

## Matthew 28

The unique fact of the gospel is the Resurrection. All other religions record the death of their leader. Only the Christian faith records the Resurrection of its Founder. All other religious leaders are dead. Only Jesus is alive."<sup>1</sup>

**When the Sabbath ended, what transpired at the tomb of Jesus (v. 1)?** At dawn on the first day of the week, several women went to the tomb of Jesus. They knew where the Lord had been laid for they had seen Joseph of Arimathea roll the stone over the door of the tomb (27:61). The women were returning to the tomb on Sunday morning, now that the Sabbath was over, to anoint Jesus' body for burial (Mark 16:1)

**What event happened next (v. 2)?** A violent earthquake.....which was associated with an angel coming from heaven and rolling away the stone from the door of the tomb.

The relationship between the earthquake, the descent of the angel, and the rolling away of the stone is indefinite in the text. But all of these events have supernatural connotations.<sup>2</sup>

**How would you describe the appearance of the angel (v. 3)?** The appearance of the angel was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.

**How did the guards react to the angel (v. 4)?** They were so frightened by the angel that they shook and apparently fainted. They had been sent there to seal and guard the tomb, but their power was useless before this angelic messenger.<sup>3</sup>

**What did the angel say to the women (vv. 5-7)?** The angel reassured the women that there was nothing for them to fear. The One they sought had risen, as He had promised, *"Come and see the place where He lay."* The stone had been rolled away, not to let the Lord out, but to let the women see that He had risen.

The angel commanded the women to go and tell the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead. They should go "quickly," because this was the greatest news of all time. Jesus would confirm His resurrection with a personal appearance to them in Galilee shortly, the angel said (cf. 26:32). Jesus would arrive in Galilee before they did, and He would meet His disciples there.<sup>4</sup>

**How did the women react to the angel's comments (v. 8)?** The women left the tomb "quickly" with mixed emotions. The appearance of the angel and his words to them made them fearful, and his announcement that Jesus was alive filled them with great joy. They hurried to share what they had seen and heard with Jesus' disciples.

**Who appeared next (v. 9)?** As the women were on their way to tell the disciples what had happened, suddenly Jesus met them. Hearing His greeting, they recognized Him immediately and fell at His feet and worshiped Him

**What did Jesus say to them (vv. 9-10)?** By His mere appearance Jesus alleviated their fears and repeated the same message the angel had previously given: Do not be afraid (v. 10; cf. v. 5). He told them to tell the disciples (My brothers) to go to Galilee where He would appear before them.

**While the women departed, what did the guards do (v. 11)?** While the women were running to find the disciples and tell them of the Resurrection, another group was moving rapidly to counteract the truth. Some of those who had been guarding the tomb overcame their fear, went into the city, and reported to the chief priests all that had transpired. They had failed in their mission! It was imperative that the priests have an explanation to counter the truth.....the tomb was empty!

**How did the religious leaders respond to the news (vv. 12-15)?** It is easy to imagine the consternation of the religious leaders. The priests held a conclave with the elders to map out their strategy. In desperation, they bribed

the soldiers with a large sum of money to tell the fantastic yarn that while the soldiers slept, the disciples stole the body of Jesus.<sup>5</sup>

Since sleeping on duty was punishable by death under Roman law, the Jewish leaders had to promise to intervene for them if the story ever got back to Pilate's ears. The soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed.

This story was widely circulated among the Jews, and many believed the disciples had really stolen Jesus' body. But the logic of the explanation does not hold up. But the truth is often harder for a person to believe than a lie, and many still swallow this lie.<sup>6</sup>

**What did the disciples do (vv. 16-17)?** In Galilee, the risen Lord Jesus appeared to His disciples at an unnamed mountain. What a wonderful reunion! He stood before them in His glorified body. They worshiped the living, loving Lord—though doubts still lurked in the minds of some.<sup>7</sup>

The Greek word translated "doubted" means "hesitated" (cf. 14:31). Jesus' resurrection did not immediately dispel all the questions that remained in the minds of His disciples (cf. [John 20:24-25](#)).<sup>8</sup>

**What guidance did Jesus give the disciples (vv. 18-20)?** He then issued the Great Commission, containing "standing orders" for all believers during the present phase of the kingdom—the time between the rejection of the King and His Second Coming.

### **What are the three commands of The Great Commission?**

1. ***"Go and make disciples of all nations."*** By preaching the gospel to all nations, not just Israel, the disciples were to see others become learners and followers of the Savior—from every nation, tribe, people, and tongue.

2. ***"Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."*** The responsibility rests on Christ's messengers to teach baptism and to press it as a command to be obeyed. In believer's baptism, Christians publicly identify themselves with Jesus. They are buried with Him in baptism and raised to walk in newness of life.

3. ***"Teaching them to obey all things I have commanded you."*** The Commission goes beyond evangelism; it is not enough to simply make converts and let them fend for themselves. They must be taught to *obey* the commandments of Christ as found in the New Testament. Notice that the teaching content is not the Old Testament law but Jesus' commands. The essence of discipleship is becoming like the Master, and this is brought about by the systematic teaching of, and submission to, the Word of God ([Hebrews 4:12](#)).<sup>9</sup>

Then the Savior added a promise of His presence.....to be with His disciples until the consummation of the age. They would not go forth alone or unaided. In all their service and travel, they would know the companionship of the Son of God.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Thomas L. Constable, Notes on Matthew, 2025 Edition (published by Sonic Light), 729.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Louis A. Barbieri Jr., "Matthew," The Bible Knowledge Commentary: J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Victor Books, 1985), 92.

<sup>4</sup> Dr. Thomas L. Constable, Notes on Matthew, 2025 Edition (published by Sonic Light), 730.

<sup>5</sup> William MacDonald, Believer's Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments, ed. Arthur Farstad (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1995), 1311.

<sup>6</sup> Louis A. Barbieri Jr., "Matthew," The Bible Knowledge Commentary: J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Victor Books, 1985), 93.

<sup>7</sup> William MacDonald, Believer's Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments, ed. Arthur Farstad (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1995), 1312.

<sup>8</sup> Dr. Thomas L. Constable, Notes on Matthew, 2025 Edition (published by Sonic Light), 736.

<sup>9</sup> William MacDonald, Believer's Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments, ed. Arthur Farstad (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1995), 1312.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., 1313.