

# MATTHEW 28 vs 1

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**Matthew was an eyewitness to Jesus.**

<sup>1</sup> **In the end of the Sabbath, as the light began to grow / epiphosko; as the light grew, describing: sunlight or moonlight.**

**as the light grew toward the first day of the week /** remember: the next day in that culture... starts at sunset, NOT at sunrise. Luke reports, in **deep dawn**... at dim-light; **at dusk**, it is the same word used for **twilight**,

**at dusk came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the grave /** now, was she the Mary from the Bethany house? That's my guess.

<sup>2</sup> **And, pay attention, there was a great earthquake /** there was a second massive earthquake in Jerusalem in a space of 3 days:

**for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone,**

**and sat on it /** and like Dr. Edersheim of Oxford University used to say, this is **not** how you expect miraculous stories to be told... so unembellished and matter-of-fact.

But back to this angel from the Lord...

<sup>3</sup> **His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing was white as snow:**

<sup>4</sup> **And for fear of him the guards /** those keeping watch... **shook, and became like dead men /** I bet they did! And watch this discrimination, while the keepers are shaking,

<sup>5</sup> **And to the women the angel answered and said, Do **not** fear for I know you seek Jesus, who was crucified.**

<sup>6</sup> **He is **not** here: for He has risen, **as He said**. Come, see where He was laid /** check it out!

<sup>7</sup> **Then go swiftly, and tell His disciples /** His mathetes: those doing the math...

**that He has risen from the dead; and pay attention,**

**He goes before you to Galilee /** Wow, that is a 70- or 80-mile journey north of Jerusalem. When is the last time you walked 70 or 80 miles? And not in tennis shoes? Where these women were from was at least a 4-day journey... so do the math!



Day 3: Firstfruits

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And the angel says...

**there you will see Him: lo / mark this; take note, I have told you.**

**<sup>8</sup> And they departed quickly from the grave** / I bet they ran like crazy! Can you imagine?! Matthew says they ran from the tomb...

**with fear** / with irrational fears, **and great joy;**

**and ran all the way, to bring word to His disciples** / those doing the math. And just remember: these are highly compressed stories. How much time elapsed? We don't know. It's impossible to tell. What takes seconds to read, how long did it actually take? A half-hour? An hour? Longer? We don't know. Can you imagine going to class and have NO problems to solve? Why study math?


**<sup>9</sup> And as they went to tell His disciples, pay attention,**

**Jesus met them, and greeted them** / In Greek: **chairō** meaning: **rejoice!** So, whatever the greeting, just imagine being greeted by your best friend who died a terrible death the other day!

**Jesus met them, saying Rejoice!**

**And they came and held Him by the feet, and worshiped Him** / it seems that out of immediate fear and immense respect, they all approached Him; kneeling down, touching His feet. And why, in all the gospel records do we now sense fear and hesitation? They had NO idea what **risen from the dead** meant; but they were learning fast. They did not expect this to happen. They were terrified; and we would be too. Suddenly, we see wherever Jesus appeared... there were reasons in the natural to be afraid.

Jesus was teaching them that spirituality wasn't supposed to be thought of as... some other place; rather, that the same body that was crucified... was risen from the dead.

 **<sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, Do **not** be afraid. Go tell My brothers to go to Galilee, and there... they will see Me.**

What is the great Shepherd doing? He is moving His people... away from Jerusalem... out of this intense, highly-charged atmosphere... to safety, to familiar places... to instruct them.

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