



THIS WEEK

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH, KAILUA KONA, HAWAII

events

Welcome! If you are new to Grace, or have a request or comment, please fill out a Connection Card on the back table in the Pavilion.

Ladies, our twice yearly **Silent Retreat** will be held on **April 22, 8:30am to 12:30pm** at the church. Contact Jeanne White for more information.

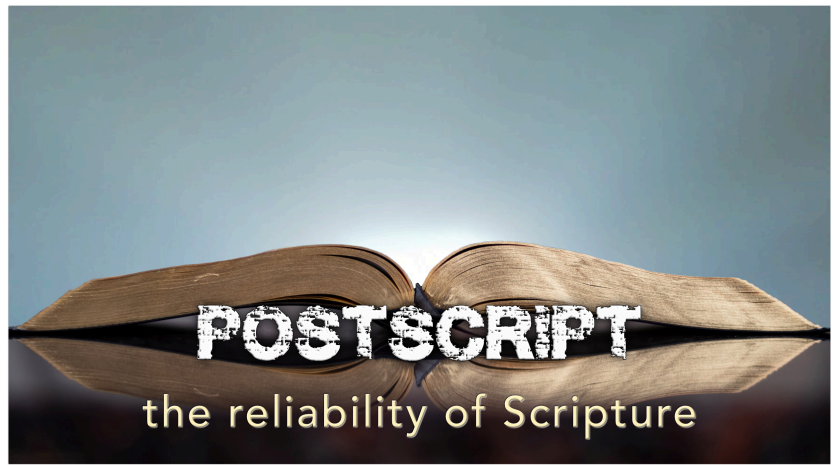
Our kids in **Nursery and Kids' Church** are having a blast Sunday mornings. Parents, please sign-in each child at the back table.

Middle School Students:
Wednesdays 4:30-6pm
High School Students:
Saturdays 5-7pm

The **Memorial Service for Les Salisbury** will be available on Facebook on **April 18 at noon**. Look for Barb's account at Barb Hoke Salisbury.

Ways to Give:

- Online securely on our website or app
- Giving box on Sundays
- Mail a check to the church



SERMON NOTES

Andrew Severinsen - the ending of Mark

The Ending of Mark: When we first come upon Mark's final chapter we need to try to read it as did the first readers.

- How has he brought to a close this gospel story?
- Has he included themes here that connect and complete the previous part of the story?
- What affect is produced on the reader as he/she comes to the concluding scene?

GRACE GROUP Discussion Questions

Reading Mark's resurrection account in comparison the other evangelists' resurrection accounts:

If Mark intended to end his gospel on this surprising note of verse 8... Mark's enigmatic story of Jesus leaves the women (and the disciples) in the same position as Mark's readers (then and now) — with the resurrection announcement and a call to faith and perseverance. How will they/you respond??

- The vindication of the Suffering Messiah
- A call to Faith and Perseverance

As with reading the gospels as a literary genre, we must always keep in mind that these were attempts at both recording history and at persuading their readers to believe in Jesus for eternal life. Those two prongs cannot be separated, and they both influence each other. Therefore, we should be able to find in the resurrection accounts a credible historical record of Jesus' resurrection, as well as find reason to believe in Jesus for eternal life.

Is the New Testament Reliable?

Teaching from Dr. Josh McDowell at Summit Ministries (Manitou Springs, CO) on August 8, 2019 — How do we know that the New Testament of the Bible is reliable? In this in-depth lecture, Josh McDowell explores the reasons we have for trusting the New Testament documents, including their accounts of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. <https://www.summit.org/resources/videos/is-the-new-testament-reliable/>

Sequence of Resurrection Appearances and Events

While we do not have all of the details to make an exhaustive reconciliation of the four gospel accounts of Jesus' resurrection appearances and the surrounding events, a plausible harmony of their versions is as follows:¹²²

- 1) A group of women come to the tomb near dawn, with Mary Magdalene possibly arriving first (Matt. 28:1; Mark 16:1-3; Luke 24:1; John 20:1).
- 2) Mary and the other women are met by two young men who actually are angels, one of whom acts as the spokesman and announces Jesus' resurrection (Matt. 28:2-7; Mark 16:4-7; Luke 24:2-7).
- 3) The women leave the garden with a mixture of fear and joy, at first unwilling to say anything but then resolving to report to the Twelve (Matt. 28:8; Mark 16:8). Mary Magdalene may have dashed on ahead, telling Peter and John in advance of the arrival of the other women (John 20:2).
- 4) Peter and John ran to the tomb, having heard the report by Mary Magdalene, and discover it to be empty (John 20:3-5; Luke 24:12).
- 5) Mary also returns to the tomb after Peter and John have left, and she sees the angels. Jesus then appears to Mary, although at first she supposed him to be a gardener (John 20:11-18).
- 6) Jesus meets the remaining women and confirms their commission to tell the disciples, with the reminder of his promise of meeting them in Galilee. The women obey (Matt. 28:9-10; Luke 24:8-11).
- 7) Perhaps at midday, Jesus appears to Cleopas and his unnamed companion on the road to Emmaus. They return to Jerusalem to tell the Eleven (Luke 24:13-35; Mark 16:12-13).
- 8) Later that afternoon Jesus appears to Peter individually, in or near Jerusalem on the Sunday afternoon of the resurrection day (Luke 24:34; 1 Cor. 15:5).
- 9) That same resurrection Sunday evening, Jesus appears to the ten disciples (the Twelve minus Judas and Thomas) and others behind locked doors in the upper room in Jerusalem (Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-25).
- 10) Sunday evening a week later Jesus appears to the eleven at the same place in Jerusalem, with Thomas now present (John 20:24-31; 1 Cor. 15:5; Mark 16:14).
- 11) Perhaps three days later Jesus appears to seven of the disciples beside the Sea of Galilee (John 21:1-14).
- 12) Jesus appears to the apostles as well as about 500 brethren in the hills of Galilee (1 Cor 15:6). Further appearances take place over a forty-day period (Lk 24:44-47; Acts 1:3; 1 Cor. 15:6).
- 13) Probably during this time in Galilee, Jesus appears to James, his half-brother (1 Cor. 15:7).
- 14) Jesus gives his climactic Great Commission to the Eleven (and other?) on a mountain in Galilee, commanding them to make disciples throughout the world (Matt. 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-18).
- 15) Back in the Jerusalem area, Jesus gives his parting instructions to the disciples to await the coming Holy Spirit. He ascends into heaven near Bethany on the Mount of Olives, outside of Jerusalem (Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1:4-12; Mark 16:19-20).

¹²² This reconstruction is suggested in the fine book by John Wenham, *Easter Enigma: Are the Resurrection Accounts in Conflict?* (1984; 2d ed.; Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992), p. 139 and passim. For a similar reconstruction see Blomberg, *Jesus and the Gospels*, pp. 354-55, and Walvoord, *Jesus Christ our Lord*, p. 239.

April 11, 2021