

John 20 - Jesus Christ's Resurrection

CHRIST'S RESURRECTION FORESHADOWED IN EDEN

In **Genesis 2:18** we read, "The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." (NIV) In Eden, God placed Adam in a **garden** to "dress it and keep it." **2:15** The first Adam was a **gardener**. But he was **alone** and God provided one compatible with him. God placed Adam in a deep sleep. When Adam woke up he was presented to Eve, his bride.

Jesus, the second Adam, was **alone** on the cross. We have seen that in his final moments, he is longing for the **living waters**, the **paradise** of God. He is longing to be one with the ecclesia whom he prayed for in **John 17**. His **side is then pierced** that a bride may be prepared. Jesus is then placed into a "deep sleep". At the tomb we have the **second Adam** waking out of his deep sleep to be presented (in symbol) to his bride! A healed Mary Magdalene represents **us**, the Bride of Christ. She was healed of "seven demons" (**Lk 8:2**, most likely mental illness), therefore **appreciated** him so much. Christ reveals himself to Mary Magdalene because of her **absolute devotion** and **self-sacrificial love** for him. **Nothing else mattered** to her except service to her Lord. This is how we should be. This is one of, if not the, greatest lesson of **John 20**.

At his resurrection, Mary seeks her Lord and finds two angels at the sepulchre. Mary then sees Jesus, thinking he is the **gardener!** In fact **he is** the gardener. The **garden** is God's family, the bride of Christ, whom Christ loves and tends. In **Rev 1:13; 2:1** Christ walks in the **midst** of the lampstands, the ecclesias. Lampstands (in the tabernacle and Solomon's temple) were stylised **trees** engraved with almond blossoms (**Ex 25:33**). Today Jesus Christ is walking in **the midst of the trees**, preparing us to heal the nations. The very ecclesia promised this (in **Rev 2:7**) is Ephesus, who had **lost its first love!** Mary's love for her Lord was a model for them and us:

Song 3:1-4 "I will rise now, and go about the city in the streets, and in the broad ways I will seek **him whom my soul loveth**: I sought him, but I found him not. The watchmen that go about the city found me: to whom I said, Saw ye **him whom my soul loveth**? It was but a little that I passed from them, but I found **him whom my soul loveth**, I held him and would not let him go."

Jesus responds, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father" (**Jn 20:17** ESV). The Marriage of the Lamb had not yet come. Mary depicts beautifully the love of Christ's bride, with the loving desire **we must have** for our Lord. The time is coming where those who search for their Lord **will** cling to him and not let him go.

THE MOST HOLY PLACE OPENED

As Mary looked into the tomb she saw 2 angels sitting, one at the **head** and one at the **feet** of where Jesus' body had lain. Here is a pattern of the ark, the mercy seat in the Most Holy Place. It was as if the veil had been rent from top to bottom! The way to immortality had been opened! In **Revelation 21** Christ's bride, New Jerusalem, is depicted as a perfect cube (**21:16**), a replica of the Most Holy Place: **Ex 26:16; 1 Kgs 6:28**. Here is depicted the **perfect love of God**: **Eph 3:17-20; Heb 9:3-11**. The tabernacle (and temple) taught of God's purpose to **dwell in us**, Christ's bride (**Ex 25:8**), **to fill the earth with His glory**: **Num 14:21; Psalms 72:19**. Mary represents the **paradise** of God, Christ's glorified ecclesia, whom he longed for on the cross, out of which will flow **rivers of living water**.

EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO CHRIST'S BURIAL

Mt 27:62-66 - Chief priests, Pharisees go to Pilate warning that he said he would rise on the third day. Pilate commands the tomb be sealed. **Mk 16:1** - Women purchase spices. **Lk 23:56** - Spices, ointments prepared before sabbath. **Mt 28:1-15** - The 2 Marys visit the tomb, an earthquake, Christ's resurrection. Chief priests bribe soldiers. The deception and delusion of human nature! They knew it was Divine! Consider these Scriptures in light of his resurrection:

Psa 31:5 "Into thy hand I commit my spirit: **thou has redeemed me**, O Yahweh God of truth" **Psa 22:21** "Save me from the lion's mouth: for **thou hast heard me...**" **Psa 17:15** "I shall behold your face in righteousness, **when I awake**, I shall be satisfied with your likeness." **Psa 18:17-19** "He **rescued me** from my strong enemy and from those who hated me... They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but Yahweh was my support. He brought me out into a broad place; he **rescued me**, because he delighted in me."

20:1-18 MARY MAGDALENE AT THE TOMB

Parallel record: Mt 28:1-15; Mk 16:2-13; Lk 24:1-35.

Note: Lk 24:13-35 is the incredible story from the road to Emmaus.

v1 Mary Magdalene: Of Magdala, a hard-hearted town: **Mk 8:10-12**. He appears first to her: **Mk 16:9** **Yet dark**: It was at the "rising of the sun" **Mk 16:2** Appears to have been earlier than the rest, and left quickly to go to Peter and John. **v2 Whom Jesus loved**: Here *phileo*, also seems to include Peter. Note: **Jn 16:27 phileo**. Expression in **Jn 13:23; 21:7,20** (*agape*). Shows John's character. **They have taken**: i.e. his enemies who may desecrate the body. **The Lord**: Though lifeless he is still "Lord" to her, a deep respect. **v5 Stooping down**: To intensely look. Same word in **1 Pet 1:12; Jas 1:25. Linen clothes**: Would thieves really stop to unwind the body? Lazarus came forth in grave clothes: **Jn 11:14. Went not in**: Probably struck with awe and fear. Records this of himself! **v7 Wrapped together**: Means "folded up" (Roth). As when Joseph wraps his body in linen: **Mt 27:59, Lk 23:53**. Thieves wouldn't do this. **v8 Saw and believed**: **Jn 8:56** John was convinced He is risen, yet he knows not the importance of it.

v9 Knew not the Scripture: Expressly taught, e.g. **Psa 16:10**. Later they fully comprehended: **Acts 2:24-27; 13:34-35. Must rise**: His holiness demanded it: **Rom 1:4**. A doctrinal necessity: **1 Cor 15:17. v11 Stood without weeping**: In single devotion to the object of her love: "I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me." **Prov 8:17**. Nothing else mattered to her. Imagine being so preoccupied with Christ's coming that nothing distracts us. **She stooped**: As John did: **20:5. v12 Two angels in white**: These frightened the other women: **Lk 24:5**. Not even the sight of angels distracts her! That's how devoted she is to her Lord. **Head ...Feet**: Yahweh of Armies sitting between the Cherubim: **Psa 99:1-5 "under the shadow of the Almighty"**. Similar to the Most Holy Place, cp. **Psa 139:8**.

v13 Taken away my Lord: She still considers the dead body as her "Lord." **v14 Turned away**: Even angels make no impression on her, she remains pre-occupied. **Knew not it was Jesus**: Her deep grief, tear filled eyes, she is not expecting his resurrection. God may have hid him like **Lk 24:16. v15 Whom seekest**: Jesus knew she had lost someone, not something. Contrast: **Jn 1:38**.



Gardener: Jesus **is** the gardener, the one who tends and cares for the ecclesia: **Psa 1:1-3; Song 4:12-13; 5:1; 51:3; 55:12-13; 58:11; 61:1-3,10-11; Lk 13:19; Rev 1:13; 2:7. I will take him away**: Incredible! Not considering the difficulty! She is riveted on him alone. **Important lesson**: Imagine if neither empty tombs, angels, family troubles, illness, loss of friends, criticism etc. could stand in our way of our love for Christ! **v16 Mary**: Familiar voice of a shepherd. Knows sheep by name: **Jn 10:3-4,14. Saith unto him**: Close relationship: **Acts 26:14**. Entirely pure. **Rabboni: Mk 10:51 "great master". v17 Touch me not**: Lit. "do not continue to cling" **Not yet ascended**: As high priest: **Heb 2:14-18**. Marriage to his bride will come later: **Rev 19:7**. Neville Clark says, "There's the relationship that Mary had with the Lord Jesus Christ, like the bride to the groom. Do you think the Lord knew that? Of course he did. Who else could he appear to first, when you read **John 20** in the context of **Song of Solomon 3**? This is the quintessential example of the bride of Christ." **My brethren**: Though they fled, he "is not ashamed to call them brethren" **Heb 2:11** cp. **Psa 22:22**.

Note: Between Jn 20:18 and 19 are **Mk 16:12-13; Lk 24:13-35**.

Lk 24:25-27 Jesus said, "O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself"

Consider the words of **Song 5:5-6** in light of **Lk 24:13-16,31-32**. Then consider Jesus' words in **Rev 3:18 "anoint thine eyes..."**

20:19-31 APPEARANCE TO THE APOSTLES

Parallel record: Mk 16:14; Mk 24:36-48. This first appearance was on the day of resurrection: **Jn 20:19; Lk 24:21,33**. Second appearance was 8 days later when Thomas is present: **Jn 20:24-29**. Third appearance on the shore of Galilee (Tiberius): **Jn 21:14**.

Appearances of Jesus after his Resurrection:

To Mary Magdalene: **Jn 20:14; Mk 16:9**; to the other women: **Mt 28:9**; to Peter: **1 Cor 15:5; Lk 24:34**; to 2 disciples on the way to Emmaus: **Mk 16:12-13; Lk 24:13-32**; same evening to apostles in absence of Thomas: **1 Cor 15:5; Mk 16:14; Lk 24:36; Jn 20:19-24**; to the apostles 8 days later with Thomas: **Jn 20:24-29**; by Sea of Galilee to Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James, John, two other disciples: **Jn 21:1-14**; to apostles on mountain in Galilee: **Mt 28:16**; to more than 500 brethren at once: **1 Cor 15:6**; to James his half-brother: **1 Cor 15:7**; Forty days with apostles: **Acts 1:3; 1 Cor 15:7**; to apostles at his ascension: **Lk 24:50-51; Acts 1:9-10**; Last of all he appeared to Paul: **1 Cor 15:8; Acts 9:3-5; 22:6-10**.

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