



He Holds the Keys!

New Hope Community Church

John 20:1-10 / Revelation 1:12-18
Resurrection Sunday, March 31st, 2024

The eye witness of the Apostle John —

- At the Cross — _____
Why death brings an ache to our soul like nothing else —
 - _____ — **the living spirit departs from the body**
 - _____ — **no laughter, warmth, movement, conversation**
 - _____ — **impossible to reverse**
 - _____ — **the end of relationships**
 - _____ — **all of the above leads to soul wrenching grief**
 - _____ — **any dreams, desires, wishes — they are over!**
- At the Tomb — _____
 - **Mary's response** — _____ (Jn 20:2)
 - **John's response** — _____ **belief** (20:8)
 - "perceive" = a seeing that becomes _____ (20:9)
 - **The disciples' response** — _____ **unbelief** (Mk 16:11)
- First Appearance — _____ unbelief (Lk 24:36-45)
 - **They** _____ **what their eyes were seeing** (Lk 24:36,37)
 - **They had inner** _____ **(trouble) due to their doubt** 38
 - **Their great joy was a hindrance to an unshakeable** _____ (41)
 - **Jesus helped them to** _____ **the Scriptures** (24:45)
- Heavenly Appearance — Full _____ (Rv 1:12-18)
 - **Jesus' appearance was** _____ (12-17a)
 - **Jesus' words were absolute and** _____ (17b,18)
 - I am God (first & last) (Is 44:6)
 - I have conquered death
 - I possess eternal life
 - I have the keys to unlock the chains of death and judgment

Personal Reflection Where are you in this today?

- Entombed in the hopelessness of death?
- Pondering at the tomb, struggling to believe?
- Joyful unbelief — a faith that is shaky?
- Looking for His return as the Living God?

**I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore,
and I have the keys of death and of Hades.**
(Revelation 1:18)



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The eye witness of the Apostle John —

1. At the Cross — **Hopelessness**

Why death brings an ache to our soul like nothing else —

- **Separation** — the living spirit departs from the body
- **Hollowness** — no laughter, warmth, movement, conversation
- **Helplessness** — impossible to reverse
- **Finality** — the end of relationships
- **Sorrow** — all of the above leads to soul wrenching grief
- **Hopelessness** — any dreams, desires, wishes — they are over!

2. At the Tomb — **Struggle**

- **Mary's response** — **unbelief** (Jn 20:2)
- **John's response** — **visual belief** (20:8)
 - “perceive” = a seeing that becomes **knowing** (20:9)
- **The disciples' response** — **stubborn unbelief** (Mk 16:11)

3. First Appearance — **Joyful unbelief** (Lk 24:36-45)

- They **doubted** what their eyes were seeing (Lk 24:36,37)
- They had inner **turmoil** (trouble) due to their doubt 38
- Their great joy was a hindrance to an unshakeable **faith** (41)
- Jesus helped them to **understand** the Scriptures (24:45)

4. Heavenly Appearance — Full **Surrender** (Rv 1:12-18)

- **Jesus' appearance was overpowering** (12-17a)
- **Jesus' words were absolute and authoritative** (17b,18)
 - I am God (first & last) (Is 44:6)
 - I have conquered death
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