

Resurrection Answers

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Good morning Lighthouse! Are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

Mark 15:12 - 16:14

12 And Pilate answered and said again unto them, What will ye then that I shall do *unto him* whom ye call the King of the Jews?

13 And they cried out again, Crucify him.

14 Then Pilate said unto them, Why, what evil hath he done? And they cried out the more exceedingly, Crucify him.

15 And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged *him*, to be crucified.

16 And the soldiers led him away into the hall, called Praetorium; and they call together the whole band.

17 And they clothed him with purple, and plaited a crown of thorns, and put it about his *head*,

18 And began to salute him, Hail, King of the Jews!

19 And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing *their* knees worshiped him.

20 And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple from him, and put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him.

21 And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross.

22 And they bring him unto the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, The place of a skull.

23 And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received *it* not.

24 And when they had crucified him, they parted his garments, casting lots upon them, what every man should take.

25 And it was the third hour, and they crucified him.

26 And the superscription of his accusation was written over, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

27 And with him they crucify two thieves; the one on his right hand, and the other on his left.

28 And the Scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors.

29 And they that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads, and saying, Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest *it* in three days,

30 Save thyself, and come down from the cross.

31 Likewise also the chief priests mocking said among themselves with the scribes, He saved others; himself he cannot save.

32 Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe. And they that were crucified with him reviled him.

33 And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.

34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, **Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?** which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

35 And some of them that stood by, when they heard *it*, said, Behold, he calleth Elijah.

36 And one ran and filled a sponge full of vinegar, and put *it* on a reed, and gave him to drink, saying, Let alone; let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.

37 And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost.

38 And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.

39 And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.

40 There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome;

41 (Who also, when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered unto him;) and many other women which came up with him unto Jerusalem.

42 And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath,

43 Joseph of Arimathea, an honorable counselor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.

44 And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling *unto him* the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead.

45 And when he knew *it* of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph.

46 And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulcher which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulcher.

47 And Mary Magdalene and Mary *the mother* of Joses beheld where he was laid.

Mark 16:1-14

1 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the *mother* of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

2 And very early in the morning the first *day* of the week, they came unto the sepulcher at the rising of the sun.

3 And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulcher?

4 And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.

5 And entering into the sepulcher, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.

6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

7 But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

8 And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulcher; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any *man*; for they were afraid.

9 Now when *Jesus* was risen early the first *day* of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

10 *And* she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept.

11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

12 After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.

13 And they went and told *it* unto the residue: neither believed they them.

14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

Next Sunday, we conduct our annual celebration of The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

We celebrate the resurrection every week; that in itself is why we worship on Sunday, instead of the Saturday Sabbath.

As a Church, we observe three practices that are ordained in Scripture.

Here at Lighthouse, nearly every week we observe a remembrance of the Lord's death. It is a very solemn time known as Communion, or The Lord's Supper.

When individuals are saved, we Baptize them, which primarily symbolizes being buried together with Christ.

The Resurrection is remembered in our worship on Sunday, the first day of the week. This, on the other hand, is a time of great celebration.

These three together preach the greatest and most powerful message we could ever preach...the Gospel of Christ, His death, burial, and resurrection for our sins.

The Devil may attack us, He may hurt us, He may cause division; He might even destroy some of us!

But because Jesus rose from the dead, every last one of us who know Him will also rise as well...and Devil, there is not a single solitary thing you can do about it!

This day coming next week is what we here at Lighthouse call Resurrection Sunday. This day, above all other days, is about Jesus, and Jesus alone.

Colossians 1:16-18 Says of Jesus;

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.

It seems to me that on this day, even above all others, we should allow nothing to take the attention off of Jesus! Do you agree?

With that in mind, I want to start this morning by sharing some answers with you to some of the questions that tend to come up surrounding the resurrection.

Our first question is:

I. Why does Lighthouse refer to this day as Resurrection Sunday when nearly every other Church calls it Easter Sunday?

A. That answer is pretty simple: it's because Easter has nothing whatsoever to do with Jesus or His Resurrection.

1. Easter is a Pagan occasion.
2. I'm not going to get into which so-called fertility goddess is worshipped or why or the rabbits or the eggs.
3. I'm here to tell you about Jesus, not some false goddess.

B. I can tell you, however, how "Easter" got in to so many of our Churches:

1. "Easter" got in through **Acts 12:4** And when he had apprehended him, he put *him* in prison, and delivered *him* to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after **Easter** to bring him forth to the people.

2. The word translated Easter in **Acts 4:12** is "pascha", it means Passover, not the apparently well-known calendar date known as Easter.

pascha

pas'-khah

Of Chaldee origin (compare [H6453]); the *Passover* (the meal, the day, the festival or the special sacrifices connected with it):

3. You may wonder why the Lord allowed such a thing in our KJV Bibles? Maybe He wanted to see which of His Churches would keep Jesus preeminent instead of succumbing to making this day about bunnies and eggs instead of about Jesus.

Another question that tends to come up is:

II. What did Jesus mean when He said **My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?**

Mark 15:34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, **Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?** which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

A. Did the Father turn His back on Jesus as some of you have heard?

1. You may have been told that God will not abide the presence of sin and thus forsook Jesus when He bore our sins on the cross.

2. The Bible says that Jesus came as a lamb to the slaughter.

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, **so he openeth not his mouth.**

3. I submit to you that Jesus was not crying out in despair, but was rather quoting scripture; which was His pattern in all situations.

*B. Jesus is quoting **Psalm 22, verse 1.***

1. Because in that Psalm is the detailed prophecy of what was taking place at that very moment.

2. Psalm 22:1-18

1 ... My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? *why art thou* so far from helping me, *and from* the words of my roaring?

2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent.

3 But thou *art* holy, O *thou* that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

4 Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them.

5 They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded.

6 But I *am* a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.

7 All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, *saying,*

8 He trusted on the LORD *that* he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.

9 But thou *art* he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope *when I was* upon my mother's breasts.

10 I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou *art* my God from my mother's belly.

11 Be not far from me; for trouble *is* near; for *there is* none to help.

12 Many bulls have compassed me: strong *bulls* of Bashan have beset me round.

13 They gaped upon me *with* their mouths, *as* a ravening and a roaring lion.

14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels.

15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.

16 For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.

17 I may tell all my bones: they look *and* stare upon me.

18 They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.

3. No, ladies and gentlemen, the Heavenly Father was right there through the whole thing; I believe, suffering with His Son as He poured out His wrath on Him because of us.

4. Jesus said in **John 16:32** as He prepared to face the cross:

John 16:32 Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

5. **Isaiah 53:10-12**

10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; **he hath put him to grief**: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

11 **He shall see of the travail of his soul**, *and* shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore will I divide him *a portion* with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

6. This is the same One that says to every believer in **Hebrews 13:5** ... I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Question number three is:

III. Was Jesus really crucified on Friday?

A. Everyone knows that Saturday is the Sabbath, right?

1. So when we read in **Mark 15:42** of the day Jesus was crucified, we assume it was Friday.

2. **Mark 15:42** And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, so it must be Friday, right?

B. That creates a serious problem with reconciling the scriptures.

1. When the women came to the tomb at dawn on Sunday, they found it empty.

2. The scriptures say that Jesus must be in the grave three full days and three full nights.

Matthew 12:40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be **three days and three nights** in the heart of the earth.

3. **1 Corinthians 15:1-4**

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel ...

2 By which also ye are saved, ...

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures;

4 And that he was buried, and that he **rose again the third day** according to the Scriptures:

4. All the fuzzy math in the world cannot put three days and three nights between Friday night at 6:00 PM and Sunday morning at dawn.

5. So guess what, **Romans 3:4** ...yea, let God be true, but every man a liar...

6. John tells us that **this particular Sabbath was not the weekly Sabbath** but rather, a special Sabbath; **a high day**, it is called.

John 19:31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was a high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away.

7. As it turns out, this was the **Sabbath of Unleavened Bread** which began on Wednesday, not Friday...and thus the Bible is right ...again!

8. Why is this so important? Because within that message of the gospel lies the only power there is that can save you from your sins! **Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the **gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; ...**

There are many important facts surrounding the resurrection that are often missed; I will give you just one more.

IV. Did the Angel roll back the stone to let Jesus out?

A. Even some of the Christian songs we sing assume this to be true.

1. **Matthew 28:1-6**

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.

2. As you can see, the Angel rolled back the stone to show the women that the tomb was empty.

3. The big tough macho soldiers placed to guard the tomb fainted like little girls at the sight of this Angel.

4. But the women did just fine.

B. So, when did Jesus leave the tomb?

1. **Jesus came out of the tomb when the Sabbath ended on Saturday evening at 6:00 PM** which is the beginning of the first day of the week; after exactly three full days and three full nights just like the Bible said He would.

2. He did it without rolling the stone away; just like **He came in to the room** where the Church was assembled that very next evening **without opening the doors**.

3. **John 20:19-23**

19 Then the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, **Peace be unto you**.

20 And when he had so said, he showed unto them *his* hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

21 Then said Jesus to them again, **Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you**.

22 And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, **Receive ye the Holy Ghost**:

23 **Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained**.

C. Why is this important?

1. For one reason; because everything the Bible says is important.

2. For another; I am going to have a body like that some day!

3. **1John 3:2** Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Conclusion:

I could not begin to tell you all there is to know about the resurrection; the Bible tells us much but some of it is almost too wonderful for us to understand.

I do understand that because of Jesus' resurrection I have a resurrection coming as well!
It has already begun!

I was dead in my trespasses and sins; my spirit was absent from the life of God; I had no moral compass in my life; I was headed to a Devil's hell.

Ephesians 2:1-3

1 And you ... who were dead in trespasses and sins
2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:
3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

In February of 1977, a rough old preacher knocked on my door and proceeded to open the scriptures and show me in the Bible what Jesus did for me.

He showed me Jesus' promise that if I would trust Him to save me; He would do just that and that He would keep me forever.

I quit depending on myself that night and Jesus kept His Word.

He changed my life...my dead spirit was made alive.

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life**, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

That Thursday night in February of 1977, my own resurrection began.

When it will be completed and I move in to my new body; I do not know; but this I know:

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

Hebrews 13:5 ... for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

So, next week, are you going to come back and celebrate Jesus' Resurrection or go do Easter somewhere else?