

JOHN 20 vs 1

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The ancients tell us, John lived the longest of the 12 disciples; the original followers of the Lord; **eye-witnesses to Jesus Christ**. And John tells us in great detail about what happened 3 days and 3 nights after the Passover.

¹ The first day of the week, when it was yet dark / that would be early Saturday evening,

Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb / she came, probably anxious after waiting 3 full days... since that bloody crucifixion, that Wednesday afternoon. **Those 3 days and nights... must have seemed like an eternity!**

But now, **the 3rd great Day of the Lord, Firstfruits** had already begun... being... **the first day of the week; and Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb...**

and sees from the door of the tomb, the stone is taken away from its entrance.

² Then she runs, and comes to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved / which actually suggests that Mary Magdalene went to two different locations,

And she says to them, They have taken away the LORD out of the tomb, and we did not see where they laid Him.

And after some convincing...

³ Then Peter went forth, and the other disciple also, and came to the tomb / somewhere during the nighttime, converging in the streets...

⁴ So they both ran together / and you can see John, including this detail in the gospel... with a smile: **and the other disciple being younger... overtook Peter, and came first to the tomb.**

⁵ And he stooping down, and looking in, saw

/ and what did he see?



Day 3: Firstfruits





the linen clothes lying there; yet he did not go in. What?!

⁶ Then Simon Peter came following him / finally somewhat out of breath I'm sure; and we can see why Jesus liked impulsive Peter,

and went into the tomb / racing right past John; Out of my way! he inspects and pays attention



and sees the linen clothes lie there,



⁷ And the face-cloth, that was about His head / the cloth covering His bloody face and head,



not lying with the linen clothes,



but wrapped together in a place by itself / neatly folded, not here, but over there...

⁸ Then finally the other disciple also went in, who came first to the tomb / the one doing the math, putting the pieces all together...

and he saw, and believed / whatever he saw... it certainly didn't look like grave robbers leaving a mess strewn about; and taking it all in, he saw suddenly made a lot of sense... and was convinced.

And here is an interesting confession that John makes...

⁹ For as until that time, they did not understand the scripture, that Jesus must rise again from the dead / from this verse, we learn scripture realigns our faulty thinking; and also helps those doing the math... to think correctly. How long were they at the empty tomb? We don't know.

¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their own home / scratching their heads... rethinking all they saw.



¹¹ But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping / arriving with Peter and John stayed to do the math:

and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the tomb,

Now Mary is investigating... and intently beholding; she is paying attention to the details:

¹² And she sees two angels clothed in white, sitting,



one at the head,



and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

Now, consider this: from our vantage point... think about what she saw... and knew.

With the Temple lintel broken... and the light of the candelabra having been extinguished -- for 40 more years... all the way to the fall of Jerusalem, never to be lit again according to some of the earliest histories; and the massive veil, 6 stories tall separating the Holy Place, torn down, and the 2 cherubim who guarded the Ark of the Covenant... where did they go? Were they out of a job? Taking a lunch break?

Notice these 2 angels...

13 And they say to her, Woman, why do you weep? / Lady, why are you crying?

She said to them, Because they have taken away my LORD, and I do **not see where they have laid Him.**

Mary was paying attention to the details. And: it was dark.

14 And when she had said thus, she turned around, and saw Jesus standing there, and did **not know that it was Jesus / now, it was night; and she didn't have a flashlight.** And her last image of Him was: Jesus, abused, bloodied, crucified, dead and buried. She saw it all, and had 3 days and nights to rethink all of it. And after that, she didn't expect to see Him so soon! And neither would you or me!

15 Jesus said to her, Woman, why do you weep? Who are you looking for?

Assuming He was the gardener, she said to Him, Sir, if you have taken Him from here tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away / if you took the corpse. Here, we see why God had Mary first tell the good news. How was she going to carry that dead body? It did not matter; she is going to do it! And if this is an invented story, if this is creative nonsense, remember: women of the Middle East were not considered credible witnesses, they were not to speak to strangers. So, how does this crucial part of the story help? Her response is plausible. **Even in the 21st century, roman law does not value women** – women cannot inherit a private business held by their father, only a male relative can.

16 Jesus said to her, **Mary. She turned and said to Him, Rabboni / in lightning speed she turned about, which is to say, My Teacher!**

17 Jesus said to her, Do not touch Me; for I have not yet ascended to My Father. And did our great High Priest still have work to do? To enter the Holy of holies... with evidence of the blood sacrifice? When did that happen?



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