, was not really dead, but merely unconscious. In the cool of the tomb, Jesus revived and went His way, limping from recorded history. The evidence against such a theory is too extensive to recount.

The death of Jesus was undisputed by everyone who witnessed His crucifixion. **The Roman soldiers sent to guard the tomb** were satisfied. Not only had they witnessed the unusual dismissal of His own spirit, but **a spear was thrust into the side of our Lord, piercing the vital organs, probably including both His lungs and His heart.** In addition, **blood and water issued forth, which medically verified that death had already**

**occurred.** Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus prepared the corpse, which would have revealed the normal evidences of death. The women planned to return at a later time to further prepare the body (Luke 23:55-56). There was not one glimmer of hope that life remained in our Lord's body.

Matthew's account of our Lord's burial includes some very interesting detail, not mentioned by the other gospels. The request made of Pilate by the chief priests and Pharisees is most revealing:

**“On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise.’**

**"Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, ‘He has risen from the dead.’ So the last deception will be worse than the first."**

**Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.” (Matthew 27:62-66).**

First of all, this petition reflects a lingering uneasiness concerning the person of Jesus Christ and the power He possessed. Why would they still be wary, unless the way our Lord died evidenced a most unusual happening, the end of which was not yet in sight? (Cf. Luke 23:48.) Further, **it indicates how aware the Jewish leaders were of our Lord's teaching. They knew that He had staked His entire ministry on His ability to rise from the grave (Matthew 12:38-40; 27:63).**

Finally, the religious leaders unwittingly fulfilled the purpose of God by taking extreme security measures at the grave-site. So long as the corpse was at hand, Christ could be shown to be only a self-deceived fanatic by His failure to rise from the dead. It would at least be possible for some of the disciples of Jesus to remove His body and claim He had risen. Pilate, who had to this point gone along with their requests, told them to use whatever means were necessary to provide maximum security.

In their zeal to protect Jesus' body from theft, the enemies of our Lord provided irrefutable evidence to the miraculous resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead.

### **Several observations concerning the people who took part in the burial of the Savior:**

1<sup>st</sup> We must reluctantly acknowledge that none of the eleven disciples were there to claim the body of Jesus, as John the Baptist's disciples had done (Mark 6:29). Their absence at the foot of the cross and at the graveside was conspicuous. (except for John)

It was two members of the Sanhedrin, the council of whom condemned our Lord, who cooperated in the burial of the Lord. **Neither of these two were known to be courageous or bold in their faith (John 19:38-39), but their love of Jesus outweighed their fear of their colleagues or of Rome.**

Joseph of Arimathea provided the tomb, while Nicodemus brought myrrh and aloes, spices customarily used in the preparation of the body for burial. Due to the lateness of the hour, things were done somewhat hastily (Luke 23:54-56; John 19:42), and the final preparations would be made after the Sabbath. **Without intervention by Joseph of Arimathea, the Jewish religious leaders would have cast the dead body of Jesus in the Valley of Hinnom near Jerusalem, which was a garbage dump.**

**The Prophetic Word: Isa 53:9 “And they made His grave with the wicked—But with the rich at His death, because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.”**

#### **The Fulfillment: Matt 27:57-60**

**“Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus.**

**This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him.**

**When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.” NKJV**

Once again we find the women who ministered to our Lord, unashamed of their love for Him. As many have observed, **they were the last to leave our**



**Lord at His death and the first to return to find Him alive.** (*e.g. the prominence of women in the Pentecostal movement & the phone call requesting me to witness to and pray with Ed, a man who saw no other men in the Charismatic Renewal*). The fact that our Lord first revealed Himself to Mary Magdalene must have been both a reward for her deep love and devotion, and a rebuke to the unbelief of the men who were His closest friends.

I must say that the more prominent role that is assigned to men in Scripture is no evidence of either greater spirituality or devotion to our Lord, nor is it any evidence of the rewards which we will receive from Him. **It is not the greatness of the task which brings about the commendation of our Lord, but the motive for our service (cf. Matthew 10:40-42; 25:40). These women surely loved the Lord!**

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## **The Resurrection of Our Lord**

### **The Events of the Resurrection**

As each of the gospel writers presents the resurrection from a different perspective, and with a different purpose, we cannot easily blend every event into a sequence that is completely satisfactory. This is no reflection on the accuracy of each account, but the product of our own lack of information.

Our Lord, unwitnessed by mortal eyes, was literally, physically raised to new life from the dead. This was not merely the restoration of life, the rejoining of soul and body, but a transformation whereby Jesus was both similar to His old self, and yet strangely different as well (He was so disfigured by the the beatings and crucifixion, people could hardly recognize Him before His death. He bore all of these, not just the nail prints into His resurrected body.). His body still bore the marks of His crucifixion, and Mary was able to recognize Him by His voice (John 20:16). He no longer was limited by objects, such as locked doors, grave clothes, or tombstones, but could pass through solid objects (cf. John 20:19).

Following the sequence of events as outlined by John, **Mary Magdalene first arrived at the tomb, found the stone already rolled away, and concluded that someone had removed the body of Jesus (John 20:1-2).** On hearing her report, **Peter and John ran out to the tomb.** John, being the younger, arrived first and looking in from outside, could see the linen wrappings lying inside. Peter, undaunted by the thought of entering a tomb, barged in for a closer look, followed by John (John 20:4-8).

While Peter's response is not recorded, John says of himself that he believed. If John did truly believe Jesus had been raised from the dead it would be due to the evidence inside the tomb, and not that contained in Scripture, "For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead" (John 20:9).

John also must have kept his conclusions to himself, **for faith does not seem to come to the disciples until our Lord appeared to them (John 20:19ff.).** The disciples had refused to accept the report of the women, both concerning the angelic messenger and his words, and of seeing the risen Christ (Mark 16:9-11,14; Luke 24:11;22-24).

The evidence inside the tomb was compelling. The stone was rolled away, the guards were missing, the body, likewise was gone. But strangely the evidence was not one which pointed to theft. Had the body been stolen, the thieves would surely not have taken the time to unwrap the body there. The wrappings were neatly arranged, not flung aside in haste. Perhaps they were not unwrapped at all, but simply collapsed, like a cocoon, since our Lord could have simply passed through them as He later did the bolted door of the Upper Room (John 20:19).

Not yet seeing the Lord, the disciples simply went home to await further developments. If they believed the body to be stolen, surely they grasped the fact that they would be the prime suspects, and might expect a visit from the authorities.

Mary lingered at the tomb. Here was the place where she had last seen His body. When she looked into the tomb, she beheld not only the place where the body had once lain and the grave clothes, but also two angels. It seems that she did not recognize them as such and mechanically answered their query as to why she continued to weep (John 20:13).

**In what to me is the most moving scene of the entire New Testament, Mary is now confronted by a third Person, whom she does not yet recognize as her Lord. “Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, “Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.”**

**16 Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him, “Rabboni!” (which is to say, Teacher).” (John 20:15-16).** In the one word reply, ‘Mary,’ she recognized the voice of the One Whom she most dearly loved (The voice of her Shepherd). Tears of sorrow became those of joy. She grasped Him so as never again to be separated from Him. It was not that Jesus couldn’t be touched (cf. John 20:25), but that men could not cling to Him (as High Priest before His blood atonement was offered in the Tabernacle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Heaven.).

**“Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’” (John 20:17).**

With great joy Mary departed to share her good news with the disciples. What a disappointment their unbelief must have been to her. At least she and the other women knew He was alive (Luke 24:10-11).

### **The Evidence for the Resurrection**

Evidences for the actual, historical, physical resurrection of our Lord on the third day are not wanting. Several lines of evidence will be mentioned:

- 1. there was the empty tomb.** This in spite of the fact that the greatest security efforts were taken. An armed guard was on constant duty, realizing the consequences of failing to do their task well. A great stone (Mark 16:4) lay outside the tomb, making a clandestine entry or escape impossible. And on this stone was placed the seal of Rome, threatening death to any who would defy Rome’s authority by breaking it.

To any grave robber, there was no great value attached to this body, surely not so great as to challenge Rome to steal it. There were plenty of other bodies available at much less risk. To the enemies of Christ, there was no reason to steal the body. Their cause was strengthened by its presence under

Roman guard. And for the disciples, there was no desire to steal the body. For them, the matter was as dead as the Lord Whom they had followed. What could be gained by taking His body? Who would wish to pursue the cause of a dead Messiah?

**2. We must not overlook the testimony of the guards themselves (Matthew 28:11-15). They witnessed the earthquake which the angel employed to remove the stone. They beheld the radiant appearance of the angel and trembled in his presence.** Roman soldiers found sleeping on guard duty were put to death. These guards were not.

**Matt 28:11-15**

**“Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened. When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, saying, 'Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.' (death penalty for Roman Guards)" And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure." So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day. NKJV**

**3. Then there was the evidence inside the tomb.** The grave clothes were neatly arranged, and not scattered about. This evidenced a calm and orderly event, not a hasty theft. Perhaps the wrappings were simply collapsed, rather than unrolled, evidence of the fact that Jesus simply passed through His burial shroud. John may well have been saying that his belief was the sole result of the evidence inside that empty tomb, without any grasp of the biblical necessity for such an event, and before he had even seen the Lord Jesus raised and alive. And inside the tomb were the angelic messengers who assured those who came that they had come to the right tomb, but that Jesus had already been raised, just as He promised.

**4. Then, too, there was the earthquake which shook Jerusalem at the time of Jesus' death and opened the graves of the believing dead (Matthew 27:51-53).** After our Lord's resurrection, these resurrected saints appeared to many in Jerusalem. I would conjecture that these Old Testament saints were the first fruits of our Lord's resurrection power. I believe that they appeared in Jerusalem during the 40 days of our Lord's sojourn on earth, and then, with Jesus, ascended to Heaven.

**5. There was, as well, the eye-witness appearances of our Lord to various groups or individuals after His resurrection.** He appeared to Mary Magdalene (John 20:14-17), and to the women who had come to the tomb (Matthew 28:9-10). Jesus also appeared to Peter and to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35). He also revealed Himself to the disciples, once in the absence of Thomas (John 20:19-25), and then with him present (John 20:26-29). **In all, over 500 witnesses could be named who had seen our Lord risen from the dead.** And Paul made this claim at a time when many of those witnesses were still alive and able to verify the claims of the apostles (1 Corinthians 15:5-8).

**6. One of the most convincing evidences of the resurrection is the dramatic change in the lives of the disciples.** Before the resurrection, they were a forlorn and defeated group of men. Afterward, they were men who fearlessly proclaimed the gospel, even in the face of great opposition and danger (cf. Acts 2-5).

### **The Significance of the Resurrection**

**(A) The empty tomb conclusively established the credibility of our Lord Jesus Christ and His teaching.** Throughout His ministry, our Lord was challenged to prove Himself to His skeptics. Many signs and wonders had been accomplished by the Lord Jesus, but His opponents persisted in their unbelief. At last, Jesus refused to grant further signs other than one final demonstration of His power, that of His resurrection from the grave (Matthew 12:33-40). When our Lord arose from the dead, it was His last sign to Israel as to His divine power and authority. **His resurrection was the dominant theme of apostolic preaching.**

**(B) The resurrection went beyond attesting to the integrity of Jesus in assuring men of His identity as the Son of God. “and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. ...” (Romans 1:4).** It was Jesus’ claim to be the Son of God which was the basis for Jesus’ condemnation by the Jewish Sanhedrin (Luke 22:70; John 19:7). The resurrection was God’s way of publicly overruling the

**verdict of the Sanhedrin and testifying that Jesus was, indeed, the Son of God, even as He claimed.**

**(C) The resurrection demonstrated our Lord's ability to save. "who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification." (Romans 4:25).** Throughout His earthly life and ministry, Jesus had spoken of Himself as the One Who had come 'to seek and to save that which was lost.' While **the cross demonstrates the love of our Lord** and His willingness to save men, **the empty tomb reveals the power of our Lord and His ability to save.**

**(E) The resurrection provides the Christian with a measure of the power, which is at work in him to enable him to live the Christian life. "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you." (Romans 8:11).** God supplies the ability to do whatever He commands. The resurrection is the measure of the power which is at work in us.

**(F) The empty tomb firmly roots our spiritual destiny in the soil of history.** Many recent theologians have attempted to convince us that it really does not matter whether or not the tomb was really empty, that it is only our resurrection faith which counts. The New Testament writers refuse to speak of a faith ungrounded in history. In fact, our faith stands or falls on the historicity of the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:1-19).

Furthermore, **our Lord promised His followers that the Holy Spirit would convict men of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:3).** The basis for the Spirit's conviction concerning the righteousness of Christ was the fact of His resurrection and ascension: **"And concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me" (John 16:10).** The fact that Christianity is subject to factual and historical verification opens the door for Christian apologetics. The facts bear out that Christianity at its roots is both supernatural and historical. While apologetics can never convince men of the truth (cf. Luke 16:31), historical facts concerning Christ's resurrection do provide the Holy Spirit with a basis for convicting men of the truths of the gospel.

(G) Finally, **the fact of a risen Savior assures the Christian of a hope which lives beyond the grave.** In the words of the apostle Paul, “14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 4:14).

### **(H) Jesus Conquered His Enemies**

Col 2:15 **“Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”** Angelic Levels:

Colossians 1:16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether *thrones* or *dominions* or *principalities* or *powers*. All things were created through Him and for Him.

### **Describe the Roman Triumph**

### **The Glory of Jesus Phil 2:9-11**

**“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”**

### **Conclusion**

The resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has much to say to the unbeliever. It demands that the claims of One Who cannot be held captive by death must be taken seriously.

Also, the resurrection of Christ is a warning to those who die apart from a saving faith in the work of the Savior. Some today welcome death as the only viable solution to a world of pain, frustration and seeming futility. May I remind you that the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead means that death does not end it all for the unsaved. Paul tells us that Christ’s resurrection from the dead assures all men of resurrection from physical death: “For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive” (1 Corinthians 15:22).

The frightening reality is that those who have not come to faith in Christ must spend an eternity apart from Him in judgment (cf. 2 Thessalonians 1:9). Death is not the end for the non-Christian. Everyone will be raised from physical death, and those who have not believed in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Savior of men must face judgment beyond the grave: **“And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once, and after this comes judgment” (Hebrews 9:27).**

Everyone will be given the question that Pilate asked the people:  
*Matthew 27:22 Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?"*



## 12 Confirmations of the Scripture regarding the Kingship of the Son of God.

**12 symbolizes government. For example, 12 Tribes of Jacob, 12  
Apostles**

<b><i>KING</i>, ETERNAL, IMMORTAL</b>		1 Tim 1:17
<b><i>KING</i> OF ALL THE EARTH</b>		Ps 47:7
<b><i>KING</i> OF GLORY</b>		Ps 24:7-10
<b><i>KING</i> OF ISRAEL</b>		Mk 15:32; Isa 44:6
<b><i>KING</i> OF JACOB</b>		Isa 41:21
<b><i>KING</i> OF KINGS</b>		Rev 17:14; 19:16
<b><i>KING</i> OF PEACE</b>		Heb 7:2
<b><i>KING</i> OF RIGHTEOUSNESS</b>		Heb 7:2
<b><i>KING</i> OF SAINTS</b>		Rev 15:3
<b><i>KING</i> OF SALEM</b>		Heb 7:2
<b><i>KING</i> OF THE JEWS</b>		Jn 19:21; Lk 23:38; Mk 15:26; Mt 27:37
<b>YOUR <i>KING</i></b>		Isa 43:15

## EXCHANGES AT THE CROSS

1. Jesus was made sin with our sinfulness so that we could have His righteousness –  
1 Peter 2:24 There has been disagreement among theologians over the question of whether there are physical as well as spiritual benefits that Jesus provided to us in the atonement. In ISA 53:4-5  
**“Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.  
But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.”**  
“Griefs” in Hebrew: Strong’s 02483 khol-ee’ means sickness (12), disease (7), grief (4) “Sorrows” in Hebrew: Strong’s 04341 mak’obah sorrow (12), pain (2), grief (2) sorrow & pain meant is both physical and mental. Strong’s 03510 kawab is the root.
2. He was punished for our transgressions that we might have His peace – ISA 53:5
3. He bore our sickness and infirmities that we might have His health – ISA 53:5, MATT 8:17, ISA 53:5
4. He was made a curse that we might have His blessing – Gal 3:13-14
5. He took our poverty that we might have His wealth – 2 COR 8:9  
(Note: This is not the “health & wealth” Gospel. Jesus had an abundance – He had His needs met plus. However He had no lack.)
6. He became rejection that we might have His acceptance – Eph 1:6
7. He became a slave so that we might have His freedom – Exodus 21:32, Zech 11:12, MATT 26:15, Luke 4:18

### Jesus’ Perfect Victory over sin, death and hell

• <b>Death</b>	<b>Gen 2:17</b>	<b>Hebrews 2:9</b>
• <b>Nakedness</b>	<b>Gen 3:10-11</b>	<b>John 19:23</b>
• <b>Curse</b>	<b>Gen 3:17</b>	<b>Gal 3:13</b>
• <b>Sorrow</b>	<b>Gen 3:17</b>	<b>Isa 53:3-4</b>
• <b>Thorns</b>	<b>Gen 3:17-18</b>	<b>John 19:5</b>
• <b>Sweat</b>	<b>Gen 3:19</b>	<b>Luke 22:42</b>
• <b>Sword/Spear</b>	<b>Gen 3:24</b>	<b>John 19:34</b>



## THE 12 RESURRECTION APPEARANCES

1. **John 20:11-18 Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene** who is grieving over the empty tomb suspecting that someone has stolen the Lord's dead body. Jesus says to her "Mary" she responds by saying "Rabboni" (a word honoring her teacher). Mary recognized His voice just as Jesus said in  
**"John 10:14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me."**

Jesus says to her **John 20:17 "Jesus said to her, do not touch me; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God."** KJV

2. **Matthew 28:5-15, Mark 16:2-8, Luke 24:1-11**

**The appearance is to the women bringing spices** to anoint the body of Jesus. Angels testify that Jesus is risen and direct them to return to Jesus' disciples to announce His Resurrection. On their way, Jesus appears to them.

**Matt 28:8-10 "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."**

NIV

3. **From a road to Jerusalem to the road to Emmaus Mark 16:12-13, Luke 24:13-35**

Two disciples heading home to Emmaus were discussing the events that occurred over Passover and the death of Jesus. Their hope for Israel's redemption were crushed. Suddenly a man joins them. Speaking about Old Testament prophecies that were fulfilled by Jesus, he rebukes them for their unbelief. They listened to this stranger as He taught them. They invited Him to dinner. At the breaking of the bread, they knew that this was the resurrected Jesus.

4. Jesus appears to Simon Peter Luke 24:34, 1Cor 15:5.

**Luke 24:34-35 and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon."** NIV

5. **From Emmaus Road to the Upper Room – Luke 24: 36-43, John 20:19-23**

Jesus walks through locked doors and appears to 10 disciples (Judas is dead and Thomas was absent.) Jesus shows that we will have resurrected bodies. That can be touched – Jesus had flesh & bone and the scars from the crucifixion. The reason why the women at the tomb, the disciples at Emmaus and in the Upper Room did not recognize Jesus right away is because He bears the scars of His crucifixion in His hands and feet and the wound from the sword. He also displays other features he received from His sufferings  
**(Isa 53:2-3 "He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men**

**hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.” NIV)** In Jesus’ sufferings, His visage was marred beyond recognition.

**6. A second Upper Room appearance John 20:24-29**

Thomas doubted reports of the risen Saviour. Jesus returns to show Thomas his wounds, and to put his fingers in his wounds and to stop his disbelief.

**7. From the Upper Room to the Sea of Tiberius John 21:1-25**

Peter and 6 disciples had fished all night and caught nothing. Jesus beckons them from shore to cast their nets to the right side of the boat. They do as commanded and catch 153 fish. The 154<sup>th</sup> fish was the miracle fish already cooking when they arrived. When Jesus served their meal they knew it was from the Lord.

Here Jesus extracts three confessions of faith from Peter and prophecies on Peter’s death. John 21:15-19. In John 21:14 it is recorded that this was the third appearance of Jesus to His disciples (apostles) referring to numbers 5 and 6 regarding His appearances.

**8. Matthew 28:16-20 At Mount Tabor the disciples worship Jesus, to whom all power & authority (exousia) had been given. Jesus then gives them the Great Commission: Matt 28:20-22 “Matt 28:19-20**

**“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:**

**Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age. Amen.”**

**9. From Mount Tabor to the Upper Room Mark 16:14-18, Luke 24:44-49**

Jesus again appears to the disciples in the Upper Room and reiterates His command to them. “Go ye into all the world,... Mark 16:15-18

**10. Jesus’ Ascension from the Mount of Olives Mark 16:19-20,**

Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1:8-11

“But you shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.”

11. To James and

12. to Paul 1 Cor 15:7-8

“After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.” NKJV