

## Resurrection Contemplations

Harmony M.B.C., April 12, 2009 (morning)

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Matthew 28:1-7

1 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first *day* of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulcher. 2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. 3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: 4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead *men*. 5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. 6 He is not here: for **he is risen**, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. 7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that **he is risen from the dead**; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

This is the day when Christian communities celebrate or acknowledge the resurrection of Christ. Because of human tampering with calendars, we cannot precisely determine if this is actually the day on which it occurred. In addition, so much of paganism has crept into what is called Easter that the thoughtful believer will do well to be skeptical of any organized celebration on this day that holds or practices “a tradition.”

Regardless, I do not advocate reserving the celebration of Jesus Christ’s resurrection to one day in the year. His resurrection is such a central event for us, that we believe it should be celebrated every time we think or talk about God’s salvation of His people. But, since a lot of eyes are turned toward that glorious event during this season, I felt it would be beneficial to us to speak about it this morning. I want us to look at the resurrection of Jesus Christ in what has been termed in this era as a “global view.” It is very edifying to think about His resurrection as it pertains to our personal salvation, redemption, and eternal life, but I hope we can see some other things about it that makes our Lord’s power and prerogative even more glorious.

We want to notice 7 facts about Christ’s resurrection:

- It confirmed forever the Old Testament prophecies concerning His resurrection
- It confirmed forever the O.T. types of Christ’s resurrection
- It confirmed, by fact, the hope of every believer
- It was a fatal blow by deity against death, hell, and the grave
- It changed the entire face of religion in the world
- It began a final time-march toward a clean sweep action against sins awful effects upon God’s creation
- It began the final march toward a universal court session with Christ sitting as the Great Judge

### **I. It confirmed forever the Old Testament prophecies concerning His resurrection:**

A few examples of such prophecy are in order:

- Psalm 16:10 which is produced both by the apostle Peter, and by the apostle Paul, as foretelling the resurrection of Christ (Acts 2:31 13:35-37):
  - > Psalm 16:10 “For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.”
- Isa. 55:3: Scripture quoted by the apostle Paul (Acts 13:34), as referring to the resurrection of

Christ, and as a proof of it:

- > "I will give you the sure mercies of David"; by David is meant Christ, as he often is in prophecy (Jer. 30:9; Ezek. 34:23,24; 37:24,25; Hosea 3:5), and **by his mercies, the blessings of the covenant of grace**, which are with him; so called, because they flow from the grace and mercy of God; and which being put into his hands, are sure to all the elect through him; and particularly through his resurrection from the dead; **for had he died, and not rose again from the dead, the blessings of the covenant would not have been ratified and confirmed.**
  
- Isaiah 26:19. "Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise"; which is an answer to the complaint of the prophet, concerning the sad estate of his people (Isa. 26:14).
  - > Paul affirms the spiritual meaning of this in Eph 2:5-6: Even when we were dead in sins, hath **quickened us together with Christ**, by (grace ye are saved;) 6 And **hath raised us up together**, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places in Christ Jesus*: (note that with God, our resurrection is already an established fact)
  
- Another prophecy of the resurrection of Christ, and of its being on the third day, is, as is generally understood, in Hosea 6:2 "After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight." These words are thought to be spoken of the Messiah, whose coming is prophesied of in the following verse in Hosea; and though they are expressed in the plural number, this may be no objection to the application of them to Christ, and his resurrection; since he rose again, not as a single Person, but as a public Head, representing all his people, who are therefore said to be raised up together with him as I noted previously in Eph. 2:6 (and is also mentioned in Col. 3:1).
  
- So, our Lord's resurrection is the fulfillment of word's that God had penned in years past.
- What is the significance of this?
  - > It is that God foretells accurately, and has power to bring to pass what He foretells.

## II. It confirmed forever the O.T. types of Christ's resurrection:

- Some examples of the types:
  - > Types of the thing itself in general; or at least thought to be so;
    - the first Adam's awaking out of a deep sleep, when the woman was presented to him, formed of one of his ribs (Gen. 2:21-23)
    - the deliverance of Isaac, when his father received him in a figure as from the dead (Gen. 22)
    - the budding and blossoming of Aaron's dry rod (Num. 17:8)
    - the living bird let fly, after it had been dipped in the blood of the slain bird, used in the purification of the leper (Lev. 14)
    - the scapegoat, let go into the wilderness, when the other taken with it was slain (Lev. 16)
  
  - > Others are types of the time of it in particular; as well as of the thing itself;
    - the rescue of Isaac from the jaws of death, on the third day, from the time Abraham had the order to sacrifice him, and from which time he was looked upon by him as a dead man (Gen. 22)
    - Exo. 3:18 Moses' demand that Israel be allowed to go 3 days journey into the wilderness to sacrifice to the Lord. Understood as Christ being 3 days in the grave as

- a sacrifice acceptable to the Lord before resurrecting.
- In Numbers 10, detailed mention is made concerning the children of Israel going 3 days journey through the wilderness to find a resting place for themselves.
- In Joshua 1 through 3 we see three days highlighted as the time before the children of Israel cross over Jordan into the promised land
- but the principal type of all, is that of the deliverance of Jonah from the whale's belly when (Jonah 2) he had been three days in it, at least part of three natural days, and which our Lord himself makes mention of as such (Matthew 12:40).

### **III. Christ's resurrection was a fatal blow by deity against death, hell, and the grave**

- Before Christ's resurrection, God had not taken action against the ruthless march of death through his creatures
- Death was grimly shown to be the fruit of sin
- All men faced death without a single ray of hope about getting a victory over it in the sense of power that we understand it today
- The actual mechanism of overcoming death was not clearly shown, nor fully understood, even by the Jews who had the Oracles of God
- Today, humans everywhere can look at the resurrection of Jesus, the facts that are witnessed about it by faithful witnesses, and see that there is a way to escape lasting death

### **IV. It confirmed, by fact, the hope of every believer (that hope being a final resurrection to eternal life):**

- Job spoke from faith about resurrection:
  - > Job 19:25-27 For I know *that* my redeemer liveth, and *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth: 26 And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I see God: 27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; *though* my reins be consumed within me.
- Christ's promise about believers living forever was reinforced by His personal resurrection:
  - > Think of the implications of this with and without His personal resurrection:
    - John 14:19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: **because I live, ye shall live also.**

### **V. Christ's resurrection changed the entire face of religion in the world:**

- From approximately 120 faithful followers of Christ to more than 2.1 billion professed Christians today.
  - > We know that all people categorized as "Christians" are placed in the category because they claim Jesus Christ as their spiritual leader, not necessarily because they follow fundamental bible teachings.
  - > The major fact being that this many people use the name of Jesus Christ

### **VI. Christ's resurrection began a final time-march toward a clean sweep action against sins awful effects upon God's creation**

- That clean sweep begins like this: (Romans 6:14) "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace." By grace we are removed from sin's domination of us...all because of Christ's resurrection being a total victory over the pronouncement of death because of sin that the law declares.
- The clean sweep action includes this: (Heb 2:14-15) "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through

death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”

- > The devil introduced death into human existence in the Garden (Gen. 3)
- > He can by permission, take life: (Job 2:6) And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he *is* in thine hand; but save his life.
- > Christ, by His resurrection, has negated that inheritance of death that we received as a result of the experience in the Garden; and has contradicted the instrument which the devil uses to kill (sin); literally suspended or violated the law concerning sin and death when He rose from the dead AFTER being made sin for us and going to the grave as one sentenced to death for the sins of His people.

VII. Christ’s resurrection began the final march toward a universal court session with Him on the bench as the sovereign Judge.

- It is the fact and reality of His resurrection that declared Him to be the one righteous judge who could judge all the earth and heaven also.
  - > Rev 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.
  - > We read in Rev. Ch. 5 about the “Lamb as it had been slain” and the remarkable thing about this Lamb was His vibrant life in that scene. This Lamb receives honor and glory as the living Christ. Also prominent was the fact that the entities in heaven declared that He was worthy to open the seven seals of judgment upon the earth.
  - > We read in Rev. 6 of Him opening the seals and of the diversities of judgment that are poured out upon the earth and the rebels of the earth stating in v. 17: “For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”
  - > We read in Rev. 8 -11 of the final judgments and woes on earth in which we see catastrophic occurrences, superintended by the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ
  - > Then in the latter part of Ch. 11 we read this being said of our resurrected Lord by the 24 elders of heaven:
    - Rev. 11:17-18 “...We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. 18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and **the time of the dead, that they should be judged**, and that thou shouldest **give reward unto thy servants** the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest **destroy them which destroy the earth.**”