

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

Outline

- A. Luke told about the empty tomb where the body of Jesus had lain (1-12).
1. The women found it empty (1-7).
 - a) Time: First day of the week at early dawn as they brought spices which they had prepared.
 - b) Evidence:
 - (1) The stone was rolled away, but the body of Jesus was not there.
 - (2) Angels asked, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"
 - (3) The angels declared that He had risen as He said.
 2. The women reported it to the apostles (8-11).
 - a) Their reason: They remembered His words about the resurrection.
 - b) Their names: Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and others.
 - c) The reaction of the apostles: Idle talk; they didn't believe it.
 3. The apostle Peter inspected the empty tomb (12) .
- B. Luke told how Jesus appeared to the two on the way to Emmaus (13-35).
1. The circumstances (13-24).
 - a) The two were talking about the crucifixion (13-14).
 - b) Jesus joined them, but they didn't recognize Him (15-16).
 - c) He asked what they were talking about; they were astonished that He didn't know (17-18).
 - d) They reviewed the report of the resurrection of Jesus (19-24).
 - (1) The fact of the crucifixion of Jesus the Nazarene, a mighty prophet.
 - (2) The hope that He would redeem Israel.
 - (3) The evidence presented by the women: empty tomb; angels said He had risen.
 - (4) The investigation which confirmed the fact that the tomb was empty, but Jesus was not seen.

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

2. The explanation of the Scriptures (25-27). Jesus explained to the two what was written about His death and resurrection.
 3. The Risen Lord revealed (28-32).
 - a) Jesus accepted the hospitality of the two at Emmaus; He blessed the bread and gave it to them.
 - b) As He did so, they recognized Him, but He vanished from their sight.
 - c) Their hearts burned as they recalled His explanation of the Scriptures.
 4. The report to the eleven in Jerusalem (33-35).
 - a) They went to Jerusalem and found the eleven.
 - b) The apostles said to them, "The Lord is risen indeed; He has appeared to Simon."
 - c) They told how He was revealed to them in the breaking of the bread.
- C. Luke told of His appearing to the eleven (36-49).
1. The evidence that proved it was He (36-43).
 - a) The circumstances (36-38).
 - (1) He stood in their midst and said, "Peace unto you."
 - (2) They were frightened, thinking it was a spirit.
 - (3) He asked, "Why do questions arise in your hearts?"
 - b) The evidence (39-43).
 - (1) He told them to both see and handle the evidence of His hands and feet; this couldn't be a spirit.
 - (2) He actually ate the broiled fish they gave Him.
 2. The Scriptures that had foretold His death and resurrection (44-47).
 - a) He reminded them that He had told them that all that was written in the Law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms about Him would be fulfilled.
 - b) He summed up what the Scriptures said about Him.
 - (1) The Christ must suffer and rise the third day.
 - (2) Repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations beginning from *Jerusalem*.
 3. The Great Commission according to Luke (48-49).
 - a) You are witnesses of these things.
 - b) I send forth the promise of my Father upon you.

c) Wait in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.

D. Luke gave a brief account of the ascension of Jesus (50-53).

1. Place: Over against Bethany.
2. Blessing: He lifted up His hands and blessed them.
3. Ascension: He was carried up into heaven.
4. Worship: The disciples worshipped Him and returned to Jerusalem with joy and were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Empty Tomb

Scripture

24:1-12 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came unto the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared. 2 And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. 3 And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 And it came to pass, while they were perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel: 5 and as they were affrighted and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, 7 saying that the Son of man must be delivered up into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. 8 And they remembered his words, 9 and returned from the tomb, and told all these things to the eleven, and to all the rest. 10 Now they were Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James: and the other women with them told these things unto the apostles. 11 And these words appeared in their sight as idle talk; and they disbelieved them. 12 But Peter arose, and ran unto the tomb; and stooping and looking in, he seeth the linen cloths by themselves; and he departed to his home, wondering at that which was come to pass.

Comments

They came to the tomb.—All four Gospel writers present conclusive evidence that Jesus actually died on the cross. They also present conclusive evidence that He was actually raised from the dead.

The first point is that the tomb where His body had lain was

found empty on the first day of the week by the women who came to complete the burial arrangements. It is evident that they had not anticipated this, for they were wondering who would roll away the stone from the entrance to the tomb. Roman soldiers had been guarding it to prevent anything happening to it until after the third day. The chief priests and Pharisees had said to Pilate, "Sir, we remember that that deceiver said while he was yet alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Command, therefore, that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day lest haply his disciples come and steal him away and tell the people that he is risen from the dead and the last error shall be worse than the first." Pilate gave them a guard and told them to make it as sure as they could (Matt. 23: 63-65).

Seeing the stone rolled away, the women entered the tomb but did not find the body of Jesus. In their perplexity, they were startled by two angels who said, "Why seek ye the living among the dead?" These heavenly messengers were the first to announce that He was alive. At long last, His disciples were beginning to see what He meant when He told them that He would be delivered up into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise again.

The women hurried away to tell the good news to the eleven and the others. Mary Magdalene was one of those women. She had been faithful throughout Jesus' ministry. She was present as He died on the cross. She was among the first to hear the heavenly announcement, "He is risen from the dead."

as idle talk.—The apostles couldn't believe it; it was just idle talk, for they knew that He had died on the cross. But their attitude constitutes one of the strong points in the proof of the resurrection of Jesus. They had failed to understand His prediction, partly, no doubt, because of their concept of His kingdom. The idea of a spiritual kingdom—a kingdom that was not of this world—had never crossed their minds. There was no place for a cross in their concept of the kingdom.

They didn't believe that Jesus had risen until forced to do so by indisputable evidence. After they had investigated the evidence and had become convinced beyond a doubt that He was alive again, they did not hesitate to risk their lives to proclaim the Risen Lord. When commanded by the Jews not to do so, they said, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to harken unto you rather than unto

God judge ye for we cannot but speak the things which we saw and heard" (Acts 4:19-20).

We may think it strange that the enemies of Jesus remembered the prediction of His death while His disciples did not. His enemies were interested in one thing only: His destruction. They rejoiced over the fact that He died on thir cross. They did everything possible to make sure that no one remove the body from the tomb. But when the tomb was found empty, they felt compelled to explain it somehow. So they bribed the soldiers and told them to say that while they were asleep His disciples came and stole away the body. They promised that if this should come to the ears of the governor they would clear the soldiers.

Unbelievers have made many attempts to explain that empty tomb. But none of them have improved the fabricated tale told by the Pharisees. No court at any time or any place would accept testimony from a witness who openly admitted that he had been asleep when the incident being investigated had occurred.

but Peter arose and ran to the tomb.—Even though the story of the women seemed as idle talk, there was something in that made Peter hasten to investigate for himself. When he did, he found every item of the account to be correct. The tomb was empty; the body of Jesus was not there. He returned home wondering what had come to pass.

The Appearance on the Way to Emmaus

Scripture

24:13-35 And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was threescore furlongs from Jerusalem. 14 And they communed with each other of all these things which had happened. 15 And it came to pass, while they communed and questioned together, that Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. 16 But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. 17 And he said unto them, What communications are these that ye have one with another, as ye walk? And they stood still, looking sad. 18 And one of them, named Cleopas, answering said unto him, Dost thou alone sojourn in Jerusalem and not know the things which are come to pass there in these days? 19 And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, The things concerning Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before

God and all the people: 20 and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. 21 But we hoped that it was he who should redeem Israel. Yea and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things came to pass. 22 Moreover certain women of our company amazed us, having been early at the tomb; 23 and when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. 24 And certain of them that were with us went to the tomb, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not. 25 And he said unto them, O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Behooved it not the Christ to suffer these things, and to enter into his glory? 27 And beginning from Moses and from all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. 28 And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they were going: and he made as though he would go further. 29 And they constrained him, saying, Abide with us; for it is toward evening, and the day is now far spent. And he went in to abide with them. 30 And it came to pass, when he had sat down with them to meat, he took the bread and blessed; and breaking it he gave to them. 31 And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. 32 And they said one to another, Was not our heart burning within us, while he spake to us in the way, while he opened to us the scriptures? 33 And they rose up that very hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, 34 saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon. 35 And they rehearsed the things that happened in the way, and how he was known of them in the breaking of the bread.

Comments

a village named Emmaus.—The village was in the vicinity of Jerusalem. It will be forever remembered because of what happened to two of Jesus' disciples as they journeyed toward it on that resurrection day. As they talked about the death of Jesus and the report of the women that He was alive, Jesus drew near and went with them. They didn't recognize Him, for "their eyes were holden that they should no know him." Were they blind to His presence because of their knowledge of His death? The Stranger wanted to know about the things they were talking about. The disciples, their

grief showing on their faces, said, "Are you the only one in Jerusalem who does not know what has come to pass in these days?"

Then they told the story of Jesus the Nazarene who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people. They told about His crucifixion and said, "We had hoped that He would be the one to redeem Israel." Everyone was longing for the restoration of Israel to a place of dignity among the nations of the world. They thought this Son of David would surely be the one to make their dream come true, but that hope died at the cross.

and besides all this.—Three days had gone by since the death of the Prophet. The report was out that He had been seen alive. Was the light of hope beginning to show on the faces of these Emmaus disciples? They told the Stranger about those who had investigated and confirmed the report.

foolish men and slow of heart to believe.—Jesus chided them for being slow to believe all that the prophets had spoken. He said it was necessary for Christ to suffer and enter into His glory. That was the message of the Scriptures, was it not? Then He explained all that was written in the Scriptures about Himself. What a privilege those disciples had to listen to that message! The book of Matthew covers this very same material showing how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies about Messiah.

abide with us.—The disciples couldn't let the Stranger go on; they invited Him to stay with them for the night. As they sat at the table, the Stranger took bread and broke it and gave it to them. Their Guest did this; but they had seen Him do it before. Their eyes were opened and they knew that it was the Risen Lord. In that moment of recognition, He vanished from their sight.

was not our heart burning within us.—The story of the Scriptures stirred their hearts as nothing else could have done. It is still the most thrilling story known to man. There are millions whose hearts would be thrilled today if only someone would tell them of the Savior who died and arose that they might have eternal life.

that very hour.—The two had made the long walk from Jerusalem to Emmaus. The conviction that they had actually seen the Risen Lord banished all thought of being tired. They arose and hurried back to Jerusalem to share the good news with the eleven. There they discovered that the evidence of His resurrection was piling up, for the apostles said, "The Lord is risen indeed and has appeared to Simon."

Luke does not record all the appearances of Jesus. Some of them recorded by others are: (1) The appearance to the eleven when Thomas was absent and again when he was with the group (John 20:19-31; I Cor. 15:6). (2) The appearance at the sea of Tiberias (John 21:1-23). (3) The appearance to the five hundred at one time (I Cor. 15:6). (4) The appearance in the mountain in Galilee when Jesus gave the Great Commission (Matt. 28:16-20). (5) The appearance to James (I Cor. 15:7).

Luke summarized all this evidence in his second letter to Theophilus in these words: "to whom he also showed himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing unto them by the space of forty days, and speaking the things concerning the kingdom of God" (Acts 1:3).

Jesus' Appearance to the Eleven

Scripture

24:36-49 And as they spake these things, he himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. 37 But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they beheld a spirit. 38 And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and wherefore do questionings arise in your heart? 39 See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye behold me having. 40 And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. 41 And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, he said unto them. Have ye here anything to eat? 42 And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish. 43 And he took it, and ate before them.

44 And he said unto them, These are my words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must needs be fulfilled, which are written in the law of Moses, and the prophets, and the psalms, concerning me. 45 Then opened he their mind, that they might understand the scriptures; 46 and he said unto them, Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer, and rise again from the dead the third day; 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name unto all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 Ye are witnesses of these things. 49 And behold, I send forth the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city, until ye be clothed with power from on high.

Comments

He himself stood in the midst of them.—He said, "Peace be unto you." But the terrified disciples thought that they were beholding a spirit. Important evidence of the resurrection is revealed in this appearance. Jesus told the disciples to see His hands and feet for themselves. Thomas, on one occasion, said he would not believe unless he could see the prints of the nails in His hands and put his hand into the wound in Jesus' side. Jesus gave him the opportunity to do that very thing. When Thomas saw it, he said, "My Lord and my God."

Their joy over what they had heard and seen still kept them from believing what their eyes told them was true. Then Jesus took a piece of broiled fish and ate it in their presence. That convinced them that He was not a spirit, but the Risen Lord. See also John's comment in I John 1:1-4.

these are my words.—Jesus had reviewed the Scriptures about His death and resurrection for the Emmaus disciples. He repeated it for the group in Jerusalem, reminding them that all that had been written in the Law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms about Him had to be fulfilled. He helped them to understand the Scriptures by saying, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead on the third day and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name unto all the nations beginning from Jerusalem." This message of Christ is the central theme of the Bible. When the apostles preached the Word, they preached Christ. They did not hesitate to declare that in none other is there salvation, for neither is there any other name under heaven that is given among men wherein we must be saved (Acts 4:12).

beginning from Jerusalem.—The crucifixion had taken place at Jerusalem. The evidence that proved His resurrection had been presented at Jerusalem. The preaching of the gospel that was based on these facts was to begin in Jerusalem also. The eleven, and Matthias, all of whom were eye-witness of these facts, began their ministry of preaching and teaching on the Day of Pentecost immediately after they were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

the promise of the Father.—That was the promise that the Holy Spirit would be sent to enable them to bear accurate testimony concerning that which they had seen and heard. They were to wait in Jerusalem until they received that power from on high.

*The Ascension of Jesus**Scripture*

24:50-53 And he led them out until they were over against Bethany: and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. 51 And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: 53 and were continually in the temple, blessing God.

Comments

And he led them out.—He was soon to be taken from them, but He would continue to lead them through the Holy Spirit. He had promised the apostles that the Holy Spirit would guide them into all the truth (John 16:13-14).

and blessed them.—He had blessed them on other occasions; just before leaving them, He blessed them again. The memory of that blessing was to remain with them through their sufferings as they carried out the Great Commission, for He had promised to be with them always, even to the end of the age.

and was carried up into heaven.—In his second letter to Theophilus, Luke says that Jesus was taken up from the disciples and a cloud received Him from their sight. Heavenly messengers stood beside them with the encouraging word, "He will return again as you beheld Him taken up from you into heaven."

and they worshipped him.—The resurrection had convinced them that He was both the Son of Man and the Son of God. As He departed from them, they worshipped Him. Indeed, from that time on, their lives were a living sacrifice of real worship to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Their joy knew no limit. They returned to Jerusalem to await the day, not far distant, when they would begin the proclamation of the gospel. They were continually in the temple praising God while waiting for the signal to begin their world-wide mission for Christ.

In a very real sense, the story does not end here. A great climax was reached on the Day of Pentecost as the apostles preached the first sermon in that campaign. The three thousand who reversed the decision they had made at the trial got themselves baptized in the name of Christ for the remission of sins. They continued stead-

fastly in the apostles teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and the prayers (Acts 2:38-42).

The story ends with the triumphant coming of Christ to receive His own unto Himself that they may be with Him always. Even so, "Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with the saints. Amen." Revelation 22:20-21.

Summary

Wicked men crucified Jesus at Calvary. There is abundant evidence that He actually died. There is equally positive proof that He arose from the dead.

The women found the tomb empty; the body of Jesus was not there. Angels announced that He was alive. With the startling news, the women hurried away to tell the apostles who thought it was idle talk. Peter investigated and found the tomb empty just as the women had said.

During the period of forty days between the resurrection and ascension, Jesus appeared to the disciples by many certain proofs. They saw Him, they heard Him explain the Scriptures, they touched Him, and they saw Him eat a piece of broiled fish in their presence. Not only were the Emmaus disciples convinced that He was alive, but also all of the eleven. At one time, more than five-hundred had seen Him alive.

The Risen Lord summed up the Scriptures about the Christ by saying, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer, and rise again from the dead the third day; and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name unto all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem."

Having fully demonstrated the fact of His resurrection, and having instructed the apostles as to their duties, He led them out until they were near Bethany. Then He lifted up His hands and blessed them and was carried up into heaven.

Heavenly messengers had announced the birth of the Christ; now angels told the apostles that He was coming again.

"Now the God of peace, who brought again from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep with the blood of an eternal covenant, even our Lord Jesus, make you perfect in every good thing to do his will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen." (Heb. 13:20-21).

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

Questions

1. On what day did the resurrection occur?
2. What precautions had the Jews taken to prevent anything happening to the body until after the third day? Why?
3. What did the women find when they came to the tomb?
4. What did angels tell them?
5. Who were some of the women at the tomb?
6. What did the apostles think of their report?
7. Why did Peter investigate it?
8. What evidential value is there in the fact that the enemies remembered Jesus' predictions of His resurrection while the disciples did not?
9. What evidence did Peter discover at the tomb?
10. Where was Emmaus?
11. What were the two disciples talking about?
12. Why didn't they recognize Jesus when He joined them?
13. What had they hoped for in Jesus?
14. What did Jesus say to them?
15. Why did they ask Him to abide with them?
16. How was He made known to them?
17. What did they mean by saying that their heart burned as He had spoken to them?
18. What did they do immediately after He was revealed to them?
19. What are some of the other appearances not recorded by Luke?
20. How did Luke summarize his report of the proofs of the resurrection?
21. Under what circumstances did He appear to the eleven?
22. What was their reaction? Why?
23. How did they become convinced that Jesus had actually been raised from the dead?
24. How did He help them to understand the Scriptures?
25. Why did He order them to begin their ministry in Jerusalem?
26. What is meant by the promise of the Father?
27. Where did the ascension take place?
28. What did the heavenly messengers say to the wondering disciples?
29. What did the disciples do at the time of the ascension?
30. Where did they await the fulfillment of the promise of the Father?