

The Resurrection

April 14, 2022

I intended to do a study on how Scripture speaks about the prophetic last days, as a final aspect of our study on our Lord Jesus Christ. However, due to a small group this evening, we decided to discuss the resurrection of Christ at Linda's suggestion. My study on the last days and the previous study on symbolism regarding parables and the last days will be posted on the Mini-Studies page of our website. I intend to move on to our Bible character studies next week. Here is a brief summary of our discussion this evening (I've added some references that we didn't have time to read).

The Record of Christ's Death, Burial, and Resurrection

- We read and discussed the following passages: Matthew 28:1-7 and Luke 24:1-12.
- We discussed some of the events leading up to the resurrection, including:
 - The people of Israel chose to have Christ crucified instead of the criminal Barabbas (Matthew 27:19-26; Luke 23:13-25). They considered His claim to be the King of the Jews and the Son of God as blasphemous (Matthew 27:39-43; Luke 23:66-71).
 - Christ was severely beaten and a crown of thorns was placed on His head to mock Him (Matthew 27:27-31; Isaiah 50:6; 53:4-5).
 - The Roman governor Pontius Pilate ordered the inscription *the King of the Jews* to be placed on His cross (Matthew 27:33-37; John 19:19-22).
 - Jesus died when He gave up His Spirit to God (Luke 23:46; John 19:30). He did not have His legs broken to speed up His death; however, a soldier pierced His side to confirm that He was dead (this was in accordance with prophecy—John 19:31-37).
- Christ was buried in a tomb and a large rock was positioned (and guarded by Roman soldiers) to prevent anyone from entering into the tomb and stealing His body (Matthew 27:57-66; Matthew 28:11-15).
- The rock was moved aside by a miraculous earthquake and the work of an angel, and Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James entered the tomb and found that the body was gone. Angels of the Lord told them that Jesus had risen from the dead (Matthew 28:1-7; Luke 24:1-7).
- We discussed that there are numerous Old Testament prophecies that speak of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.
- We read and discussed how the disciples did not immediately understand that Christ was resurrected (Luke 24:8-12). The disciple Thomas doubted that Christ was resurrected until he saw the imprints of the wounds for himself (John 20:19-29).
- We read that Christ walked and lived with the disciples for 40 days and then ascended into heaven (Acts 1:8).
- We discussed why the disciples didn't understand what had happened. After all, Jesus had told them that He would be put to death and would rise from the dead three days later (Matthew 16:21; Luke 18:31-34). They didn't understand because their eyes had not been opened to understanding. Likewise, only believers can understand the things of God, but we can't understand them unless God opens our eyes to understanding. We read the following passages:
 - Luke 24:25-27, 44-48, where it says that Jesus opened the minds of the disciples to understand all the prophecies that had been written about Him.

- I Corinthians 2:14-16 where it says that in our natural (unsaved) condition we can't understand the things of God.
- Ephesians 1:15-21 where Paul prayed that God would give the Ephesian believers understanding of what God accomplished for them through the resurrection of Christ.
- Acts 16:14 where we learn that the Lord opened Lydia's heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.
- We discussed how that everything we have as believers—children of God—is based on the work that Christ accomplished for us at the cross and the power of His resurrection. Contrary to our natural thinking, logic, and human experience, we can't earn our salvation. All we have to do is to believe that Christ died for our sins (the ultimate sacrifice required by God), was buried, and resurrected—salvation is a gift of God (I Corinthians 15:1-4; II Corinthians 5:21; Romans 4:4-5; 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9).
- We closed by reading Philippians 2:5-8 where Paul explains how Christ left His rightful position at the right hand of God in heaven and humbled Himself by becoming a human like us and by dying on the cross for us. Furthermore, He was glorified—highly exalted—by God by being raised from the dead.