

Bethel Bible Series

The Empty Tomb

New Testament Week 8

Welcome & Announcements

Opening - How do you explain the good news of Jesus Christ to others?

Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer

Review of Last Week - *A Light in the Darkness*

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Purpose of the Gospels

- Not intended to be complete historical textbooks
- Intended to tell as much of Jesus' story as is needed for salvation
- Written to preserve Jesus' story to fulfill His Great Commission

Mark

- First and shortest of the four Gospels, Referenced heavily by Matthew & Luke
- Peter's gospel (Mark wrote what Peter remembered), Written to Gentiles
- A Gospel of Action (emphasizes Jesus' deeds rather than words)

Matthew

- Provides bridge between the Old and the New Testaments
- Written for Jewish Christians - Shows Jesus as the promised Messiah
- Only apostle called individually, Tax collector

Luke

- The longest and most literary of the four Gospels, Wrote a full and orderly account (inc. Acts)
- The only Gentile to write a New Testament book (Joined Paul on journeys)
- Synoptic with Mark & Matthew (*seen together, with the same eyes*)

John

- Last written and most theological of the four Gospels, Written around themes, not chronological
- 92% of its material is unique, not included in the synoptic gospels
- Language is richly symbolic, Common words have deep theological meaning
- Written to strengthen Christians, not as a missionary appeal

A Light in the Darkness - Picture Concepts

Dark Clouds Over Earth
Manger Scene
Light Around Child

Cross and Thorns
White Clouds and Beam of Light
Infant & Crucified Hands

Golden Crown
Ring of Light Encircling Globe

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Lesson - *The Empty Tomb*

Responses to Jesus' Death and Resurrection

How did people respond to Jesus' Death?

Luke 23:48
Matthew 27:3-5
Matthew 27:54
Mark 15:44
Matthew 27:57-60
Luke 23:55-56
Matthew 27:62-66
Luke 24:17, 20-21

How did people respond to the Empty Tomb?

Matthew 28:4
Luke 24:4-5
Mark 16:8
Luke 24:9, 11
Luke 24:12
John 20:10
John 20:11
Matthew 28:11
Matthew 28:12-13
Luke 24:13-17
John 20:19a

How did people respond to Jesus' Resurrection?

John 20:16-18
Luke 24:30-34
Mark 16:9-13
Luke 24:36-37
John 20:20
John 20:28
Matthew 28:17
Mark 16:20

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Matthew 28:5-7

The Descending Dove

John 14:26
John 14:18-19

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The Rich Man and Lazarus (*Handfuls on Purpose XII*)

What happens at death?

Luke 16:19-22

Are we conscious in the other life?

Luke 16:23

Will we know each other in the other life?

Luke 16:23

Is there any difference in the places where the dead go?

Luke 16:23-25

Is there any hope of a second chance?

Luke 16:26

How can we make sure that we go to the right place?

Luke 16:27-29

Resurrection - 1 Corinthians 15

Why does Paul want to remind us of the gospel?

1 Corinthians 15:1-2

What are the important pieces of this gospel and why are they important?

1 Corinthians 15:3

1 Corinthians 15:4

1 Corinthians 15:5-8

What does this say about our own resurrection from death?

1 Corinthians 15:12-13

What does it say about our faith if we do not accept resurrection?

1 Corinthians 15:14-17

What if we believe Christ came only to give us full & happy earthly lives?

1 Corinthians 15:18

1 Corinthians 15:19

1 Corinthians 15:32

Is Christ the first, or one of many who had been raised from the dead?

1 Corinthians 15:20-23

Will our bodies when we rise be in the condition with which we leave our bodies at our death?

1 Corinthians 15:35-38

1 Corinthians 15:39-41

How do our earthly bodies differ from our heavenly bodies?

1 Corinthians 15:42-44

Where can we look for an example of a spiritual body?

1 Corinthians 15:45-50

William Barclay on 1 Corinthians 15: All through this Paul is talking about things that no one knows anything about. He is talking not about verifiable matters of fact, but about matters of faith. Trying to express the inexpressible and to describe the indescribable, he is doing the best he can with the human ideas and human words that are all he has to work with. If we remember that, it will save us from a crudely literalistic interpretation and make us fasten our thoughts on the underlying principles in Paul's mind. (Sounds like he is saying, "Think Hebrew".)

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The Resurrection of the Body (*Explanation of Luther's Small Catechism - Apostles' Creed, Third Article, IV*)

I believe in ... the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting.

What does this mean?

... On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

195. What do the Scriptures teach of the resurrection of the body?

God will raise up me and all the dead, so that our bodies, the same bodies that have died, shall be made alive.

John 5:28-29a

Job 19:25-27

196. What difference will there be in the resurrection of the dead?

A. *The believers will rise with glorified bodies to everlasting life in heaven.*

Philippians 3:21

B. *The unbelievers will rise to eternal death, that is, to everlasting shame, contempt and torment in hell.*

Isaiah 66:24

197. What do the Scriptures teach of eternal life?

A. *At the time of death the soul of the believer is at once received into the presence of Christ.*

Luke 23:43

B. *At the last Day the believer will live with Christ, according to body & soul, in eternal joy & glory*

1 John 3:2

198. To whom will God give eternal life?

God will give eternal life to me and all believers, but to believers only.

John 3:36

199. Are you sure that you will enter eternal life?

I firmly believe that, as God has in time called me by the Gospel, enlightened, sanctified and kept me in the true faith, even so He has from eternity chosen me unto the adoption of children and unto life everlasting, and no man shall pluck me out of His hand.

Ephesians 1:3-6

John 10:27-28

Closing Prayer

Summary

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The Descending Dove

Distribute Materials

Next Week - *Christ the Lord*