

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

1) 6 March 2016.....	Acts 1 .....	Entrusted
2) 13 March.....	Acts 2 .....	Empowered and Unified
3) 20 March.....	Acts 3 .....	Benevolent
4) 27 March.....	Luke 24:1-12 .....	Resurrected!
5) 3 April.....	Acts 4 .....	Courageous
6) 10 April.....	Acts 5 .....	Integrity & Faithful
7) 17 April.....	Acts 6 .....	Selfless
8) 24 April.....	Acts 7 .....	Forgiving
9) 1 May.....	Acts 8 .....	Obedient
10) 8 May.....	Acts 9 .....	Converted & Bold
11) 15 May.....	Acts 10 .....	Accepting
12) 22 May.....	Acts 11 .....	Engaging
13) 29 May.....	Acts 12 .....	Extraordinary

**INTRODUCTION**

- If the Resurrection of Christ is the cornerstone of our faith why would so few details be provided in the Gospels?
- Matthew's account constitutes less than 5% of his Gospel; Mark gave 6% of his story to the resurrection; Luke 4%; and John 9%.
- Can the resurrection be scientifically proved? Only by accepting mathematical probability of prophetic fulfillment in Jesus Christ
- Can the resurrection be historically verified.....YES ...Beyond all doubt? No. Beyond reasonable doubt? Yes
  - ♦ We have more secular historical evidence for Jesus Christ (10 sources) than we do for His contemporary, Augustus Caesar (8)
- Credibility of the Resurrection is actually strengthened since the Gospel writers did not embellish their various claims, and they informed their readers that women, whose testimonies would be ignored in a court of law, were the first to receive confirmation of the Lord's resurrection.

Passage	Comments
Luke 24:1-12	<b>Resurrection Morning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v2. The stone was rolled away to allow the women to walk in, not for Jesus to walk out                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Mary Magdalene</b> – was healed of 7 demons and supported the Lord's work financially ..... <a href="#">Luke 8:2-3</a></li> <li>♦ <b>Joanna</b>, wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, also supported the Lord's work financially ..... <a href="#">Luke 8:3</a></li> <li>♦ <b>Aunt Mary</b>, the wife of Cleophas/Alpheus, the mother of James the less (Junior) and Joses. She was also the sister of Mary, the mother of Jesus</li> <li>♦ <b>Salome</b>, the wife of Zebedee, the mother of James and John.....cp <a href="#">Mt 4:21; 20:20; 27:56; Mk 15:40</a></li> <li>♦ "Other women" – possibly Mary, Martha, Susanna</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v12. Peter &amp; John then ran to the tomb..... <a href="#">John 20:3-10</a></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than coincidental – Jesus was crucified on Passover, buried on Unleavened Bread, raised on First Fruits, and sent the Holy Spirit on Pentecost to begin gathering in Jews and Gentiles</li> </ul>

Feast	Comments (See Leviticus 23)
1. Passover ( <a href="#">Lev 23:5</a> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This feast begins the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the 1st lunar month of Spring (March-April timeframe)</li> <li>• Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with His Apostles</li> </ul>
2. Unleavened Bread ( <a href="#">Lev 23:6</a> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This 2nd feast is 7 days long and begins on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 1st lunar month – the day after Passover</li> <li>• Jesus, as the unleavened &amp; sinless "bread of life", and, as a "kernel of wheat" was beaten, crucified, pierced &amp; buried on this day</li> <li>• The Jewish Passover matzoh bread is unleavened, striped (due to grilling), and pierced with a knife or fork</li> </ul>
3. First Fruits ( <a href="#">Lev 23:10-11</a> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This 3<sup>rd</sup> feast is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday ('morrow after the Sabbath') following Unleavened Bread to commemorate an early harvest – this could be a 1-7 day delay during the weeklong celebration of Unleavened Bread</li> <li>• We now call this day EASTER..... <a href="#">1Cor 15:23</a></li> </ul>
4. Pentecost ( <a href="#">Lev 23:15-17</a> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This 4<sup>th</sup> feast occurs 50 days after First Fruits, and marks the Summer harvest – and it, too, always occurs on a Sunday ('morrow after Sabbath') – Go figure</li> <li>• <a href="#">Lev 23:17</a> states that 2 wave loaves (of equal weight) baked with leaven are the Lord's firstfruits. This subtle instruction seems to indicate 2 groups of people (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) are redeemed</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
Matthew 28:1-4	<b>Struck with Awe At the Tomb</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v1. Female visitors to the tomb (cp Lk 24:10) included:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Mary Magdalene</b> – was healed of 7 demons and supported the Lord's work financially.....<a href="#">Luke 8:2-3</a></li> <li>♦ <b>"the other Mary"</b> – the wife of Cleophas/Alpheus, the mother of James the less (Junior) and Joseph. She was also the sister of Mary, the mother of Jesus</li> <li>♦ <b>Joanna</b>, wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, who supported the Lord's work financially..... <a href="#">Lk 8:3; 24:10</a></li> <li>♦ <b>Salome</b>, the wife of Zebedee, the mother of James/ John .... cp <a href="#">Mt 4:21; 20:20; 27:56; Mk 15:40; Lk 24:10</a></li> <li>♦ "Other women" – possibly Mary, Martha, Susanna</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Matthew 28:5-8	<b>Come and See</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An unnamed Angel is given the task to spook the guards (probably a Roman troop of seasoned veterans, "who had been used to terrible sights in the field of battle; were men of courage, and fearless of danger; and yet were seized with a panic, and every limb of them shook and trembled at the sight of the angel, for fear he was come as an executioner of divine vengeance upon them" <i>John Gill Commentary</i>)</li> <li>• The Angel also had the task of calming the fears of the women, giving them a guided tour of the empty tomb, and sending them on to the disciples</li> </ul>
Mark 16:1-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mary Magdalene and friends visits the tomb to prepare Jesus' body for formal burial, but they flee the scene (This could be Mary's 2<sup>nd</sup> trip to the tomb)</li> <li>• According to John, Mary M. apparently was at the tomb while it was still dark and ran into the risen Lord</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS**

- God gives sufficient and credible evidence for people to reliably and confidently place their faith in Him, but not overwhelming evidence to force people to believe ..... [Acts 1:3; 17:31](#)

**NEXT WEEK: Acts 4.** James and John are thrown into prison, and Church growth takes off. Why is it that church persecution does the opposite of what is intended by those who hate the Gospel?



And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. **1Corinthians 15:14**