

RESURRECTION

A landscape photograph showing a large body of water with numerous small islands or peninsulas extending into it. The water reflects the warm colors of a sunset or sunrise. In the background, dark silhouettes of mountains are visible against a sky transitioning from deep blue to orange and yellow near the horizon.

PART THREE: EARLY ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK

A wide-angle photograph of a sunset over a body of water, likely a lake or fjord. The sky is a gradient from deep blue at the top to a warm orange and yellow near the horizon. Silhouettes of distant mountains are visible against the bright sky. In the foreground, the dark silhouette of land or islands is reflected in the calm water.

JOHN 20

- "When I hear news of Jesus I will run, not walk"
- "When duty calls, it cannot wait until a more convenient time"
- "Nothing occupies my thinking more than Jesus"
- "Even though I do not currently understand entirely, I will continue seeking knowledge"
- "I will not let one bump in the road end my journey"
- "Seeking Jesus is more than a casual hobby, but a consuming fire in my heart"

- It should be acknowledged that the four resurrection accounts offer different perspectives on the same story. It is even said by skeptics that they are contradictory. So how do we resolve the apparent conflicts?
- Take the women witnesses, for example. Mark 16:1 states that a woman named Salome was also at the empty tomb, along with the two Marys. John 20:1, however, says that Mary was there, while the account in Matthew only includes the two Marys. Which one was right? In fact, all of them. Luke 24:10 states that there were actually several women who were eye witnesses to the empty tomb.
- Admittedly, a few differences require some effort to resolve, but none represent true contradictions.

DIFFERENT STORIES?

THE EMPTY TOMB AS A STATEMENT

- Even the enemies of Jesus understood what an empty tomb would mean. Certainly, they did not accept the possibility that anything He said was valid or believable, but they knew what a statement it would be (Matt. 28:11-15).
- The resurrection continued to be the most controversial element of the faith, leading to ridicule (Acts 17:32) and scoffing (Acts 26:22-24). It ignited open conflict from those who could not tolerate it (Acts 23:6). This naturally leads to the next question: was the whole thing just fabricated?



A HISTORICAL FACT

- The resurrection account has all the markers of verifiable historical fact. First, it is attested by multiple, early sources (Mark's source material, as well as Paul's, and the other gospels at a later date).
- It lacks embellishment, such as with the so-called Gospel of Peter.
- It relies on the witness of women, which actually bolsters its credibility.
- The disciples had little incentive to fabricate the resurrection, which would not be supported by common beliefs of the time anyway.



SO WHAT'S THE POINT OF
THE RESURRECTION?

- If Jesus had not been raised, what would we be left with? A martyr? A fraud? The disciples would have been dispersed, like the followers of every other false messiah and Jesus of Nazareth would have been a footnote in history.
- Yet His death, burial, and resurrection paved the way for my salvation. I share in the process, become one with Him, experience it tangibly through baptism, and enjoy the hope of my own resurrection!