

### Resurrection by the Book

On the day that Jesus of Nazareth the Messiah arose from the dead he appeared 3 distinct times. First in the early morning he appeared to Mary Magdalene and then to another small group of women. He was felt as they grasped his feet, and he received their worship. Then in the early afternoon he came alongside some of his disciples as they walked from Jerusalem to the village of Emmaus about 7 miles away. An average person walking at a speed of 3 or 4 miles per hour would require at least 2 hours and 30 minutes. Later in the evening Jesus will appear to his apostles minus Thomas who was not with them.

Let's join the followers of Jesus on the road to Emmaus as recorded by Luke chapter 24.

<sup>13</sup> Now that same day two of them were on their way to a village called Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> Together they were discussing everything that had taken place. <sup>15</sup> And while they were discussing and arguing, Jesus Himself came near and began to walk along with them. <sup>16</sup> But they were prevented from recognizing Him. <sup>17</sup> Then He asked them, "***What is this dispute that you're having with each other as you are walking?***" And they stopped walking and looked discouraged.

<sup>18</sup> The one named Cleopas answered Him, "Are You the only visitor in Jerusalem who doesn't know the things that happened there in these days?"

We read the same incident in another English translation:

[<sup>17</sup> He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?"

They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days."]

<sup>19</sup> "What things?" He asked them.

So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus the Nazarene, who was a Prophet powerful in action and speech before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed Him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified Him. <sup>21</sup> But we were hoping that He was the One who was about to redeem Israel. Besides all this, it's the third day since these things happened. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women from our group astounded us. They arrived early at the tomb, <sup>23</sup> and when they didn't find His body, they came and reported that they had seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they didn't see Him."

**<sup>25</sup> He said to them, “How unwise and slow you are to believe in your hearts all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Didn’t the Messiah have to suffer these things and enter into His glory?” <sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted for them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.**

NLT <sup>25</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. <sup>26</sup> Wasn’t it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?” <sup>27</sup> **Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.**

Jesus takes them to the prophets , the Law and the Psalms to explain about the Messiah. His ministry, death and resurrection were all prophesied. What happened was no accident nor the will of man stopping the will of God. The Messiah was to die and be resurrected from the dead.

We are not told the exact pathway that Jesus followed as he took them through the Scriptures, but we know clearly some that must have been covered. He probably would have begun in the garden of Eden following the fall of Adam into sin. God pronounced a curse on the serpent. In it is the first promise of redemption. Listen to what God said as he spoke to the serpent:

*And I will put enmity  
Between you and the woman,  
And between your seed and her Seed;  
He shall bruise your head,  
And you shall bruise His heel.”* Genesis 3:15 NKJV

Then the Lord God clothed their naked bodies with the skin of a slain animal before he sent them from his presence.

Then Jesus would have talked to the two disciples about Abraham and Isaac, the sacrifice, and the provided Ram. Surely he would have covered the deliverance of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt by means of the miraculous plagues which culminated in the Passover lamb’s blood on the doorpost of their dwellings. Then followed the giving of the law and the setting up of the tabernacle and the whole Levitical system of blood sacrifices. Jesus in his ministry days had referred to the story of Jonah and his descent into the depths followed by his being cast out on the seashore after 3 days and nights. He had even begun his teaching by preaching about his healing work in his hometown of Nazareth by quoting from the prophet in Isaiah 61. Therefore, we can be sure that he explained in detail to them these words of Isaiah 53.

Here is a portion of this prophecy of the Messiah’s suffering and death and resurrection.

He was oppressed and afflicted,  
yet He did not open His mouth.  
Like a lamb led to the slaughter

and like a sheep silent before her shearers,  
He did not open His mouth.  
<sup>8</sup> He was taken away because of oppression and judgment;  
and who considered His fate?  
For He was cut off from the land of the living;  
He was struck because of my people's rebellion.  
<sup>9</sup> They made His grave with the wicked  
and with a rich man at His death,  
although He had done no violence  
and had not spoken deceitfully.  
<sup>10</sup> Yet the LORD was pleased to crush Him severely.  
When You make his soul an offering for guilt,  
He will see His seed, He will prolong His days,  
and by His hand, the LORD's pleasure will be accomplished.  
<sup>11</sup> He will see it out of His anguish,  
and He will be satisfied with His knowledge.  
My righteous Servant will justify many,  
and He will carry their iniquities.  
<sup>12</sup> Therefore I will give Him the many as a portion,  
and He will receive the mighty as spoil,  
because He submitted Himself to death,  
and was counted among the rebels;  
yet He bore the sin of many  
and interceded for the rebels.

There are many scriptures the risen Jesus went through with these disciples.

When they arrived at their destination, they invited Jesus whom they still not recognize because God kept them from recognizing him. Why was this? Because he wanted to establish the necessity, the meaning of Jesus' atoning death and victorious resurrection from the Scriptures.

Now they invited him in for the night. <sup>28</sup> They came near the village where they were going, and He gave the impression that He was going farther. <sup>29</sup> But they urged Him: "Stay with us, because it's almost evening, and now the day is almost over." So He went in to stay with them.

**<sup>30</sup> It was as He reclined at the table with them that He took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him, but He disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup> So they said to each other, "Weren't our hearts ablaze within us while He was talking with us on the road and explaining the Scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup> That very hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and those with them gathered together, <sup>34</sup> who said, "The Lord has certainly been raised, and has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup> Then they began to describe what had happened on the road and how He was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.**

God opened their eyes and their ears when they heard the Stranger say the blessing as he broke the bread to share with them. They had witnessed his doing this many times in the past. They heard and saw him but then he was suddenly gone. But they now understood the meaning and necessity of his death and the reality of his actual physical resurrection.

This news could not wait! They literally ran back to Jerusalem. The knowledge and experience of the Word of the prophets being interpreted to them had set their hearts ablaze! "We have seen the Lord! He is risen from the dead and expounded the Scriptures to us."

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Wayne A Conrad  
Spirit, Truth and Grace Ministries  
Good Shepherd Church  
8441 Hunnicut Rd  
Dallas, TX 75228  
[www.gsccdallas.org](http://www.gsccdallas.org)  
214-324-9915 VM and call back