

OUT OF THE GRAVE

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Matthew 27:51-54; 28:1-7

Churches worldwide we focus on this moment in human history which is central to our foundational doctrine... the Resurrection.

Resurrection is different from resuscitation. Resurrecting is putting on a new glorified body. A reality of the promise of Christ that will we be raised have these eternal bodies either to live eternally in Heaven or in Hell. Ancient Jews understood the reality of the resurrection.

Daniel 12:2. There is one for the saved and one for the cursed

Revelation 20:4. This should change the way we live now. We were meant to be eternal. This is the objective truth... historically accurate truth with eye witness testimony. This is the reality of what our faith tests on. This event proves that Jesus is God and that He is the only way to God. I Corinthians 15:12-19. The empty tomb completed and confirms the reality of the death/crucifixion and the forgiveness of sins. We get so focused on the cross and the suffering that we forget the power of the Resurrection that brings life and change and hope. We need to not only live a crucified life, but a Resurrected life. This means having a life of freedom now.

Matthew 27:51-53 translated directly from the Greek... the believers who had died. We see a picture of what will come in the future for us.

1. The graves were opened... the rooms were literally split open. The earth reacted to what was spiritual... there was an earthquake at the death of Christ in the cross. The curse of the Law was abolished, the warning and striving and trying to be perfect without coming to the realization that there needs to be a relationship with the living God.

When the veil was torn, a way was made to come to the Father. When we are saved, the grave of your own life is split open and broken. 2 Corinthians 5:17. You now have access to the Father. There is nothing that we did to earn this.

2. Jesus rose first. The old saints did not come out of those tombs until Christ was first raised. He had to be the first. This confirmed the power of death being demolished I Corinthians 15:20-26

3. They followed Jesus out of the graveyard. Just like when we die to our own selves, we don't stay there, we must follow Jesus into a Resurrection power. They actually went... they chose to follow Jesus out of the grave. Ezekiel 37:12-13. They didn't look back to the

broken graveyard, but moved forward into what they were called to do. Luke 9:62; Isaiah 39:16. Arise oh sleeper. We tend remain in graves of unforgiveness... in the tombs of our past. Follow Him into life and resurrecting power

Follow Him to become Fishers of Men.

4. They were seen by many. This is a glimpse of the Great Commission. God chose his people. It confirmed the power and reality of Jesus raising from the dead. We need to be seen and heard as people who have been spiritually resurrected from the dead.

The point of this scripture is to foreshadow what is coming next for us... the return of Jesus Christ. John 5:25-29. There will be two Resurrections one of life and one of judgement.

Do not be stuck in the torment of the graveyard...a place of defeat. Live in the power of the Resurrection and in freedom. Get out of the tomb. Stop hanging around the cemetery, continuing to live in you addictions and sin. Know that there is Resurrection power and life in Christ. Walk in the risen life. You have a new life and can walk in freedom...a resurrected life. You have to choose to get out of the tomb and follow Him. No one will drag you from the tomb. Once you leave the grave, you do not have to go back.