

The Glorious Resurrection

Matthew 28:1-3

Why are you here?

What is the point?

You want to give honor to Your Lord.

You want to pause a bit longer than usual to know him.

You want to see him.

You want to behold him.

You want to know a bit better the reality of your salvation... your resurrection.

I am going to speak of mysteries.

But do not think for a moment that they are less than realities.

What was the Resurrection?

Not simply the reviving of a corpse.

Not simply a miracle, like Jesus' raising Lazarus from the dead.

- Most pagan myths had stories of these types of resurrections

Not simply a wondrous event which gives hope to our future.

- It is far more than a demonstration that you will once again live after death.

Two worlds

- fantasy books

- similarities
- significant differences
 - Another dimension altogether
 - Scientists and philosophers: string theory
 - Angels

Imagination is a wonderful thing.

But I do not believe imagination could have ever conceived of the resurrection.

New Creation all together

- “the emergence within time and space of a new order of life” Ladd.
- “The resurrection of Jesus means nothing less than the appearance upon the scene of the historical of something that belongs to the eternal order!” Ladd
- “It is the emergence of eternal life in the midst of mortality...” Ladd
- This new creation did not yet exist, except in the mind of God.
 - No fantasy book
 - No scientist or philosopher
 - But only your God: He has a plan!
 - This new reality has entered into our present reality.
 - In the resurrection, in Jesus’ new body, eternity has burst into our reality.

Jesus’ resurrection is connected to your resurrection.

- Firstfruits –

- I Cor. 15:19-20
- They are not two separate events!
- They are one!
- Your resurrection is a continuation of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

How does Matthew point to these realities in his resurrection account?

- Read Matthew 28:1-3
- “The grass withers, the flowers fall, but the Word of our Lord stands forever.”
- And behold! (word (eidon) used 8 times.
 - 4 rich nuggets in these 3 verses.
- The time
 - Mark 16:1 – When the Sabbath was past
 - After the Sabbath = late on the Sabbath or on the closing of the Sabbath.
 - Toward the dawn of the first day of the week = in the dawning of the first of the week.
 - Matthew has been concerned throughout his book with the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven.
 - At the very moment of night turning into day
 - “Christ on the sixth day finished his work; he said, “It is finished;” on the seventh day he rested, and then on the first day of the next week did as it were begin a new world, and enter upon a new work.” Henry
- The earthquake

- The Mighty Redemptive Acts of Israel, the presence of the Lord
- Exodus 19:18
- Matt. 27:51
- Haggai 2:6-7
- Matt. 24:7 and Revelation
- The angel
 - Announced the Incarnation, Announce the resurrection, will blow the trumpet at the Second coming.
 - Sitting on the stone: He was happy!
 - Merry and Pippin enjoying the victory of the ents.
 - His appearance:
 - glorious, brilliant: fresh from the throne room of heaven; reflecting its holiness.
- The place where he lay
 - Empty Tomb – John 20:4-10
 - Grave clothes remained – body not stolen
 - A contrast with Lazarus – Lazarus came forth still wearing his grave clothes – Jesus' resurrected, new-creation, body, passes through his. (John 11:44)
 - Establishes continuity between Old Creation and New Creation.

Stop

Ponder your inheritance

But there is one more treasure to behold...

New Creation – In you
- 2 Cor. 5:20

Do you know who you are?
Do you really know the life that is in you, if you are in Christ?

You are not waiting to be made a new creation.
You are a new creation.

You only wait for your bodies to be brought up to speed with your soul.

Do you see how salvation could never be a human work?
- Salvation is a work of creation
- You have no power for this.

How can we not burst forth in praise?
How can we be silent when we behold such glorious truths?

Let us sing to him with all our hearts.