



# When He Arose!

## Easter Sunday, March 23, 2008

FROM THE CROSS TO THE THRONE

### **Today you will be with me in paradise**

Luke 23:43

### **As Jonah was in the belly of the fish**

Matthew 12:39-40

*John Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible:*

*"a part of a day is as the whole" (n): and so, whatever was done before sun setting, or after, if but an hour, or ever so small a time, before or after it, it was reckoned as the whole preceding, or following day; and whether this was in the night part, or day part of the night day, or natural day, it mattered not, it was accounted as the whole night day: by this rule, the case here is easily adjusted; Christ was laid in the grave towards the close of the sixth day, a little before sun setting, and this being a part of the night day preceding, is reckoned as the whole; he continued there the whole night day following, being the seventh day; and rose again early on the first day, which being after sun setting, though it might be even before sun rising, yet being a part of the night day following, is to be esteemed as the whole; and thus the son of man was to be, and was three days and three nights in the grave; and which was very easy to be understood by the Jews; and it is a question whether Jonas was longer in the belly of the fish.*

### **Peter's Sermon**

Acts 2:27,31-33

### **He first descended**

Ephesians 4:9-10

### **Abraham's Bosom – the Old Paradise**

Luke 16:22-24

*Scofield Reference Notes:*

*1. Christ here lets us know that he was going to paradise himself, to hades - the invisible world. His human soul was removing to the place of separate souls; not to the place of the damned, but to paradise, the place of the blessed. By this he assures us that his satisfaction was accepted, and the Father was well pleased in him, else he had not gone to paradise; that was the beginning of the joy set before him, with the prospect of which he comforted himself. He went by the cross to the crown, and we must not think of going any other way, or of being perfected but by sufferings.*

*hell = (Greek, "hadēs", "the unseen world," is revealed as the place of departed human spirits between death and resurrection). The word occurs, (Mat\_11:23); (Mat\_16:18); (Luk\_10:15); (Act\_2:27); (Act\_2:31); (Rev\_1:18); (Rev\_6:8); (Rev\_20:13); (Rev\_20:14) and is the equivalent of the Old Testament "sheol." The Septuagint invariably renders "sheol" by "hades".*



*Summary:*

*(1) Hades before the ascension of Christ. The passages in which the word occurs make it clear that hades was formerly in two divisions, the abodes respectively of the saved and of the lost. The former was called "paradise" and "Abraham's bosom." Both designations were Talmudic, but adopted by Christ in (Luk\_16:22); (Luk\_23:43). The blessed dead were with Abraham, they were conscious and were "comforted" (Luk\_16:25). The believing malefactor was to be, that day, with Christ in "paradise." The lost were separated from the saved by a "great gulf fixed" (Luk\_16:26). The representative man of the lost who are now in hades is the rich man of (Luk\_16:19-31). He was alive, conscious, in the full exercise of his faculties, memory, etc, and in torment.*

*(2) Hades since the ascension of Christ. So far as the unsaved dead are concerned, no change of their place or condition is revealed in Scripture. At the judgment of the great white throne, hades will give them up, they will be judged, and will pass into the lake of fire (Rev\_20:13); (Rev\_20:14). But a change has taken place which affects paradise. Paul was "caught up to the third heaven. . .into paradise" (2Co\_12:1-4). Paradise, therefore, is now in the immediate presence of God. (See also Rev 2:7) It is believed that (Eph\_4:8-10) indicates the time of the change. "When he ascended up on high he led a multitude of captives." It is immediately added that He had previously "descended first into the lower parts of the earth," that is, the paradise division of Hades. During the present church-age the saved who died are "absent from the body, at home with the Lord." The wicked dead in hades, and the righteous dead "at home with the Lord," alike await the resurrection; (Job\_19:25); (1Co\_15:52).*

**Made a proclamation to the spirits in prison**

1 Peter 3:18-20

**Resurrection Morning**

Mark 16:1-8

**Do not touch me...put your finger here and see**

John 20:16-17

Eight days later Jesus once again appeared to His disciples, this time when Thomas was present. This time, to Thomas He said, touch me.

John 20:26-28

**With His own blood into the Most Holy Place**

It is possible that in between, some time during these eight days, Jesus ascended into the presence of the Father and carried His own blood into the Most Holy Place in the heavenly temple  
Hebrews 8 Hebrews 9:11,12

**He showed Himself alive**

Acts 1:3 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

**He ascended on high**

Ephesians 4:8-10

**The graves were opened**

Matthew 27:51-53



## ***Seated on the Highest throne***

Acts 1:9-11    Mark 16:19    1 Peter 3:21-22

### THE VALIDITY OF THE RESURRECTION

*Evidence for the Resurrection*  
by Josh McDowell

#### **BACKGROUND**

*The New Testament witnesses were fully aware of the background against which the resurrection took place. The body of Jesus, in accordance with Jewish burial custom, was wrapped in a linen cloth. About 100 pounds of aromatic spices, mixed together to form a gummy substance, were applied to the wrappings of cloth about the body. After the body was placed in a solid rock tomb, an extremely large stone was rolled against the entrance of the tomb. Large stones weighing approximately two tons were normally rolled (by means of levers) against a tomb entrance.*

*A Roman guard of strictly disciplined fighting men was stationed to guard the tomb. This guard affixed on the tomb the Roman seal, which was meant to "prevent any attempt at vandalizing the sepulcher. Anyone trying to move the stone from the tomb's entrance would have broken the seal and thus incurred the wrath of Roman law.*

*But three days later the tomb was empty. The followers of Jesus said He had risen from the dead. They reported that He appeared to them during a period of 40 days, showing Himself to them by many "infallible proofs." Paul the apostle recounted that Jesus appeared to more than 500 of His followers at one time, the majority of whom were still alive and who could confirm what Paul wrote. So many security precautions were taken with the trial, crucifixion, burial, entombment, sealing, and guarding of Christ's tomb that it becomes very difficult for critics to defend their position that Christ did not rise from the dead. Consider these facts:*

#### **FACT #1: BROKEN ROMAN SEAL**

*As we have said, the first obvious fact was the breaking of the seal that stood for the power and authority of the Roman Empire. The consequences of breaking the seal were extremely severe. The FBI and CIA of the Roman Empire were called into action to find the man or men who were responsible. If they were apprehended, it meant automatic execution by crucifixion upside down. People feared the breaking of the seal. Jesus' disciples displayed signs of cowardice when they hid themselves. Peter, one of these disciples, went out and denied Christ three times.*

#### **FACT #2: EMPTY TOMB**

*As we have already discussed, another obvious fact after the resurrection was the empty tomb. The disciples of Christ did not go off to Athens or Rome to preach that Christ was raised from the dead. Rather, they went right back to the city of Jerusalem, where, if what they were teaching was false, the falsity would be evident. The empty tomb was "too notorious to be denied." Paul Althaus states that the resurrection "could have not been maintained in Jerusalem for a single day, for a single hour, if the emptiness of the tomb had not been established as a fact for all concerned."*

*Both Jewish and Roman sources and traditions admit an empty tomb. Those resources range from Josephus to a compilation of fifth-century Jewish writings called the "Toledoth Jeshu." Dr. Paul Maier calls this "positive evidence from a hostile source, which is the strongest kind of*



*historical evidence. In essence, this means that if a source admits a fact decidedly not in its favor, then that fact is genuine."*

*Gamaliel, who was a member of the Jewish high court, the Sanhedrin, put forth the suggestion that the rise of the Christian movement was God's doing; he could not have done that if the tomb were still occupied, or if the Sanhedrin knew the whereabouts of Christ's body.*

*Paul Maier observes that ". . . if all the evidence is weighed carefully and fairly, it is indeed justifiable, according to the canons of historical research, to conclude that the sepulcher of Joseph of Arimathea, in which Jesus was buried, was actually empty on the morning of the first Easter. And no shred of evidence has yet been discovered in literary sources, epigraphy, or archaeology that would disprove this statement."*

#### **FACT #3: LARGE STONE MOVED**

*On that Sunday morning the first thing that impressed the people who approached the tomb was the unusual position of the one and a half to two ton stone that had been lodged in front of the doorway. All the Gospel writers mention it.*

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*There exists no document from the ancient world, witnessed by so excellent a set of textual and historical testimonies . . . Skepticism regarding the historical credentials of Christianity is based upon an irrational bias.*

*Clark Pinnock  
McMaster University*

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*Those who observed the stone after the resurrection describe its position as having been rolled up a slope away not just from the entrance of the tomb, but from the entire massive sepulcher. It was in such a position that it looked as if it had been picked up and carried away. Now, I ask you, if the disciples had wanted to come in, tiptoe around the sleeping guards, and then roll the stone over and steal Jesus' body, how could they have done that without the guards' awareness?*

#### **FACT #4: ROMAN GUARD GOES AWOL**

*The Roman guards fled. They left their place of responsibility. How can their attrition be explained, when Roman military discipline was so exceptional? Justin, in Digest #49, mentions all the offenses that required the death penalty. The fear of their superiors' wrath and the possibility of death meant that they paid close attention to the minutest details of their jobs. One way a guard was put to death was by being stripped of his clothes and then burned alive in a fire started with his garments. If it was not apparent which soldier had failed in his duty, then lots were drawn to see which one would be punished with death for the guard unit's failure. Certainly the entire unit would not have fallen asleep with that kind of threat over their heads. Dr. George Currie, a student of Roman military discipline, wrote that fear of punishment "produced flawless attention to duty, especially in the night watches."*

(My Notes:

Mat 28:1 Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.

Mat 28:2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.

Mat 28:3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.



Mat 28:4 And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.

Mat 28:11 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.

Mat 28:12 When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,

Mat 28:13 saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.'

Mat 28:14 And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure."

Mat 28:15 So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.)

#### **FACT #5: GRAVECLOTHES TELL A TALE**

*In a literal sense, against all statements to the contrary, the tomb was not totally empty--because of an amazing phenomenon. John, a disciple of Jesus, looked over to the place where the body of Jesus had lain, and there were the grave clothes, in the form of the body, slightly caved in and empty--like the empty chrysalis of a caterpillar's cocoon. That's enough to make a believer out of anybody. John never did get over it. The first thing that stuck in the minds of the disciples was not the empty tomb, but rather the empty grave clothes--undisturbed in form and position.*

#### **FACT #6: JESUS' APPEARANCES CONFIRMED**

*Christ appeared alive on several occasions after the cataclysmic events of that first Easter . When studying an event in history, it is important to know whether enough people who were participants or eyewitnesses to the event were alive when the facts about the event were published. To know this is obviously helpful in ascertaining the accuracy of the published report. If the number of eyewitnesses is substantial, the event can be regarded as fairly well established. For instance, if we all witness a murder, and a later police report turns out to be a fabrication of lies, we as eyewitnesses can refute it.*

#### **OVER 500 WITNESSES**

*Several very important factors are often overlooked when considering Christ's post-resurrection appearances to individuals. The first is the large number of witnesses of Christ after that resurrection morning. One of the earliest records of Christ's appearing after the resurrection is by Paul. The apostle appealed to his audience's knowledge of the fact that Christ had been seen by more than 500 people at one time. Paul reminded them that the majority of those people were still alive and could be questioned. Dr. Edwin M. Yamauchi, associate professor of history at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, emphasizes: "What gives a special authority to the list (of witnesses) as historical evidence is the reference to most of the five hundred brethren being still alive. St. Paul says in effect, 'If you do not believe me, you can ask them.' Such a statement in an admittedly genuine letter written within thirty years of the event is almost as strong evidence as one could hope to get for something that happened nearly two thousand years ago." Let's take the more than 500 witnesses who saw Jesus alive after His death and burial, and place them in a courtroom. Do you realize that if each of those 500 people were to testify for only six minutes, including cross-examination, you would have an amazing 50 hours of firsthand testimony? Add to this the testimony of many other eyewitnesses and you would well have the largest and most lopsided trial in history.*

#### **HOSTILE WITNESSES**

*Another factor crucial to interpreting Christ's appearances is that He also appeared to those who were hostile or unconvinced.*



*Over and over again, I have read or heard people comment that Jesus was seen alive after His death and burial only by His friends and followers. Using that argument, they attempt to water down the overwhelming impact of the multiple eyewitness accounts. But that line of reasoning is so pathetic it hardly deserves comment. No author or informed individual would regard Saul of Tarsus as being a follower of Christ. The facts show the exact opposite. Saul despised Christ and persecuted Christ's followers. It was a life-shattering experience when Christ appeared to him. Although he was at the time not a disciple, he later became the apostle Paul, one of the greatest witnesses for the truth of the resurrection.*

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*If the New Testament were a collection of secular writings, their authenticity would generally be regarded as beyond all doubt.*

*F. F. Bruce  
Manchester University*

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*The argument that Christ's appearances were only to followers is an argument for the most part from silence, and arguments from silence can be dangerous. It is equally possible that all to whom Jesus appeared became followers. No one acquainted with the facts can accurately say that Jesus appeared to just "an insignificant few."*

*Christians believe that Jesus was bodily resurrected in time and space by the supernatural power of God. The difficulties of belief may be great, but the problems inherent in unbelief present even greater difficulties.*

#### WHEN HE AROSE

##### ***First born from the dead***

Colossians 1:18      Revelation 1:5

##### ***The Hope of the resurrection***

1 Corinthians 15:20-22, 55

There is a real heaven and a real hell. There is a real eternity that each of us must face.

##### ***Authority over hell and death***

Revelation 1:18

##### ***All authority belongs to Him***

Matthew 28:18    Ephesians 1:20-23      Hebrews 2:9

##### ***A Name above every name***

Philippians 2:9-11

We have been given the authority to use that name.

Peter healing the lame man Acts 3

Today His name is still effective. This is proof of the resurrection.



Commission to the Church – go and make His name known.

***His resurrection power***

Ephesians 1:19-20

God is ready to exert that same resurrection power in your life!

IS THERE A SEALED TOMB IN YOUR WORLD?

A tomb where all your hope and dreams lay dead

A tomb of sickness that threatens to seal the end to your future

A tomb that threatens to be the end of the road – something that will never ever change. That your life will always be as it now is.

Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?

This same Jesus wants to enter your world

What will happen when the Risen Lord enters your world.

Mary & Martha and their brother Lazarus John 11.

Has all hell broken loose on you – here is some one who has overpowered all of hell!

His love for you took Him down to the lowest depths. His love for you is everlasting.

Colossians 2:12 ...faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

**Closing**

Salvation call

The Gospel – the good news

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 Romans 10:9

Healings, Miracles, Deliverance

Lord's Table

1 Corinthians 10:16 1 Corinthians 11:23-31





**USEFUL RESOURCES**



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

**YOUTUBE:** <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

**WEBSITE:** <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

**CHURCH:** <https://apcwo.org>

**FREE SERMONS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

**FREE BOOKS:** <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

**JESUS CHRIST:** <https://examiningjesus.com>

**BIBLE COLLEGE:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

**E-LEARNING:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

**WEEKEND SCHOOLS:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

**COUNSELING:** <https://chrysalislife.org>

**MUSIC:** <https://apcmusic.org>

**MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP:** <https://pamfi.org>

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