

Chapter Six
THE RISING OF JESUS CHRIST

If this book were about anyone else, it would have ended at Chapter Five. For every other person in history, death has been the end. Maybe the ideals of some people live on or perhaps their works survive, but when they are dead, that is the end of their life story.

But this is a book about Jesus Christ. Death was not the end for Him. Every year on Easter Sunday we remember that He rose from the dead. In this chapter we will find out what happened on the first Easter Sunday. We also will find out what it all means. By the end of this chapter you will be able to:

- * describe briefly the events of the first Easter Sunday; and
- * tell the three things which Jesus' rising from the dead proves.

Early on Sunday morning, there was another earthquake. The soldiers on guard at the tomb felt the ground shake beneath them. But it was what they saw that filled them with fear.

Out of the sky of early dawn, an angel came down to the tomb. He was shining like the sun. He rolled the huge stone away from the tomb and sat on it. The soldiers fainted dead away. When they woke up, they ran into the city.

When the sun was rising, the women who watched Jesus' burial on Friday came back to the tomb. They had spices and ointments with them. They were going to complete the burial. Then they remembered the stone that men had rolled in front of the entrance. As they walked to the tomb, they wondered how they would ever get it moved.



But as they came near the tomb, they saw the stone was already moved. One of them, Mary Magdalene, ran back into the city. She wanted to tell Jesus' disciples. The other women went on to the tomb. They found it was empty! The body of Jesus was not there. Then the angel appeared to them and told them Jesus had

risen. He also told them to tell the disciples about it.

1. On Sunday morning, there was an _____ that shook the ground.
2. An _____ came down from the sky.
3. The angel rolled away the _____ from the mouth of the tomb.
4. The _____ fainted in fear and later ran to the city.

5. Some _____ came to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body with spices.
6. One of them, _____ ran back to find Jesus' disciples.
7. The angel said Jesus had _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 63)

As the women went back to the city, two of Jesus' disciples came to look at the tomb. They were Peter, the man who said he did not know Jesus, and John. They found that the burial sheet, the one that had been wrapped around Jesus' body for His burial, was still there. They then went back to the city.

But Mary Magdalene came back to the tomb and started to cry. She loved Jesus dearly. She could not stand the thought she had that His body had been stolen. She heard someone ask her why she was crying. She thought it was the caretaker of that place. But when He spoke her name, she recognized it was Jesus.

She told Jesus' disciples that she had seen Jesus. The other women told them about the angel they saw. But the men did not believe them. They thought the women were seeing things.

8. Two of Jesus' disciples, _____ and _____ came to see the tomb.
9. Jesus' _____ was still there.
10. _____ came back to the tomb to cry.

11. She thought someone had _____ the body of Jesus.
12. When a man behind her spoke her name, she recognized Him as _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 63)

Later that day, two men, who were followers of Jesus were on their way to a village a few miles from Jerusalem. The village was named Emmaus. A stranger started walking with them.

They were talking about what had happened to Jesus. The men were sad and confused about His death. But the stranger said that they did not understand the Bible. "Jesus had to suffer for sins," He said. "Then He would rise again in glory."

When they reached Emmaus, the men asked the stranger to stay the night at their house. He came with them. They went in and got dinner ready. At the table, the stranger said a prayer and started handing them the bread. He was acting as if He were the owner of the house. Suddenly, the men recognized Him. It was Jesus! No sooner did they realize this than He disappeared from their sight.

13. Two disciples were on their way to a small village named _____.
14. A _____ walked with them.
15. He explained from the _____ why Jesus had to die.
16. Later, the disciples recognized that He was actually _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 63)

The two men from Emmaus ran back to Jerusalem to tell Jesus' disciples what had happened. They found that Peter had also seen Jesus alive. Suddenly, even though the doors were locked, Jesus was in the room with them.

They were startled and could not believe it was Jesus. He told them not to be so unbelieving. This was what He had told them would happen. Then they believed and were glad.

One of them, Thomas, was not there. He did not believe the others when they told him they had seen Jesus.



Thomas said, "Unless I see Him myself," he declared, "and touch the wounds in His hands and side, I refuse to believe He has been raised from the dead" (John 20:25).

The next week the disciples were all gathered together in the same room. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came and stood among them once again. He said to Thomas, "Put your fingers into the wounds in My hands. Put your hand into the wound in My side. Stop your doubting and believe!" (John 20:27).

Thomas fell to his knees and believed. Then Jesus said, "You believe now that you have seen. But blessed are those who have not seen and still have believed" (John 20:29).

Those words of Jesus speak about our faith. We have not seen Him alive. We are surrounded by all kinds of people who tell us that Jesus is dead. But we know differently. The Bible says He is alive, and He is. We believe this to be true.

17. Jesus also appeared to another disciple,

_____.

18. When Jesus appeared to His disciples, they could not _____ He was there.

19. One of the disciples, _____, was missing when Jesus came.

20. He refused to believe unless he could touch the _____ in Jesus' hands and side.

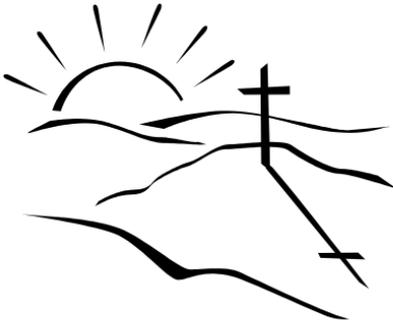
21. Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have not _____ and still have believed."

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 63)

Because Jesus is raised from the dead, you know that all your sins have been paid for. We discussed this in Chapter Five. If any one of your sins had not been paid for by Jesus' death, Jesus could not have risen.

Because Jesus has risen from the dead, we also know that He really is the Son of God. Do you remember Jesus' trial before the Jewish council? He swore that He was the Son of God. Jesus would not have been able to defeat death if He had

been lying about that. So when Jesus rose from the dead, He proved that what He said was true. He is the Son of God.



His rising from the dead proves one more thing. It proves that we will rise from the dead one day. Jesus said He will return to the earth some day, and everyone will see Him.

That day is Judgment Day. He will raise us from our graves, and we will live with Him forever. That is His promise to all who believe in Him. He proved He can raise us from the dead by rising from the dead Himself.

22. Jesus' rising from the dead proves that all our _____ have been paid for.
23. If He had not risen, then we would have to _____ for our sins ourselves.
24. At His trial before the Jewish council, Jesus _____ that He was the Son of God.
25. He would not have been able to rise from the dead if He had been _____.
26. Jesus promised to come again and _____ us all from the dead.
27. He _____ that He can bring us back to life by rising from the dead Himself.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 63)

For forty days after His rising from death Jesus stayed in this world with His disciples. He came to

them in many different places. One time He came to a group of five hundred people who had followed Him during his life.



Finally, Jesus led His disciples to a tall hill outside Jerusalem. There He went up into the sky, until a cloud covered Him. That is how He returned to heaven. The disciples stood there, staring into the sky. Then two angels were suddenly next to them asking them what they were

looking at. "This same Jesus," the angels said, "will come again in the clouds, just as you saw Him go into the clouds" (Acts 1:11).

And He will. He came once to die for your sins. He will come again to take you to be with Him in heaven. The story of the death and rising of Jesus Christ is the story of how much He loves you. He gave His life for you. Jesus will come again to give you a life in heaven that will never end.

28. Jesus remained on earth for _____ days after He rose from the dead.
29. He once appeared to a crowd of over _____ people.

30. Finally, He led His disciples to a hill outside the city of _____.
31. There He rose into the sky until a _____ covered Him from sight.
32. Two _____ told the disciples that Jesus will come again.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 63)

Review of Chapter Six

On Sunday morning there was another earthquake. An angel came down from the sky and rolled the stone away from the tomb. The guards fainted in fear. When they woke up, they ran into the city.

Later in the morning, women came to anoint the body with ointments. When they saw the stone rolled away, one of them ran to tell the disciples. She was Mary Magdalene. The other women went into the tomb. The angel told them Jesus had risen. He was alive.

Peter and John, two of Jesus' disciples, came out to see the empty tomb. Then Mary Magdalene

Answers to questions within Chapter Six:

1. earthquake; 2. angel; 3. stone; 4. soldiers; 5. women;
6. Mary Magdalene; 7. risen; 8. Peter, John; 9. burial sheet;
10. Mary Magdalene; 11. stolen; 12. Jesus; 13. Emmaus;
14. stranger; 15/ Bible; 16. Jesus; 17. Peter; 18. believe;
19. Thomas; 20. wounds; 21. seen; 22. sins; 23. pay;
24. swore; 25. lying; 26. raise; 27. proved; 28. 40; 29. 500;
30. Jerusalem; 31. cloud; 32. angels.

came. She was the first person to see Jesus alive. But the disciples would not believe her.

Later, two men were walking to a village named Emmaus. A stranger walked with them. He explained to them from the Bible why Jesus had to suffer and die. When they reached their house in Emmaus, they recognized that He was Jesus. He disappeared, and they ran back to Jerusalem.

Jesus appeared to His disciples for forty days. Once a crowd of five hundred people saw Him. Finally, He led His disciples to a hill outside Jerusalem. There He rose up into the clouds. Two angels then promised the disciples that Jesus would return one day in the clouds of the heavens.

Test on Chapter Six

1. On _____ morning there was a great earthquake.
2. An angel rolled the huge _____ away from the tomb.
3. The guards _____ out of fear.
4. The women came in the morning to _____ the body of Jesus.
5. The angel told them he had _____.

6. Two disciples, _____ and _____, came to look at the tomb.
7. The first person to see Jesus alive was _____.
8. Two men spoke with Jesus on the road to a village called _____.
9. The disciple who doubted that Jesus had risen was named _____.
10. Jesus' rising proves that he completely _____ for all our sins.
11. Jesus' rising proves that he really is the _____ of _____.
12. Jesus' rising proves that he will be able to _____ us from the dead when he comes back.
13. Jesus returned to heaven from a hill outside the city of _____.
14. Jesus will come again in the _____ of heaven.
15. He will come to take _____ to be with him forever.

(Check your answers on page 74)