

Round Top Church Christian Fellowship

The Week After the Resurrection

We are Living Witnesses

April 23th, 2017 A.D.

The Year of Our Lord

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(All Scripture is from the New American Standard Bible, unless otherwise noted.)

Seven days have gone by since the Lord has risen. The world is just figuring out that the crucifixion of the Galilean trouble-maker did not take. What man has executed has backfired in his face.

Think about the person who has just heard for the first time what happened to God when He reached out to us and decided to become one of us in order to save us from ourselves, from sin and death. Some surrender to God and become Believers. However, to others, this account of God's great love confounds the world. Several years ago, we were handing-out free bottles of water at the antique show here in Round Top. Along with the free bottled water, we gave a brochure witnessing that Jesus gives us water; if we will drink it, then we will never thirst again.

¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again; ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." (John 4:13-14)

One woman came by and asked why we were giving away free water. I gave her the brochure, and she still looked confused. She walked away murmuring that it did not make any sense to give free out water.

God's great love is not going to let the life that He created go without His redemptive response. God finds a way in His creation to communicate to people the truth about His intent for their lives (Romans 1:18 and following), and He always has. Through offering a simple bottle of water, God delivered His Gospel Message.

God's sovereign authority is the final determinant. Satan could not stop the incarnation or the Cross. Satan was given a free-will opportunity to stop God in the flesh as chronicled in Matthew 4 in the "Test in the Wilderness." What we see is that Satan has no power to control to occurrence of events God has planned including the end-time events. Satan has been allowed a presence and a voice. It is up to us to listen or not. God has given His creation a free-will-choice, which Satan has a role. Due to God's love for us, He has chosen to give us the choice to love Him back. By doing this, He allows Satan to exist with us for now. However, in God's unveiling to John, Satan is separated forever from God's people and His Heaven. God also judges people at the Great White Throne Judgment where all people are judged (Rev. 20:7-15). After these events, God's kingdom is established forever. In this 'forever' Providence, God spoke through King David over 900 years before He incarnated himself. What Satan and the fallen world believed they stopped continues. We are a part of God ushering in His kingdom. We are living witnesses. We are the eternal living witnesses. This you cannot remove from the heart of a person. In fact, man cannot place God in a person's heart either. Many try, but it is God's Holy Spirit that indwells hearts. King David's heart was occupied by God. God worked through and spoke through David. These words in the Psalms still speak to us.

Psalm. 22:9

But Thou, O LORD, be not far off;

O Thou my help, hasten to my assistance

God has planned that the 23rd Psalm come after the 22nd Psalm. The message of the Cross continues as it does in our lives. We are living witnesses to Gods' songs.

Psalm 23:1 *A Psalm of David.*

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside quiet waters.

³ He restores my soul;

He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I fear no evil; for Thou art with me;

Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.

⁵ Thou dost prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

Thou hast anointed my head with oil;

My cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me

all the days of my life,

And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

There are numerous passages of Scripture that identify Jesus as the Messianic "Son of David" who God promised would come and rule forever.

Matthew 1:1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Luke 1:32-33 ³² "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; ³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end."

Isaiah 9:7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

Matthew 22:41-46 ⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, ⁴² saying, "What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?" They said to Him, "*The son of David.*"

⁴³ He said to them, "Then how does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying,

⁴⁴ 'The Lord said to my LORD, "Sit at My right hand, Until I put Thine enemies beneath Thy feet "'? [**Psalm 110:1**]

⁴⁵ "If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his son?" ⁴⁶ And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor did anyone dare from that day on to ask Him another question.

Jesus had taught that there is a resurrection for all believers in

[Luke 20:33-40.](#)

³³ "In the resurrection therefore, which one's wife will she be? For all seven had her as wife."

³⁴ And Jesus said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage,

³⁵ but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage;

³⁶ for neither can they die anymore, for they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

³⁷ "But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the *passage about the burning bush*, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.

³⁸ "Now He is not the God of the dead, but of the living; for all live to Him."

³⁹ And some of the scribes answered and said, "Teacher, You have spoken well."

⁴⁰ For they did not have courage to question Him any longer about anything.

Additional teaching of Jesus and the Resurrection

Luke 24:46 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer **and rise again from the dead** the third day;

John 2:22 When therefore **He was raised from the dead**, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture, and the word which Jesus had spoken.

Mark 9:10 And they seized upon that statement, discussing with one another what **rising from the dead** might mean.

Luke 24:26 "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?"

Psalms 16:10 For Thou wilt not abandon my soul to Sheol; Neither wilt Thou allow **Thy Holy One to undergo decay**.

Matthew 16:21 From that time Jesus Christ began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, **and be killed, and be raised up on the third day**.

Matthew 16:22 And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You."

Mark 9:9 And as they were coming down from the mountain, He gave them orders not to relate to anyone what they had seen, until the **Son of Man should rise from the dead.**

Mark 9:31 For He was teaching His disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and when He has been killed, **He will rise three days later.**" **32** But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask Him.

Luke 9:45, Luke 18:34

Resurrection Appearances in all four Gospels

Luke Appearance: (2)

Luke 24: Resurrection and first appearance "The Road to Emmaus" and then the Ascension **24:50-51**

(Only place in Gospels found and in Acts 1:9-11)

John Appearance: (3)

John 20:1-18 (1) Empty Tomb witnessed by the disciples and the women.

John 20:19-29 (2) The first day of the week, after the crucifixion, Jesus appears in house to Apostles, breaths His Holy Spirit on them and commissions them to convict the world of sin. Then for those who surrender, they are to tell them that they are released from sin and death.

Eight days later (John 20:26), Jesus comes to the Apostles and this time addresses Thomas who doubted because he was not at the first or second appearance.

John 21: (3) Appearance at Galilee. Jesus directs them to cast their empty nets, and they caught 153 fish.

This is the third appearance John 21:14.

And at this appearance is when Jesus restores Peter (John 21:15-17)

John closes with **“²⁵ And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books which were written. “**

Matthew Appearances. (2)

(1) Chapter 28 ~ An angel of the Lord rolled away the stone and sat upon it. This angel had an appearance like lightning and his garment was as white as snow, and the guards shook with fear. The angel tells the two women, Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary (mother of the apostle James “The Less” and Salome: Mark 16:1) to go and tell the disciples of the empty tomb and that Jesus had risen. The Angel directs the women that Jesus can be found in Galilee. As the women left, Jesus met them and told them not to be afraid, and they took hold of His feet to worship Him. Jesus told them to tell the brethren to go to Galilee, and He would meet them there.

After this appearance, the guards, fearful of the angel, told the chief priest all that had happened for a large sum of money. They were to say that Jesus’ disciples came by night and stole Jesus’ body. How convenient of a story.

(2) Second appearance at Galilee. Jesus gives the Great Commission.

Matthew 28:18-20

⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Mark Appearances. The women find the empty tomb with an angel who looked like a young man in a white robe who tells the women that Jesus has risen. He also directed them to Galilee and to tell the Disciples.

What is the overall picture we can attain from the four Gospel accounts and the book of Acts? Here are a few details.

1. The tomb was found first by women to be empty.
2. After the women, the tomb was found by the disciples to be empty, and they saw His wrappings. They still struggled to remember what Jesus had said about being raised from the dead. ⁹ For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. (John 20:9).
3. It was an angel of the Lord who rolled away the stone.
4. Guards saw the angel and shook with fear.
5. The tomb was found to be empty on the first day of the week.

6. There was a Messenger (Angel) at the tomb to give the women a message to meet Jesus at Galilee, that Jesus had risen.
7. The women went to tell the disciples.
8. Jesus met the women as they were on their way to tell the disciples.
9. Jesus talks to the women about His ascension. ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren, and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'" (John 20:17)
10. Jesus directs the women to tell the disciples to meet Him at Galilee.
11. Jesus shows the disciples His hands and feet as evidence it is He. ²⁰ And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples therefore rejoiced when they saw the Lord (John 20:20).
12. Jesus performs miracles like redirecting the casting of the net.
13. Jesus restores Peter.
14. Jesus confronts the doubter, Thomas.
15. Jesus walks and visits with two men as they travel and sits to eat with them.
16. Jesus commissions the disciples. This gives them Holy Spirit

authority (breaths on them) by which people are convicted of sin and are presented with the choice to surrender to God's Holy Spirit and be loosed from sin and death.

17. Jesus did things that were not recorded (written).
18. The authorities paid the soldiers to say that the disciples stole the body from the tomb.
19. Jesus tells the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to clothe them with power from on high (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8).
20. Jesus Ascends to Heaven (Luke 24:51; Acts 1).

Acts 1:1 The first account I composed, [Theophilus](#), about all that Jesus began to do and teach,

² until the day when He was taken up, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen.

³ To these He also presented Himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, [appearing to them over a period of forty days](#), and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

⁴ And gathering them together, [He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised](#), "Which," *He said*, "you heard of from Me;

⁵ for John baptized with water, [but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.](#)"

⁶ And so when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;

⁸ but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Therefore, what did all this produce? The incarnation of God as Jesus Christ, the teaching ministry of God, the arrest, trial, wrongful conviction, torture, the Cross, the death, the burial, the three days in the tomb, the Resurrection, the eyewitness of the empty tomb, the lies of the legal authorities, the Resurrection appearance, the commission of the disciples . . . what did this produce?

First and foremost, God speaks this eternal truth through His servant Paul in Romans 3:21-26:

²¹ But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

²² even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

²⁴ being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

²⁵ whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;

²⁶ for the demonstration, *I say*, of His righteousness at the present time, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

In addition, the incarnation produces what God had always intended for man. God desires for man to allow Him to operate, to function inside his heart. This "indwelling" changes a person forever. When and where was the first evidence of this taking place after the Ascension? At Pentecost. The Disciples were given supernatural powers. God was not walking with them in the flesh any longer. Therefore, God empowered them to carry forward His redemptive plan with His Spirit inside of them,

empowering them. We, too, are capable of receiving the same Holy Spirit powers that the disciples received at Pentecost. We may not all be given the same gift, but, we, as Believers, are designed to be empowered. Paul writes of this in 1 Corinthians 12.

1 Corinthians 12:1-7 ¹ Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware.

² You know that when you were pagans, *you were* led astray to the dumb idols, however you were led.

³ Therefore I make known to you, that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.

⁵ And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord.

⁶ And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*.

⁷ But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Gifts of the Spirit

- 1) Word of Wisdom
- 2) Word of Knowledge
- 3) Faith
- 4) Gifts of Healing
- 5) Working of Miracles
- 6) Prophecy
- 7) Discerning of Spirits
- 8) different kinds of Tongues
- 9) Interpretation of different Tongues

Fruits of the Spirit Galatians 5:22

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-control

1 Corinthians 12:31 But earnestly desire the **greater gifts**. And I show you a still more excellent way

1 Corinthians 14:1 Pursue **love**, yet desire earnestly spiritual *gifts*, but **especially** that you may **prophecy**.

AMEN

