

Resurrection Sunday 2025

WHY CHRIST AROSE FROM THE DEAD: Matthew 28:1-10

INTRODUCTION.

- Muhammad is dead (Islam).
- Buddha is dead (Buddhism).
- Guru Nanak is dead (Sikhism).
- Laozi is dead (Taoism).
- L. Ron Hubbard is dead (Scientology).
- Karl Marx is dead (Marxism).
- Joseph Smith is dead (Mormonism/Latter-day Saint movement).
- Charles Taze Russell is dead (Jehovah's Witnesses).
- Ellen G. White is dead (Seventh-day Adventism).
- Mary Baker Eddy is dead (Christian Science).
- Xerxes is dead.
- Alexander the Great is greatly dead.
- The Pharisees who founded Talmudic Judaism are dead.
- The Caesars are dead.

Yet the very words of God here in Matthew 28:1-10 reveal a shocking and life changing truth: The Lord Jesus Christ died and rose again from dead! Jesus is alive.

I. CHRIST ROSE FROM THE DEAD (Matt. 28:1-10).

There are at least 8 particulars to notice in these verses.

I) Two women went early Sunday morning, not to see a resurrection but to see a tomb (Matt. 28:1).

Matthew 28:1

"Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb."

- Despite the fact that Christ had predicted and promised His own resurrection, it seems it was too great to believe for even those closest to him.
- **BOYS AND GIRLS**, have you ever gone to a funeral of someone who you know had died, only to find the casket empty and the one who had been previously dead walking in to preach? **Imagine how shocking that would be!**

II) The Lord sent an angel from heaven with earth shaking power to roll back the stone (Matt. 28:2).

Matthew 28:2

"And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it."

- The angel sits on the stone, almost as if he is enjoying the victory of the Christ!
- **In our day I could hear him looking out saying, "Have you seen my guy? Here's not here. He is alive, just like he predicted."**
- His job was not to unlock the grave so Christ could walk out. The angels job was to roll back the sealed stone, even in front of the soldiers, only for them to find the grave empty, and so further confirming the resurrection of Christ as historical fact.

III) The angel sent by the Lord was terrifying to behold, and the soldiers responded appropriately (Matt. 28:3-4).

Matthew 28:3-4

"3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men."

- The two Mary's went to see one dead man, but instead they found many men trembling yet frozen in place.

IV) The angel sent by the Lord delivered the greatest news the two Marys had ever heard (Matt. 28:5-6).

Matthew 28:5-6

"5 But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.'"

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead was not an afterthought produced by His followers because of His sudden and untimely death!

- **At least three times Jesus explicitly predicted and promised His own resurrection:**
 - (i) **Matthew 16:21** "From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."
 - (ii) **Mark 9:31** "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise."
 - (iii) **Matthew 20:18-19** "See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be

- mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day."
- **At least two additional times Jesus cryptically predicted and promised His own resurrection:**

(i) **Matthew 12:40** "For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

(ii) **John 2:19-21:** "Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' ... But he was speaking about the temple of his body."

BOYS AND GIRLS, [recap]

"He is not here, for he has risen, as he said."

V) The angel sent by the Lord then sent the two Marys to tell the other disciples that Christ had been raised (Matt. 28:7).

Matthew 28:7

"Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you."

VI) The two Marys departed to obey with fear and great joy (Matt. 28:8).

Matthew 28:8

"So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples."

VII) Jesus then appeared to the two Marys, He told them to rejoice, and they worshipped Him (Matt. 28:9).

Matthew 28:9

"And behold, Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' (Gk. *chairō* = "Rejoice!") And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him."

VIII) Jesus calmed their fears and spurred them on to do the duty that had been given to them by God (Matt. 28:10).

Matthew 28:10

"Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.'"

You and I must not be content to simply understand that Christ did in fact rise from the dead. You and I need to understand and believe the WHY of the resurrection!

II. WHY CHRIST ROSE FROM THE DEAD (Selected Scriptures).

There are at least 7 reasons Christ Rose from the dead. Let me give them to you for God's glory and your good:

I) Christ did not just rise from the dead; He rose from the dead to defeat death (Rom. 6:9).

Romans 6:9 "We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him."

- **Christ did not simply escape the tomb; He shattered death's chains, crowned as its conqueror.**

Revelation 1:17-18 "17 Fear not, I am the first and the last, 18 and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades." **Boys and girls**

Christians, you have an impenetrable Savior who has already squared off with the giant and immersed victorious!

II) Christ did not just rise from the dead; He rose from the dead to raise sinners from the spiritual graves (1 Pet. 1:3; Eph. 2:4-6).

1 Peter 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. . ."

- **Christ did not just leave His grave; He effectually called sinners out of their spiritual sepulcher to new life.**
 - **Ephesians 2:4-6** "4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. . ."

Christians, your resurrected King resurrected your carnal hearts so that you would love what you should love and hate what you should hate!

III) Christ did not just rise from the dead; He rose from the dead for our justification (Rom. 4:25).

Romans 4:25 "[Jesus] was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification."

- **Christ did not merely rise; He arose as the basis of our acquittal, proving our pardon by His empty tomb.**

Christians, you stand counted righteous before God because the basis for your justification stands alive before God!

IV) Christ did not just rise from the dead; He rose from the dead to be Advocate with the Father (Rom. 8:34).

Romans 8:34 "Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than

that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us."

- **Christ did not simply walk from the grave; He ascended to plead our cause before heaven's throne.**

1 John 2:1 "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."

Hebrews 4:14-16 "14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Christians, you have a living Advocate who intercedes for you when you sin, sympathizes when you are weak, and continually enables you to go to God in prayer with confidence!

V) Christ did not just rise from the dead; He rose from the dead to rule and reign over everyone and everything (Rom. 8:34).

Ephesians 1:19-22 "And what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church."

- **Christ did not just rise from the tomb; He ascended from death's grip to reign as King over all creation.**

Christians, the resurrected King on the throne of the universe is your friend, master, and beloved!

VI) Christ did not just rise from the dead; He rose from the dead to take away its sting for all who believe (1 Cor. 15:54-57).

1 Corinthians 15:54-57 "When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.' 'O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?' The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

- **Christ did not merely defeat the tomb; He plucked death's venom, leaving victory for believers.**

Christians, the stinger that death bore has been plucked out by Christ, now all that is left is the honey to enjoy!

VII) Christ did not just rise from the dead; He rose from the dead to raise us from our physical graves and make us glorious (Phil. 3:20).

Philippians 3:20-21 "20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself."

- **Christ did not simply rise; He blazed a trail from our graves to glory, promising to transform our dust into radiance.**

Christians, you are on a collision course with glory! Nothing will stop your Christ from transforming your lowly body to be like His gloriously resurrected body!

CONCLUDING EXHORTATION.

Courage, brothers and sisters, courage for the saints and for our Christ. Look at Jesus saying to the two Marys, "Do not be afraid." Hear Him say that to you, personally. "Do not be afraid."

Q. What do you have to fear, Christian?

Because Jesus is alive,

1. Death's throat is slit and it is bleeding out.
2. Sin is in Christ's crosshairs and its days are numbered.
3. Suffering is a sanctifier.
4. Persecution is preparation for glorification.
5. Pain will soon give way to eternal pleasure.
6. In the meantime, the same Spirit who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies.
7. Your Advocate never sleeps yet ever stands at God's right hand to plead His blood for thee.
8. Your death will simply transport you to Christ's face and embrace.
9. Your King and Redeemer will one day return to rid the world of sins and sufferings and sadness, when He consummates His kingdom.

Listen to Revelation 1:12-17 before we pray and sing!

Revelation 1:12-17

"12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. 14 The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame

of fire, 15 his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. 16 In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, 18 and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades."

PURITAN QUOTES ON THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

- **JOHN OWEN (1616–1683):** "The resurrection of Christ is the foundation of our faith; for if He be not raised, our preaching is vain, and our faith is vain, but because He lives, we shall live also." — John Owen, *The Glory of Christ, The Works of John Owen, Vol. 1, Banner of Truth Trust, 1965. Pg. 312.*
- **JOHN OWEN (1616–1683):** "Christ's rising from the dead is the pledge of our justification; His resurrection declares that the debt of sin is fully paid, and God's justice is satisfied." — John Owen, *A Discourse Concerning the Holy Spirit, The Works of John Owen, Vol. 3, Banner of Truth Trust, 1965. Pg. 234.*
- **THOMAS WATSON (1620–1686):**
- "Christ's resurrection is the earnest of our resurrection; because He rose, we shall rise, and His victory over death is the ground of our hope for eternal life." — Thomas Watson, *A Body of Divinity, Banner of Truth Trust, 1958. Pg. 208.*
- **THOMAS WATSON (1620–1686):**
- "The resurrection of our Lord is the key that unlocks the grave; His triumph over death assures us that we shall be raised to glory with Him." — Thomas Watson, *The Lord's Supper, Banner of Truth Trust, 2004. Pg. 67.*
- **RICHARD SIBBES (1577–1635):**
- "Christ's resurrection is the evidence of His conquest; He rose to show that sin, death, and Satan were subdued, and that His people are freed from their tyranny." — Richard Sibbes, *The Bruised Reed, The Works of Richard Sibbes, Vol. 1, Banner of Truth Trust, 1973. Pg. 145.*
- **RICHARD SIBBES (1577–1635):** "The rising of Christ from the dead is our comfort; it assures us that as He overcame the grave, so shall we, being united to Him by faith." — Richard Sibbes, *Christ's Exaltation Purchased by Humiliation, The Works of Richard Sibbes, Vol. 5, Banner of*

Truth Trust, 1973. Pg. 321.

- **WILLIAM PERKINS (1558–1602):** "Christ's resurrection is the seal of our redemption; it proves that God accepted His sacrifice, and that we are justified through His victory over death." — **William Perkins, *A Golden Chain, The Works of William Perkins, Vol. 1, Reformation Heritage Books, 2015. Pg. 189.***
- **WILLIAM PERKINS (1558–1602):** "The resurrection of Christ is the ground of our assurance; because He lives forever, we are secured in Him, and death hath no more dominion over us." — **William Perkins, *A Commentary on Galatians, The Works of William Perkins, Vol. 2, Reformation Heritage Books, 2017. Pg. 412.***
- **THOMAS GOODWIN (1600–1680):** "Christ's resurrection is the firstfruits of our salvation; as He rose, so shall all His saints, being raised by the power of His life to dwell with Him eternally." — **Thomas Goodwin, *Christ Set Forth, The Works of Thomas Goodwin, Vol. 4, Banner of Truth Trust, 1985. Pg. 156.***
- **THOMAS GOODWIN (1600–1680):** "The resurrection of Christ is the confirmation of His mediatorial work; it declares Him to be the Son of God with power, and our justifier before the Father." — **Thomas Goodwin, *The Object and Acts of Justifying Faith, The Works of Thomas Goodwin, Vol. 8, Banner of Truth Trust, 1985. Pg. 345.***
- **JOHN FLAVEL (1627–1691):** "Christ's resurrection is the spring of our joy; His rising from the grave assures us that our sins are pardoned, and our inheritance in heaven is secured." — **John Flavel, *The Fountain of Life, The Works of John Flavel, Vol. 1, Banner of Truth Trust, 1968. Pg. 123.***
- **JOHN FLAVEL (1627–1691):**
- "The resurrection of Christ is the pillar of our faith; because He was raised for our justification, we are accepted in Him, and shall rise to glory." — **John Flavel, *The Method of Grace, The Works of John Flavel, Vol. 2, Banner of Truth Trust, 1968. Pg. 289.***
- **SAMUEL RUTHERFORD (1600–1661):** "Christ's resurrection is the trophy of His victory; He rose to show that death is swallowed up, and that His people shall reign with Him in life eternal." — **Samuel Rutherford, *Christ Dying and Drawing Sinners to Himself, The Works of Samuel Rutherford, Still Waters Revival Books, 1998. Pg. 234.***
- **SAMUEL RUTHERFORD (1600–1661):** "The rising of Christ from the tomb is the assurance of our hope; because He lives, we are begotten again to a lively hope of an inheritance incorruptible." — **Samuel Rutherford, *Letters of Samuel Rutherford, Banner of Truth Trust, 1984. Pg. 456.***
- **STEPHEN CHARNOCK (1628–1680):** "The resurrection of Christ is the demonstration of God's power and truth; it confirms His sacrifice was

accepted, and secures the resurrection of all His saints." — **Stephen Charnock**, *Discourses on Christ Crucified, The Works of Stephen Charnock*, Vol. 4, Banner of Truth Trust, 2010. Pg. 412.

- **STEPHEN CHARNOCK (1628–1680)**: "Christ's resurrection is the cornerstone of our salvation; His victory over death assures us that we shall be raised to newness of life, both now and forever." — **Stephen Charnock**, *The Existence and Attributes of God, The Works of Stephen Charnock*, Vol. 1, Banner of Truth Trust, 2010. Pg. 678.
- **RICHARD BAXTER (1615–1691)**: "The resurrection of Christ is the ground of our confidence; His rising declares that death is vanquished, and that we shall live because He lives." — **Richard Baxter**, *The Reformed Pastor*, Banner of Truth Trust, 1974. Pg. 189.
- **RICHARD BAXTER (1615–1691)**: "Christ's resurrection is the seal of our redemption; it proves that God is satisfied with His atonement, and that we are justified through His life." — **Richard Baxter**, *A Call to the Unconverted, The Practical Works of Richard Baxter*, Vol. 2, Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1990. Pg. 567.
- **JEREMIAH BURROUGHS (1600–1646)**: "The resurrection of Christ is the hope of all believers; His triumph over the grave assures us that we shall be raised to everlasting life in His presence." — **Jeremiah Burroughs**, *The Excellency of Christ, The Works of Jeremiah Burroughs*, Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 2001. Pg. 234.
- **JEREMIAH BURROUGHS (1600–1646)**: "Christ's rising from the dead is the foundation of our faith; it shows that God hath accepted His sacrifice, and that we are freed from the power of death." — **Jeremiah Burroughs**, *Gospel Reconciliation, The Works of Jeremiah Burroughs*, Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 2001. Pg. 321.
- **WILLIAM GURNALL (1616–1679)**: "The resurrection of Christ is the joy of His people; His rising from the grave assures us that our sins are forgiven, and our souls shall rise with Him." — **William Gurnall**, *The Christian in Complete Armour*, Banner of Truth Trust, 1964. Pg. 412.
- **WILLIAM GURNALL (1616–1679)**: "Christ's resurrection is the assurance of our victory; because He broke the chains of death, we are delivered from its dominion, and shall reign with Him." — **William Gurnall**, *The Christian in Complete Armour*, Banner of Truth Trust, 1964. Pg. 678.
- **THOMAS MANTON (1620–1677)**: "The resurrection of Christ is the evidence of our justification; His rising from the dead declares that our sins are atoned, and we are accepted in Him." — **Thomas Manton**, *Sermons on John 17, The Works of Thomas Manton*, Vol. 11, Banner of Truth Trust, 1993. Pg. 412.
- **THOMAS MANTON (1620–1677)**: "Christ's resurrection is the spring of our eternal life; because He rose, we are begotten to a lively hope, and

shall be raised to glory with Him." — **Thomas Manton, *A Practical Exposition of the Lord's Prayer*, The Works of Thomas Manton, Vol. 1, Banner of Truth Trust, 1993. Pg. 234.**

- **JOHN BUNYAN (1628–1688):** "The resurrection of Christ is the anchor of our hope; His rising from the grave assures us that we shall rise, and dwell with Him in glory forever." — **John Bunyan, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, Banner of Truth Trust, 1977. Pg. 189.**
 - **JOHN BUNYAN (1628–1688):** "Christ's resurrection is the proof of His victory; He rose to show that death is conquered, and that His people are redeemed from its power." — **John Bunyan, *The Doctrine of the Law and Grace Unfolded*, The Works of John Bunyan, Vol. 1, Banner of Truth Trust, 1991. Pg. 456.**
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STUDY AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Introduction: The Unique Resurrection of Jesus Christ

- **Study Question:** The sermon notes list several historical figures (e.g., Muhammad, Buddha, Alexander the Great) who are dead, contrasting them with Jesus, who is alive. Why do you think the resurrection of Jesus is emphasized as a unique and central truth in Christianity?
Discussion Question: How does the fact that Jesus is alive set Christianity apart from other religions or philosophies? Share your thoughts on why this matters to your faith.
- **Study Question:** Read Matthew 28:1-10. What is the "shocking and life-changing truth" highlighted in the introduction? How does this truth impact your understanding of who Jesus is?
Discussion Question: If you were to explain to a friend why Jesus' resurrection is important, what would you say? How might this truth change someone's life?

Point I. Christ Rose from the Dead (Matthew 28:1-10)

1. The Women's Expectation (Matthew 28:1)

- **Study Question:** Why did Mary Magdalene and the other Mary go to the tomb on Sunday morning? What does their expectation reveal about their understanding of Jesus' predictions of His resurrection (see Matthew 16:21, Mark 9:31, Matthew 20:18-19)?

- **Discussion Question:** Have you ever struggled to believe a promise of God because it seemed too incredible, like the women did? How can their experience encourage us to trust God's Word?

2. The Angel's Role (Matthew 28:2)

- **Study Question:** What was the purpose of the angel rolling back the stone in Matthew 28:2? How does this detail support the historical reality of the resurrection?
- **Discussion Question:** The sermon imagines the angel celebrating Christ's victory by sitting on the stone. How does this image help you visualize the triumph of the resurrection? Share how this might inspire your faith.

3. The Angel's Appearance (Matthew 28:3-4)

- **Study Question:** How is the angel described in Matthew 28:3-4, and how did the Roman soldiers react? What does this tell us about the power and glory of God's messengers?
- **Discussion Question:** The soldiers were paralyzed with fear, while the women were invited to see the empty tomb. Why do you think God's presence can be terrifying to some but comforting to others? How have you experienced God's presence in your life?

4. The Angel's Message (Matthew 28:5-6)

- **Study Question:** What did the angel say to the women in Matthew 28:5-6? How does the phrase "as he said" connect to Jesus' earlier predictions (e.g., Matthew 12:40, John 2:19-21)?
- **Discussion Question:** The resurrection was not an afterthought but a fulfillment of Jesus' promises. How does knowing Jesus kept His word about rising from the dead strengthen your trust in His other promises?

5. The Women's Mission (Matthew 28:7)

- **Study Question:** What task did the angel give the women in Matthew 28:7? Why was it important for them to share the news of the resurrection with the disciples?
- **Discussion Question:** The women were sent to proclaim the resurrection. What opportunities do you have to share the good news of Jesus' resurrection with others? What challenges might you face, and how can you overcome them?

6. The Women's Response (Matthew 28:8)

- **Study Question:** How did the women react to the angel's message in Matthew 28:8? What does their "fear and great joy" tell us about their

experience?

- **Discussion Question:** When have you felt a mix of fear and joy in your walk with God? How can these emotions motivate us to obey and share our faith, as the women did?

7. Jesus' Appearance (Matthew 28:9)

- **Study Question:** What did Jesus say to the women in Matthew 28:9, and how did they respond? What does their act of worship reveal about Jesus' identity?
- **Discussion Question:** The women worshiped Jesus when they saw Him. How does the resurrection inspire you to worship Jesus? What are practical ways you can express your worship in daily life?

8. Jesus' Encouragement (Matthew 28:10)

- **Study Question:** In Matthew 28:10, how did Jesus encourage the women and reinforce their mission? What does His use of the term "my brothers" suggest about His relationship with His disciples?
- **Discussion Question:** Jesus told the women, "Do not be afraid." How does the reality of the resurrection help you overcome fear in your own life? Share a time when Jesus' presence gave you courage.

Point II. Why Christ Rose from the Dead (Selected Scriptures)

1. To Defeat Death (Romans 6:9; Revelation 1:17-18)

- **Study Question:** According to Romans 6:9 and Revelation 1:17-18, how did Christ's resurrection defeat death? What does it mean that Jesus holds "the keys of Death and Hades"?
- **Discussion Question:** The sermon says Christians have an "impenetrable Savior" who conquered death. How does knowing Jesus defeated death give you hope when facing fears or loss?

2. To Give Sinners New Life (1 Peter 1:3; Ephesians 2:4-6)

- **Study Question:** How do 1 Peter 1:3 and Ephesians 2:4-6 describe the new life believers receive through Christ's resurrection? What does it mean to be "made alive together with Christ"?
- **Discussion Question:** The sermon notes that Christ's resurrection changes our hearts to love what is good and hate what is evil. How have you seen this transformation in your life or in others? What areas of your heart still need renewal?

3. For Our Justification (Romans 4:25)

- **Study Question:** Romans 4:25 says Jesus was “raised for our justification.” What is justification, and how does the resurrection prove that believers are forgiven?
- **Discussion Question:** Knowing that Jesus’ resurrection assures your forgiveness, how does this truth impact your confidence in your relationship with God? How can it help you forgive others?

4. To Be Our Advocate (Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1; Hebrews 4:14-16)

- **Study Question:** According to Romans 8:34, 1 John 2:1, and Hebrews 4:14-16, what role does Jesus play as our Advocate? How does His resurrection enable Him to intercede for us?
- **Discussion Question:** The sermon describes Jesus as an Advocate who prays for us when we sin and sympathizes with our weaknesses. How does this encourage you to approach God in prayer, especially when you feel unworthy?

5. To Rule Over All (Ephesians 1:19-22)

- **Study Question:** Ephesians 1:19-22 describes Jesus’ authority after His resurrection. What does it mean that He is “far above all rule and authority” and “head over all things”?
- **Discussion Question:** The sermon calls Jesus our “friend, master, and beloved” who reigns as King. How does knowing Jesus rules over everything affect the way you face challenges or uncertainties in life?

6. To Remove Death’s Sting (1 Corinthians 15:54-57)

- **Study Question:** According to 1 Corinthians 15:54-57, how did Christ’s resurrection take away the “sting” of death? What is the connection between sin, the law, and death’s power?
- **Discussion Question:** The sermon compares death’s sting to a bee’s stinger that Christ has removed, leaving only “honey” for believers. How does this image help you view death differently? How can this hope comfort someone grieving?

7. To Raise Us to Glory (Philippians 3:20-21)

- **Study Question:** Philippians 3:20-21 promises that Jesus will transform our bodies to be like His glorious body. What does this tell us about the future hope of believers?
- **Discussion Question:** The sermon says believers are “on a collision course with glory.” How does the promise of a resurrected, glorious body shape your perspective on your current struggles or physical limitations?

Concluding Exhortation: Courage Because Jesus Is Alive

- **Study Question:** In the concluding exhortation, Jesus' words "Do not be afraid" are emphasized (Matthew 28:10; Revelation 1:17-18). According to the sermon, what are nine reasons Christians have no need to fear because Jesus is alive?
Discussion Question: Which of these nine reasons (e.g., death is defeated, Jesus prays for you, He will return) resonates most with you right now? Share a specific fear you face and how the resurrection can help you overcome it.
- **Study Question:** Read Revelation 1:12-17. How is the risen Jesus described in this passage, and what does His appearance reveal about His power and glory? Why did He tell John, "Fear not"?
Discussion Question: The sermon encourages "courage for the saints and for our Christ." How can the vivid description of the risen Jesus in Revelation 1:12-17 inspire you to live boldly for Him? What practical steps can you take to share this courage with others?
- **Study Question:** The sermon ends with the hope that Jesus will return to "rid the world of sins and sufferings and sadness." How does this future promise connect to the resurrection?
Discussion Question: How does the resurrection give you hope for the future, both in this life and in eternity? As a group, pray for one another to live with this hope in daily challenges.

Application and Personal Reflection Questions

- **Personal Reflection:** The women in Matthew 28:1-10 moved from grief to joy when they encountered the risen Jesus. Reflect on a time when the truth of the resurrection brought you joy or hope. How can you hold onto this truth in difficult seasons?
Group Discussion: Share your reflection with the group. How can you encourage one another to keep the resurrection at the center of your faith?
- **Personal Reflection:** The sermon emphasizes that Jesus' resurrection gives us courage to face fears like death, sin, or suffering. What is one fear you are currently struggling with, and how can you apply the truths of the resurrection to find courage?
Group Discussion: Pair up and pray for each other's specific fears, asking God to remind you of Jesus' victory and presence.
- **Personal Reflection:** The women were sent to share the news of the resurrection. Who in your life needs to hear about the risen Jesus? Write down one person and a practical way you can share this message with them.
Group Discussion: Share your plan with the group and commit to praying

for each other's efforts to share the gospel. Follow up in a future meeting to discuss how it went.

A simplified and written form of the sermon.

WHY CHRIST ROSE FROM THE DEAD

Matthew 28:1-10

Introduction: The Unique Victory of Jesus Christ

Throughout history, many leaders have shaped religions, philosophies, and empires. Yet, they all have one thing in common. Muhammad, who founded Islam, is dead. Buddha, the teacher of Buddhism, is dead. Guru Nanak, who started Sikhism, is dead. Laozi, the thinker behind Taoism, is dead. L. Ron Hubbard, who created Scientology, is dead. Karl Marx, whose ideas changed societies, is dead. Joseph Smith, who began the Latter-day Saint movement, is dead. Charles Taze Russell, who led Jehovah's Witnesses, is dead. Ellen G. White, who founded Seventh-day Adventism, is dead. Mary Baker Eddy, who established Christian Science, is dead. Xerxes, a great king, is dead. Alexander the Great is greatly dead. The Pharisees who shaped Talmudic Judaism are dead. The Caesars who ruled Rome are dead.

In contrast, the words of Matthew 28:1-10 proclaim a powerful truth: Jesus Christ died and rose from the dead. Jesus is alive. This resurrection is not just a story but the foundation of the Christian faith. It offers hope, victory, and life to all who believe. So let us explore the historical truth of Christ's resurrection in Matthew 28:1-10 and then try to understand why Christ rose from the dead, using other Bible passages to show its divine purpose and eternal meaning.

I. Christ Rose from the Dead (Matthew 28:1-10)

Matthew 28:1-10 describes the resurrection of Jesus Christ with clear details. There are at least eight things to notice in this passage.

1. Two women went early Sunday morning, not to see a resurrection but to see a tomb (Matt. 28:1). The story begins with two women, Mary Magdalene and another Mary, going to Jesus' tomb early on Sunday morning after the Sabbath.

They did not expect a resurrection. They went to see a tomb, likely to put spices on Jesus' body. Matthew 28:1 says, "Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb." Jesus had said He would rise from the dead (Matthew 16:21, Mark 9:31, Matthew 20:18-19, Matthew 12:40, John 2:19-21), but these women, who were close to Him, did not believe it yet. This shows how shocking the resurrection was. Imagine going to a funeral and finding the coffin empty, with the person alive and preaching. That is how surprising this event was.

2. The Lord sent an angel from heaven with earth shaking power to roll back the stone (Matt. 28:2). The story continues with a dramatic event: "And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it" (Matthew 28:2). This angel, sent by God, had great power and moved the heavy stone sealing Jesus' tomb. The angel did not move the stone to let Jesus out—Jesus did not need help. The stone was moved to show the empty tomb to the women and the Roman soldiers guarding it. This proved the resurrection was real. The angel sat on the stone, as if celebrating Christ's victory. Today, we might imagine the angel saying, "Look, my Lord is not here. He is alive, just as He said!"

3. The angel sent by the Lord was terrifying to behold, and the soldiers responded appropriately (Matt. 28:3-4). The angel looked frightening: "His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men" (Matthew 28:3-4). The angel's bright and powerful presence scared the Roman soldiers so much they froze, like dead men. The women came to see one dead man but found the living soldiers paralyzed by fear. This shows the resurrection was a supernatural event.

4. The angel sent by the Lord delivered the greatest news the two Marys had ever heard (Matt. 28:5-6). The angel spoke to the women: "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay" (Matthew 28:5-6). This is the heart of the story. The angel announced that Jesus had risen, just as He promised. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead was not an afterthought produced by His followers because of His sudden and untimely death. Jesus predicted it at least three times clearly (Matthew 16:21, Mark 9:31, Matthew 20:18-19) and twice in a more cryptic fashion (Matthew 12:40, John 2:19-21). The angel invited the women to see the empty tomb, proving the truth. The words "as he said" show Jesus' words were true and He had divine power.

5. The angel sent by the Lord then sent the two Marys to tell the other disciples that Christ had been raised (Matt. 28:7). The angel gave the women a task: "Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you" (Matthew 28:7). The women were sent to share the good news with Jesus' disciples, spreading the truth of the resurrection.

6. The two Marys departed to obey with fear and great joy (Matt. 28:8). The women obeyed: "So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy,

and ran to tell his disciples" (Matthew 28:8). They felt both fear, because of the angel's power, and great joy, because Jesus was alive. Their quick obedience shows how important this news was.

7. Jesus then appeared to the two Marys, He told them to rejoice, and they worshipped Him (Matt. 28:9). As the women left, Jesus appeared: "And behold, Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him" (Matthew 28:9). The word "Greetings" in Greek means "Rejoice!" Jesus exhorted them to be joyful. The women fell at His feet and worshiped Him, showing He was truly alive and divine.

8. Jesus calmed their fears and spurred them on to do the duty that had been given to them by God (Matt. 28:10). Jesus spoke again: "Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me'" (Matthew 28:10). He calmed their fears and repeated the angel's command to tell the disciples. This shows Jesus' care for His followers and His desire to spread the news of His resurrection.

This eyewitness testimony reveals the resurrection is a historical fact. But knowing it happened is not enough. We must understand why Jesus rose from the dead, and trust Him by faith.

II. Why Christ Rose from the Dead (Selected Scriptures)

The resurrection of Jesus Christ was not just an event; it had a divine purpose. Here are seven reasons why Christ rose from the dead, for God's glory and our good. Christ rose from the dead:

1. To Defeat Death (Romans 6:9)

Romans 6:9 says, "We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him." Jesus did not just escape the tomb; He conquered death. Revelation 1:17-18 adds, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades." Christians, your Savior has faced death and won. Death has no power over Him or you.

2. To Give Sinners New Life (1 Peter 1:3; Ephesians 2:4-6)

1 Peter 1:3 says, "According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." Jesus' resurrection gives sinners new spiritual life. Ephesians 2:4-6 explains, "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised

us up with him." Christians, Jesus changed your heart to love what is good and hate what is evil because He rose from the dead.

3. To Justify Believers (Romans 4:25)

Romans 4:25 says, "[Jesus] was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification." Jesus' resurrection proves God accepted His death as payment for our sins. It shows we are forgiven. Christians, you are righteous before God because Jesus is alive.

4. To Be Our Advocate (Romans 8:34)

Romans 8:34 says, "Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us." Jesus rose to plead for us before God. 1 John 2:1 adds, "If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." Hebrews 4:14-16 says Jesus understands our weaknesses and helps us pray boldly. Christians, your living Savior prays for you when you sin and supports you in hard times.

5. To Rule Over All (Ephesians 1:19-22)

Ephesians 1:19-22 says God raised Jesus and seated Him "far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet." Jesus rose to be King over everything. Christians, your resurrected King is your friend and Lord.

6. To Remove the Sting of Death (1 Corinthians 15:54-57)

1 Corinthians 15:54-57 says, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." Jesus took away death's power for believers. Christians, death is no longer scary; it leads to joy with Christ.

7. To Raise Us to Glory (Philippians 3:20-21)

Philippians 3:20-21 says, "Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body." Jesus rose to promise that He will raise believers' bodies to be glorious like His. Christians, nothing can stop Jesus from making you glorious like Him.

Conclusion: Courage Through the Living Christ

Brothers and sisters, take courage because Jesus is alive. He said to the two

Marys, "Do not be afraid" (Matthew 28:10), and He says it to you today. What do you have to fear, Christian? Because Jesus rose from the dead: Death's throat is slit and it is bleeding out; Sin is in Christ's crosshairs and its days are numbered; Suffering is a sanctifier; Persecution is preparation for glorification; Pain will soon give way to eternal pleasure; In the meantime, the same Spirit who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies; Your Advocate never sleeps yet ever stands at God's right hand to plead His blood for you; Your death with simply transport you to Christ's face and embrace; Your King and Redeemer will one day return to rid the world of sins and sufferings and sadness, when He consummates His kingdom.

Revelation 1:12-17 describes the risen Jesus: "I saw one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, 'Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.'"

This is your living Savior. Trust Him, worship Him, and live boldly for Him, knowing He has won the victory over death for you.
