

LUKE I The Burial & Resurrection of Jesus Lk 23:50-24:12

The Plan Before Time Began

—Bill Turner

1. **The Brach's candy heiress stepped off a plane into the busiest airport in the world**
...never seen again. Her disappearance is a mystery b/c her body was never found¹
2. **This is how some think of the resurrection of Christ—as a missing persons case**
 - a. Not true—Jesus did not just disappear—He appeared from the grave—alive from the dead!

I. THE BURIAL OF JESUS (23:50–56)

A. THE SECRET DISCIPLES

1. **Joseph of Aramathea**
 - a) was a wealthy and prominent member of the Supreme Court of Israel
 - b) Who had the faith to go to Pilate personally and ask for the body of Jesus
 - c) Which shows the influence he had—But he was not alone...
2. **Nicodemus (John 19:38–42)**
 - a) Was a prominent Rabbi and Also on the Supreme Court of Israel
 - b) Nicodemus did try to defend Jesus before the council but it fell on deaf ears
3. **Both of these secret disciples stepped out of the shadows—**
 - a) to give Jesus a dignified burial—and w/o realizing it—fulfilled a prophesy ([Is. 53:9](#))
 - b) God knew about Joseph's Faith before Joseph did!

B. THE BORROWED TOMB

1. **Normally the body of a crucified criminal wouldn't be bothered with...**
 - a) Usually they were left to hang on the cross for birds to pick apart
 - b) Or be thrown in an unmarked grave...
2. **Joseph of Aramathea had a family tomb in a garden nearby...**
 - a) It was hewn from solid rock and had never been used before
3. **Jesus was buried in a borrowed tomb—But He would only Need it 3 Days!**

C. THE WOMEN WATCHING

1. **Even though all the other disciples had fled in fear—look who is there**
 - a) The women that had traveled with Jesus from Galilee were there
2. **They were with Jesus during His ministry...**
 - a) as He carried His cross / As He was crucified / and now as He is buried
3. **They were faithful to the end.**

D. THE LARGE STONE

1. **Archeologists confirm that tombs like the one Jesus was buried in were secured by a Large disc-shaped Stone,**
 - a) which rolled in a groove to cover the entry way to the tomb.
2. **Mathew says the stone was a “large” stone—Mark says it was “very large”**

¹ Cited by Lee Stroble, Case for Christ

- a) These Stones were calculated to weight between 1-2 tons in weight
- b) To be big enough to cover the entrance of the tomb and wide enough to roll
- c) because these Tombs were designed to be closed and never opened again

3. So How would Joseph of Aramathea be able to do this? (Matthew 27:59–61)

- a) The groove these stone sat in were at a slight incline...
- b) So the stone rolled up uphill in a groove and held in position at an incline by a block
- c) When the block was leveraged out the stone rolled into place by it's own gravity

E. THE ROMAN GUARDS

1. I believe it was Roman Guards and a Roman Seal (Matthew 27:62–66 NIV)

- a) Why go to Pilate and ask for a guard if they could've done it themselves?
- b) Jewish Temple Guards had no jurisdiction outside the Temple grounds
- c) and it seems unlikely Pilate would grant them this authority after they just blackmailed Pilate to condemn an innocent man.

2. A Roman Guard was generally 4 soldiers—

- a) with one acting as a Sentinel, while the other three were on stand-by.
- b) At no time were Roman Guards allowed to Sleep or even sit down while on duty.
- c) Any Guard caught sleeping while on duty was executed

F. THE OFFICIAL SEAL

1. (Matthew 27:66) They Made the Tomb Secure w/ Guards and a Seal

- a) Ancient seals were an official seal of authentication...
- b) Like we read about in (Dan. 6:17)

2. Anything sealed by the authority of Rome became property of Rome, and any attempt to break the seal would incur the full penalty of Roman Law.

- a) EXAMPLE: Archeologists discovered a Marble slab in Nazareth with a warning inscribed in greek to grave robbers: "Ordinance of Caesar. Graves and tombs are to remain perpetually undisturbed... Let it be absolutely forbidden for anyone to disturb them. In case of violation I desire that the offender be sentenced to capital punishment on charge of violation of sepulcher."²

II. THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS (24:1-12)

A. THE STONE ROLLED AWAY (v.1-2)

- 1. The women went to the tomb early Sunday morning but when they arrived the stone is rolled away!
- 2. Imagine the shock—standing there trying to comprehend what happened Afraid to move closer, not knowing what had happened.
- 3. It would take the strength of several men to move the stone up and away

B. THE TOMB IS EMPTY (v.3)

- 1. The Stone is Rolled Away and the Tomb is Empty!
- 2. Who Moved the Stone? Did robbers steal the body?

² Evidence for the Resurrection, John McDowell, p.184 Regal Books, 2009

3. Did Pilate order the body be removed to a secret location?

C. THE ANGELS APPEAR (v.4-7)

1. God sent angels to answer their questions and comfort their hearts
2. *"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen!"*

D. THE GOOD NEWS DECLARED! (v.8-12)

1. The Good News was So Good They Didn't Even Believe it at first!
2. But Jesus Would Prove it To Them over the next 40 days...
3. Jesus Appeared To Them repeatedly—Showing Them His pierced Hands and His Pierced Side.

III. THE PLAN BEFORE TIME BEGAN!

A. THE GOSPEL LITERALLY MEANS: GOOD NEWS! (v.6-7)

1. 'He is not here, but is risen!'

Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.' "

2. This was the Plan Before Time Began!

B. JESUS DIED FOR OUR SINS—AND GOD RAISED HIM TO GLORY!

1. Not Even a Tomb HEWN From SOLID ROCK Could Keep Jesus in the Grave
2. Not Even an Official Royal Seal of the Roman Government...
3. Not Even a Detachment of Armed Soldiers—or Battalion of armed soldiers
4. Not even the Power of the Entire Roman Government...
5. Not Even the Power of Satan...
6. Not Even the Power of Death... Could Keep Jesus in the Tomb!

C. THIS WAS THE PLAN BEFORE TIME BEGAN—THE PLAN TO SAVE MAN

1. And ONLY Jesus Could Do This! (Acts 2:22-24)

a) The Creator of Time and Space—ENTERED Time and Space

b) The Word Became Flesh... The Hurricane Became Human...

To be the Perfect Atoning Sacrifice for our Sins.

2. Let's Get This Straight—Your Politicians CANNOT Save You...

a) Your **IDOLS** Can't Save You / Your **MONEY** Can't Save You

b) All Your **MARXISTS PROFESSORS** / and Your Darwinian World-views /
All the DaVinci Code Delusions can't save you...

3. **BUT JESUS CAN SAVE YOU!**

a) Only Jesus Could Take the terrible Wrath of God on Himself

b) to Spare us from the terrible wrath of God on Judgement Day (**Jn 5:24-25; 28-29**)

CONCLUSION:

1. He was laid in a Borrowed a Tomb b/c He Only Needed it 3 Days!
2. There are still some who look for the living Jesus among the dead—
But He is Alive Forevermore! (**Revelation 1:16-18**)