

JOHN 20 BIBLE STUDY

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Matthew records what happened prior to the first verse of John chapter 20.

Matthew 27:62-66 Are the chief priests and Pharisees concerned that Jesus may rise from the dead? Did they believe in resurrection?

The stated concern is that Jesus' disciples may "**come by night and steal Him away, and say, 'He has risen from the dead.'**" But their logic is flawed since in order for the disciples to make that claim, they will need evidence of Jesus being alive again, not just his dead body being missing.

Why did they go to Pilate instead of just ordering their own temple guards to guard the tomb?

They wanted to "**make the tomb secure**" by "**sealing the stone**" with a Roman seal, breaking that seal for any reason was punishable by death. Roman soldiers were not only also better trained than Jewish temple guards, they also would have defended the seal with their lives since failing to do so was also punishable by death.

JOHN 20:1 Now the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.

Matthew 28 and Mark 16 provide additional details on the stone rolled away.

Who went to the tomb?

Three women: "**M** _____ **Magdalene**, **M** _____ **the mother of James**, and **S** _____"(Mark 16:1).

When did they go?

S _____ morning, which corresponds to "**the first day of the week**" (John 20:1) in the Jewish calendar, since the Sabbath ends on Saturday. And since Jesus died on Friday and the Jews counted any part of a day as 'one day,' it was now the third day after His death on the cross.

Who rolled away the stone?

"an **a** _____ of the Lord descended from heaven

Who saw the stone being rolled away? The **g** _____.

How many angels were there?

At least _____ who were visible. One "**sat on**" (Matthew 28:2) the stone, and the other sat "**on the right side**" (Mark 16:5) inside the tomb.

What did the angels look like?

To the women, they looked like "**young man in a long white robe**" (Mark 16:5), but to the guards, their face was like "**lightning**" (Matthew 28:3) and so fearsome that they "**shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.**" (Matthew 28:4)

Did the angel roll away the stone to let Jesus out? _____

Read: (Mark 16:6) (John 20:19)

JOHN 20:2 ² Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him."

Matthew 28 and Mark 16 provide additional details on the angel's declaration to Mary and the other women: "He is not here; for He is risen."

Did the women believe the angels' claim, "He is risen!" (Mark 16:6)?

As we will see below, not yet.

How does Matthew 28:8 reconcile with Mark 16:8?

Amazement, trembling, "**fear**" and "**great joy**" all describe what they felt after what they saw and heard. The only thing they knew for sure at this point was that the body was no longer in the tomb. They didn't tell or question the people on the street, but ran to tell the disciples.

Who was "the other disciple" (John 20:3) who outran Peter to the tomb?

J_____, who wrote this Gospel.

Who went inside the tomb first?

(John 20:5 - 6) _____

What is meant by, "He saw and believed" (John 20:8)?

John believed what Mary had said, that the body of Jesus was gone. At this point, they still didn't believe that Jesus had risen from the dead: "**for as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.**"(John 20:9)

JOHN 20:11-13 ¹¹ But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. ¹³ Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him."

How did Mary Magdalene get back to the tomb "where the body of Jesus had lain" (John 20:12)?

She had run after Peter and John, and either got there after they left or stayed behind after they left.

Who did Mary see inside Jesus' tomb that Peter and John didn't see?

The two angels (again), who had either returned or had been invisible to Peter and John.

Why didn't Mary Magdalene "know that it was Jesus" after seeing "Jesus standing there" (John 20:14) and even hearing His voice?

She was an emotional wreck at this point, she wasn't expecting Jesus to be alive, and her **"weeping"** (John 20:15) impaired her teary vision, hearing (her answer in John 20:15 doesn't answer Jesus' questions), and assessment (she said she can carry **"away"** (John 20:15) a dead man's body embalmed with **"about a hundred pounds"** (John 19:39) of embalming materials **"as the custom of the Jews is to bury"** (John 19:40).

Why would Mary Magdalene "cling" (John 20:17) to Jesus? If you had been in her position, would you have clung to Jesus? Do you cling to Him today?

Did Mary Magdalene later marry Jesus and have kids with Him?

Absolutely .

What happened to Salome and Mary the mother of James?

"And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me." (Matthew 28:9-10)

So what's the correct sequence of events?

Mary Magdalene outran the other two women and told John and Peter, who took off toward the tomb, probably on a different route. So while the two other women were still going to **"tell His disciples,"** Jesus appeared to them as above.

What happened to the Roman soldiers who guarded the tomb?

(Matthew 28:11-15)

What is amazing about the chief priests' actions?

Upon being informed by the Roman soldiers, they should have realized that Jesus indeed had risen from the dead as He had prophesied and as they had feared. They should have been wailing in repentance for what they had done to Him, not trying to bribe the Roman soldiers and cover it up.

Why did the Roman soldiers go along?

They had no choice. They had failed to defend the Roman seal, so they were as good as dead if nobody intervened for them.

To who else did Jesus appear? Luke 24:13-32 **Where is Emmaus?**
"Seven miles" (Luke 24:13) west of Jerusalem.

So to how many people did Jesus appear before He appeared to His eleven remaining disciples?

At least five: the two men on the road to Emmaus plus the three women.

JOHN 20:19-23

Luke 24:33-47 provides more details of the disciples' reaction to Jesus appearing

Why didn't Jesus simply appear to the eleven disciples first?

Even after being prepped by five different people, **"they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit"** (Luke 24:37) when Jesus finally did appear to them, so it may have been too much of a shock for them if He had appeared to them first.

Why did Jesus ask for and eat the fish and honeycomb?

To prove that they weren't seeing a ghost, that He had been physically resurrected.

What is Jesus telling them in Luke 24:44 and Luke 24:46?

Everything happened according to plan and as foretold throughout the OT.

What finally enabled them to understand?

Jesus opening their understanding: **"And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures."** (Luke 24:45)

Is that different today?. 

What did Jesus say we are supposed to do once we comprehend?

Preach "**in His name to all nations**" the "**repentance and remission of sins**" by His sacrifice on the cross. (Luke 24:47)

Do you?

When Thomas came later, why did he not believe? (John 20:19-25)

How does Jesus' resurrection prove that He is God?

Imagine someone says and does great things for three years, claims to be God and that he will die to pay for our sins, then rise from the dead. If he then dies and stays dead, he remain someone who said and did some great things but was delusional. But if he does rise from the dead, then he validates his claim of being God. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, He wasn't God, the Bible is a lie, and this study is a waste of time.

Did Thomas touch Jesus' wounds as Jesus invited him to?

There is no mention of it in the passage, according to which he simply declared, "**My Lord and my God!**" (John 20:28)

Will you ask to touch His wounds before making that declaration?