

# The Conquest of Christ's Resurrection Over His Enemies' Opposition

Matthew 27:62-28:15; I Cor.15:-4, 14-19

## I. What His enemies endeavored to do:

- A. Questions: Why did the chief priests and Pharisees go to Pilate and request that they be permitted to make the tomb of the Lord Jesus as secure as possible? Why were they so concerned about whether or not the body of the Lord Jesus was taken from the tomb? Why were they so concerned whether or not the disciples of the Lord Jesus preached that He rose from the dead?
- B. Answer: Because they realized that they would have **gained nothing** by the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus, **IF** they did not destroy the certainty of His resurrection, 27:64.
- C. An explanation of **the vital importance of the Lord Jesus' resurrection to the gospel** we believe and preach. Without the Lord Jesus' resurrection from the dead, there is:
  1. no gospel, I Cor.15:1
  2. no truth, I Cor.15:15,16
  3. no preaching worth preaching or hearing, I Cor.15:14
  4. no faith worth having, I Cor.15:17-19
  5. no deliverance from the dominion of sin and eternal death, I Cor.15:17
  6. no Savior, I Cor.15:14-17
  7. no pardon of sins, Rom.4:25
  8. no eternal acceptance in God's sight, Rom.4:24
  9. no living hope of being completely redeemed and being eternally with God in heaven, I Pet.1:3,4

## II. How this opposition to the Lord Jesus' resurrection was conquered

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## II. How this opposition to the Lord Jesus' resurrection was conquered

A. By God's works of providence – His most holy, wise and powerful preserving and governing all His creatures and all their actions.

1. God so governed and controlled the wrath and hatred of the chief priests and Pharisees against the Lord Jesus and His doctrine that the very thing they sought to destroy and extinguish, they forever established as being true.

a. They made sure the Lord Jesus was really dead.

b. They made sure it was the Lord Jesus' body that was buried in that tomb.

c. They made sure that there was no way out of the tomb from the inside.

d. They made sure that there was no way that the body of the Lord Jesus could be moved by men without leaving revealing and convincing evidence that it was the work of men.

e. Psalm 76:10, *"Surely the wrath of man shall praise You; with the remainder of wrath You shall gird Yourself."*

2. God so governed and controlled the earth that a great earthquake occurred bringing attention to the divine activity of the resurrection, Matt.28:2

3. God so governed and controlled the actions of the angel of the Lord that he descended from heaven with a countenance like the brightness of lightning and with raiment as white as snow to roll back the stone from the door of the tomb, Matt.28:2

4. God so governed and controlled the response of the Roman soldiers on guard at that watch that they were so completely overcome by fear and alarm that they fell down like men who were almost dead, Matt.28:4

5. God so governed and controlled the deceitful and wicked cover-up of the Jewish counsel, that it did not prevent the truth of the Gospel from going to the ends of the earth, Matt.28:11-15.

B. Applications

1. Let every believer lay to heart this blessed doctrine of God's Providence (His sovereign control of all things) and be encouraged! The wicked are strong, but God is infinitely stronger!!

2. Let every person know that your presence in this place, hearing this message is no accident, but was governed by God.

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