

# Pt. 4: The Last Week of the Savior's Life

## The *Anderson Tours* Holy Land Scripture Series;

Understanding God, Scripture, & Self

### Episode 12: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

“Knowledge of ‘the only true God, and Jesus Christ’ (John 17:3)  
is the most important knowledge in the Universe...”

President Marion G. Romney of the First Presidency (“Except a Man Be Born Again,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1981, 14)

➤ **BACKGROUND / SUMMARY...Jesus is resurrected and lives again!**

Jesus tomb was empty on that Sunday morning following the Sabbath and He became the first person to ever resurrect. He Lives!

➤ **JEUS APPEARS FIRST TO MARY...THEN THE APOSTLES:**

\**Jesus appears on the first day of the week to Mary Magdalene!* 3 of the 4 accounts mention women going to the tomb that first Easter morning and they also mention Mary being the first to see Him.

**The Mark Account:**

**Mark 16:1-11:** “And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, (Joanna is mentioned in the Luke account) had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. 2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. 3 And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? 4 And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. 5 And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. 6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is arisen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. 7 But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you. 8 And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid. 9 ¶ Now when Jesus was arisen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils. 10 And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. 11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.” (Mark 16:1-11)

**The John Account:**

**John 20:1-18:** “The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. 2 Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him. 3 Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. 4 So they ran both

together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. 5 And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. 6 Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, 7 And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself. 8 Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed. For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must arise again from the dead. 10 Then the disciples went away again unto their own home. 11 ¶ But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, 12 And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. 13 And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him. 14 And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. 16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. 17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God. 18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her.” (John 20:1-18)

**\*How remarkable is it that Mary is the first to see the risen Lord and she is the one to go and tell the Apostles (special witnesses of the risen Lord)?**

**President James E. Faust** (1920–2007) of the First Presidency taught that the Savior’s appearance to Mary Magdalene reflects His esteem for women: **“No woman should question how the Savior values womanhood.** The grieving Mary Magdalene was the first to visit the sepulchre after the Crucifixion, and when she saw that the stone had been rolled away and that the tomb was empty, she ran to tell Peter and John. The two Apostles came to see and then went away sorrowing. But Mary stayed. She had stood near the cross [see Matthew 27:56; Mark 15:40; John 19:25]. She had been at the burial [see Matthew 27:61; Mark 15:47]. And now she stood weeping by the empty sepulchre [see John 20:11]. There she was honored to be the first mortal to see the risen Lord” (President James E. Faust, *“Woman, Why Weepest Thou?”* Ensign, Nov. 1996, 54)

**“The world’s greatest champion of woman and womanhood is Jesus the Christ”**  
(James E. Talmage, *Jesus the Christ* 3rd Ed. 1916, pg. 475)

### ➤ **“RETHINKING THE RESURRECTION?” (Newsweek Article)**

**“Rethinking The Resurrection” by Kenneth I. Woodward** (*Newsweek*, April 7, 1996)

“Over the past five years, scholars have published more than two dozen books and scores of footnoted articles, initiating a fierce debate over the Risen Jesus. In their relentless search for "the historical Jesus," various Biblical scholars argue that the Gospel stories of the empty tomb and Jesus' post-resurrection appearances are fictions devised long after his death to justify claims of his divinity. To hear them tell it, the Resurrection is an embarrassment to the modern mind and a disservice to the itinerant Jewish preacher from rural Galilee...”

“AFTER 150 YEARS OF SCHOLARLY search, there are signs that the quest for the "historical" Jesus has reached a dead end. There have been no new data on the person of Jesus since the Gospels were written. And though ,scholars continue to piece together information from

archeology and other disciplines, these are valuable chiefly for fashioning a better understanding of Christian origins and how the Gospels, in particular, were composed...”

## ➤ WITNESSES OF THE RESURRECTED CHRIST!

- Mary Magdalene
- 12 Apostles X 3
- Thomas
- 500 (1 Corinthians 14)
- James
- 2 on the Road to Emmaus
- 2,500 in the America's (3 Nephi 11)
- Joseph Smith, Oliver Cowdery, Sidney Rigdon
- 10 accounts in Kirtland
- Lorenzo Snow in the Salt Lake Temple
- Other Modern Prophets & Apostles = ?
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Comforter

## ➤ MODERN WITNESSES OF THE RESURRECTED CHRIST...

President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) taught about the crowning importance of the Resurrection of the Savior:

“He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay’ [Matthew 28:6].

“These are the most reassuring words in all of human history. Death—universal and final—had now been conquered. ...

“Never had this occurred before. There had been only death without hope. Now there was life eternal. Only a God could have done this. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ was the great crowning event of His life and mission. It was the capstone of the Atonement. The sacrifice of His life for all mankind was not complete without His coming forth from the grave, with the certainty of the Resurrection for all who have walked the earth.

“Of all the victories in the chronicles of humanity, none is so great, none so universal in its effects, none so everlasting in its consequences as the victory of the crucified Lord, who came forth from the tomb that first Easter morning.

“Those who were witnesses of that event, all who saw and heard and spoke with the Risen Lord, testified of the reality of this greatest of all miracles. His followers through the centuries lived and died in proclamation of the truth of this supernal act.

“To all of these we add our testimony that He who died on Calvary’s cross arose again in wondrous splendor as the Son of God, the Master of life and death” (**President Gordon B. Hinckley**, “*Special Witnesses of Christ*,” Ensign, Apr. 2001, 15).

## ➤ JESUS MAINTAINS HIS SCARS...

### The Wounded Christ

"The wounds in his hands, feet, and side are signs that in mortality painful things happen even to the pure and the perfect, signs that tribulation is not evidence that God does not love us. It is a significant and hopeful fact that it is the wounded Christ who comes to our rescue. He who bears the scars of sacrifice, the lesions of love, the emblems of humility and forgiveness is the Captain of

our Soul. That evidence of pain in mortality is undoubtedly intended to give courage to others who are also hurt and wounded by life, perhaps even in the house of their friends."

(Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, "Christ and the New Covenant")

## ➤ RESURRECTION AN ORDINANCE...

### Resurrection, an Ordinance

"Both *President Brigham Young* (JD 6:275; 15:136-139) and *Elder Erastus Snow* (JD 25:34) taught that the resurrection will be conducted much as other things are done in the kingdom, by those in authority, and by delegation. The procedure is that as one cannot baptize himself, nor can he baptize others until he himself is baptized and ordained, so one cannot resurrect himself, but will be called forth by someone in authority. Men will be given the *keys of this ordinance* after they are resurrected, and then they can resurrect others. Although these brethren do not say it, I expect that a man with the keys will resurrect his family--**it is a patriarchal thing**. President Young also indicates that Joseph Smith will be the first person resurrected in this dispensation, and this will extend back all the way to the meridian of time. Joseph Smith will receive the keys and give them to others. President Spencer W. Kimball quoted President Brigham Young saying, "We are in possession of all the ordinances that can be administered in the flesh; but there are other ordinances and administrations that must be administered beyond this world. I know you would like to ask what they are. I will mention one. We have not; neither can we receive here, **the ordinance and the keys of resurrection**" (JD 15:137). Do we have the keys of resurrection . . . We do not know of anyone who can resurrect the dead as did Jesus the Christ when he came back."

(Robert J. Matthews, *BTU SPEECHES*, Feb.1990. Pres Kimball, CR, April '77)

## ➤ THE GREATEST EVENT IN HISTORY...

**"The greatest events of history** are those which **affect the greatest number for the longest periods**. By this standard, no event could be more important to individuals or nations than the **Resurrection of the Master**." (President Ezra Taft Benson, "*The Greatest Event in History*" April 1964)

**"The Resurrection of the Master encompasses all who have lived upon the Earth"**  
**"...Nothing done before or since has so affected mankind."**

(President Gordon B. Hinckley, "The Greatest Miracle in Human History," April, 1994)

"New Testament scholar N. T. Wright suggested: "We should be taking steps to celebrate Easter in creative new ways: in art, literature, children's games, poetry, music, dance, festivals, bells, special concerts. . . **This is our greatest festival**. Take Christmas away, and in biblical terms you lose two chapters at the front of Matthew and Luke, nothing else. Take Easter away, and you don't have a New Testament; **you don't have a Christianity**." (Quoted by Elder Gary E. Stevenson, April 2023) (N. T. Wright, "Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church" (2008), 256)

**"...The most transcendent events that has or ever will occur."**

(Bruce R. McConkie, "The Purifying Power of Gethsemane," April, 1985)

## ➤ "Conclusion..."

The tomb was empty on that Sunday morning because Jesus had become "the first fruits of them that slept" and resurrected! He showed Himself to many around the globe. His resurrected ministry will be the topic of our next lesson.

# **Links to the Scriptures:**

## **Old Testament:**

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/gen/1?lang=eng>

## **New Testament:**

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/nt?lang=eng>

## **Book of Mormon:**

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm?lang=eng>

## **Doctrine & Covenants:**

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/dc-testament?lang=eng>

## **Pearl of Great Price:**

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/pgp?lang=eng>

# **Quotes & Resources:**

## **Amazing Scriptural References on Resurrection:**

- [2 Nephi 9:6](#)
- [Mosiah 15:19–26](#)
- [Mosiah 16:7–11](#)
- [Alma 11:43](#)
- [Alma 40](#)
- [Helaman 14:15–17](#)

[Holy Land Scripture Series](#) pt. 1 FOUNDATION Series; pt. 2 PROPHECIES OF THE LAST DAYS; pt.3 LIFE & MINISTRY OF CHRIST; pt. 4 The LAST WEEK OF THE SAVIOR'S LIFE

[“Resurrection”](#) Gospel Topics

## **TALKS:**

[“Resurrection”](#) By Elder Dallin H. Oaks (April 2000)

[“The Resurrection of Jesus Christ”](#) By Elder D. Todd Christofferson (April 2014)

[“Of Souls, Symbols, and Sacraments”](#) by Jeffrey R. Holland, (Jan 1988)

[“He Is Risen!”](#) By President Thomas S. Monson, President of the Church (April 2010)

[“The Certainty of the Resurrection”](#) By President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985)

[“None Were with Him”](#) by Elder Holland (April 2009)

[“Christlike Poise”](#) by Mark A. Bragg (April 2023)

[“The Paths Jesus Walked”](#) by Thomas S. Monson (April, 1974)

[“The Women of God”](#) By Elder Neal A. Maxwell Of the Presidency of the First Quorum of the Seventy (April 1978)

#### VIDEOS:

\*[“Jesus is Resurrected”](#) Bible Video on YouTube (4:05)

\*[“I Am the Resurrection, and the Life”](#) (1:23) by Thomas S. Monson (Video Clip)

\*[“Resurrection: The Ultimate Triumph”](#) (1:06) by President Howard W. Hunter

\*[“Sunday Will Come”](#) (2:32) by Joseph B. Wirthlin

[“Lively Hope of Resurrection”](#) (2 min) by Dallin H. Oaks

[“Witnesses of the Resurrection”](#) (1:39) by President Thomas S. Monson

[“Testimony of the Resurrection”](#) (1:06) by President Thomas S. Monson

[“He is Risen: John the Beloved’s Witness of the Resurrection”](#) Video (13:22)

#### MANUALS / RESOURCES:

[“The Reality of the Resurrection,”](#) by Richard D. Draper (Ensign, April 1994)

[“Resurrection,”](#) by Robert J. Matthews, (Ensign, April 1991)

[“The Significance of the Resurrection”](#) Teachings of Presidents of the Church:  
David O. McKay (Ch. 7)

[“The Resurrection, an Anchor to the Soul”](#) Teachings of Presidents of the Church:  
Harold B. Lee (Ch. 23)

[New Testament Institute Student Manual](#); Chapter 28: John 20-21

[“The Resurrection and the Ascension,”](#) *Jesus the Christ*, chapter 37

[New Testament Study Guide for Home-Study Seminary Students](#)

[“Rethinking The Resurrection”](#) by Kenneth I. Woodward (*Newsweek*, April 7, 1996)

### QUOTES:

**President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) taught about the crowning importance of the Resurrection of the Savior:**

“He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay’ [Matthew 28:6].

“These are the most reassuring words in all of human history. Death—universal and final—had now been conquered. ...

“Never had this occurred before. There had been only death without hope. Now there was life eternal. Only a God could have done this. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ was the great crowning event of His life and mission. It was the capstone of the Atonement. The sacrifice of His life for all mankind was not complete without His coming forth from the grave, with the certainty of the Resurrection for all who have walked the earth.

“Of all the victories in the chronicles of humanity, none is so great, none so universal in its effects, none so everlasting in its consequences as the victory of the crucified Lord, who came forth from the tomb that first Easter morning.

“Those who were witnesses of that event, all who saw and heard and spoke with the Risen Lord, testified of the reality of this greatest of all miracles. His followers through the centuries lived and died in proclamation of the truth of this supernal act.

“To all of these we add our testimony that He who died on Calvary’s cross arose again in wondrous splendor as the Son of God, the Master of life and death” (President Gordon B. Hinckley, “*Special Witnesses of Christ*,” *Ensign*, Apr. 2001, 15).

**“The greatest events of history** are those which **affect the greatest number for the longest periods.** By this standard, no event could be more important to individuals or nations than the **Resurrection of the Master.**” (President Ezra Taft Benson, “*The Greatest Event in History*” April 1964)

**“The Resurrection of the Master encompasses all who have lived upon the Earth”  
“...Nothing done before or since has so affected mankind.”**  
(President Gordon B. Hinckley, “The Greatest Miracle in Human History,” April, 1994)

“New Testament scholar N. T. Wright suggested: “We should be taking steps to celebrate Easter in creative new ways: in art, literature, children’s games, poetry, music, dance, festivals, bells, special concerts. ... **This is our greatest festival.** Take Christmas away, and in biblical terms you lose two chapters at the front of Matthew and Luke, nothing else. Take Easter away, and you don’t have a New Testament; **you don’t have a Christianity.**” (Quoted by Elder Gary E. Stevenson, April 2023) (N. T. Wright, “Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church” (2008), 256)

**“...The most transcendent events that has or ever will occur.”**  
(Bruce R. McConkie, “The Purifying Power of Gethsemane,” April, 1985)

**President James E. Faust** (1920–2007) of the First Presidency taught that the Savior’s appearance to Mary Magdalene reflects His esteem for women: “No woman should question how the Savior values womanhood. The grieving Mary Magdalene was the first to visit the sepulchre after the Crucifixion, and when she saw that the stone had been rolled away and that the tomb was empty, she ran to tell Peter and John. The two Apostles came to see and then went away sorrowing. But Mary stayed. She had stood near the cross [see [Matthew 27:56](#); [Mark 15:40](#); [John 19:25](#)]. She had been at the burial [see [Matthew 27:61](#); [Mark 15:47](#)]. And now she stood weeping by the empty sepulchre [see [John 20:11](#)]. There she was honored to be the first mortal to see the risen Lord” (“[Woman, Why Weepest Thou?](#)” *Ensign*, Nov. 1996, 54).

**“The world’s greatest champion of woman and womanhood is Jesus the Christ”**  
(James E. Talmage, *Jesus the Christ* 3rd Ed. 1916, pg. 475)

### **The Wounded Christ**

“The wounds in his hands, feet, and side are signs that in mortality painful things happen even to the pure and the perfect, signs that tribulation is not evidence that God



does not love us. It is a significant and hopeful fact that it is the wounded Christ who comes to our rescue. He who bears the scars of sacrifice, the lesions of love, the emblems of humility and forgiveness is the Captain of our Soul. That evidence of pain in mortality is undoubtedly intended to give courage to others who are also hurt and wounded by life, perhaps even in the house of their friends."  
(Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, "*Christ and the New Covenant*")

### **Resurrection, an Ordinance**

"Both *President Brigham Young* (JD 6:275; 15:136-139) and *Elder Erastus Snow* (JD 25:34) taught that the resurrection will be conducted much as other things are done in the kingdom, by those in authority, and by delegation. The procedure is that as one cannot baptize himself, nor can he baptize others until he himself is baptized and ordained, so one cannot resurrect himself, but will be called forth by someone in authority. Men will be given the *keys of this ordinance* after they are resurrected, and then they can resurrect others. Although these brethren do not say it, I expect that a man with the keys will resurrect his family--**it is a patriarchal thing**. President Young also indicates that Joseph Smith will be the first person resurrected in this dispensation, and this will extend back all the way to the meridian of time. Joseph Smith will receive the keys and give them to others. President Spencer W. Kimball quoted President Brigham Young saying, "We are in possession of all the ordinances that can be administered in the flesh; but there are other ordinances and administrations that must be administered beyond this world. I know you would like to ask what they are. I will mention one. We have not; neither can we receive here, **the ordinance and the keys of resurrection**" (JD 15:137). Do we have the keys of resurrection . . . We do not know of anyone who can resurrect the dead as did Jesus the Christ when he came back."  
(**Robert J. Matthews**, *BYU SPEECHES*, Feb.1990. Pres Kimball, CR, April '77)