

THE SON OF MAN HAD TO RISE AGAIN

Luke 24:1-12

Intro: This morning we are remembering the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Actually every Sunday is resurrection day because the Church meets on Sunday, instead of the Jewish Sabbath, Saturday, because the early Church met on the first day of the week: the day of resurrection.

We must also keep in mind that the resurrection of Christ was a bodily, physical resurrection. He was raised from the dead, never to die again, but He was raised with a body--a glorified body, to be sure--but never the less, a body. He showed His hands and His feet. He ate. Luke, who examined all of the evidence and talked to the witnesses who saw him, has written, that "He showed himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God" (Acts 1:3).

All four Gospel writers speak of the resurrection of Christ, giving us the details of that historical event. There are many ways we could approach it, and many, many things which could be said about it, BUT THIS MORNING I WANT TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO WHAT THE "TWO MEN" (John says that they were two angels--so they must have been two angels who appeared in human, visible form) SAID TO THE WOMEN WHO CAME TO THE TOMB VERY EARLY ON THE MORNING OF THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK.

Let me read vv. 4-9 again. Note especially v. 7! The angels are quoting what the Lord Jesus had said. We will get to that in a minute. But right now I want you to see that the Lord Jesus Christ had said that He "must" be raised from the dead. This word is often used to describe something in the Bible which must happen because it has been ordained of God as a divine appointment. It is a positive certainty, an absolute necessity, it must happen in order for some objective to be accomplished.

This is where I have gotten my subject this morning. THE SON OF MAN HAD TO RISE AGAIN.

Before we ask, Why?, let me call your attention to the title that our Lord used for Himself: "the Son of man."

If you were to take your Bible and see where this is used, you would find it in three OT books: the Psalms, Ezekiel, and Daniel. Of these, only one is really important in connection with our text this morning. It is Dan. 7:13, 14:

"I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

"And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."

Without any doubt this has to do with the Messiah! Therefore, the title, Son of man, is a name for the Messiah.

But, since the Messiah has many names and titles, what is the reason that He should have this one?

There are actually several reasons, but ONE IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT: IT INDICATES THAT OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST WAS A REAL HUMAN BEING!

With only one exception (Acts 7:56) this title of our Lord was used only by Him for Himself. Stephen is the only one who is recorded to have called Him, "the Son of man."

Matthew uses it 30 times; Mark uses it 13 times; Luke uses it 25 times; John, 12 times--80 times in all!

But notice what this does to our text.

It means that He was going to die in His human body, and also that He was going to be raised in His human body. "The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified." This had already been done. But He must also be raised again on the third day. Just as certainly as the first part had taken place, so it could be expected that the latter part would be fulfilled also.

WHY?

There are four reasons I would like to give from the Word of God itself.

I. HE HAD TO RISE AGAIN BECAUSE HE SAID HE WOULD.

The angels said, "Remember how he spoke unto you when he was yet in Galilee"? This was one of the most amazing claims that Jesus Christ ever made. Let me read those recorded in Luke's Gospel:

- 1) Luke 9:21, 22.
- 2) Luke 18:31-34.

Jesus Christ was not only the Son of man, but He was also the Son of God. If He had not been raised from the dead, it would have disproved every claim that He ever made for Himself and He would have gone down in history as an impostor. In fact, you and I would probably never have

heard of Him. BUT BECAUSE HE WAS THE MESSIAH, BECAUSE HE WAS THE SON OF MAN, BECAUSE HE WAS GOD INCARNATE, HE HAD TO RISE AGAIN FROM THE DEAD BECAUSE HE SAID HE WOULD.

John, speaking of our Lord in creation, writes, "All things were made by Him . . ." How did He make this universe? "He spoke, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast" (Psa. 33:9).

If Jesus Christ were the Person He claimed to be, then everything He predicted had to come to pass--and it did! ALL OF HIS AUTHORITY RESTED ON THE FULFILLMENT OF THIS PREDICTION.

II. HE HAD TO RISE AGAIN BECAUSE THE SCRIPTURES PREDICTED THAT HE WOULD--THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES.

Cf. Luke 24:25-27, 44, 45. In both of these verses we have the Greek word which is translated, must.

Peter, preaching on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2, was emphasizing this very point when he said, speaking of the Lord Jesus,

"Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that he should be held by it. For David speaketh concerning him . . ." (Acts 2:24, 25)--

and then he quotes from Psalm 16.

His reasoning is this . . . If David, speaking under the direction of the Spirit of God, predicted the resurrection of the Messiah, then the Messiah is going to die and He is going to be raised from the dead. It is just as simple AND JUST AS CERTAIN AT THAT!

When we deal with the OT, we are dealing with the Word of God--not the word of men! Therefore, everything predicted in it will come to pass. IF JESUS CHRIST HAD NOT BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD, THEN THE OLD TESTAMENT WOULD HAVE DISCREDITED--AND WE WOULD BE JUSTIFIED IN FORGETTING ALL ABOUT IT!

But He was raised from the dead--adding to the evidence that IT IS THE WORD OF GOD.

III. HE HAD TO BE RAISED FROM THE DEAD OR THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO GOSPEL.

What is the Gospel? Cf. Luke 24:46, 47. Notice: "repentance . . . remission of sins . . . in his name among all nations." The resurrection is our guarantee that our sins

were taken away at the Cross. He "was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification" (Rom. 4:25).

If Jesus Christ were not raised from the dead, we are still in our sins (1 Cor. 15:17b).

Many more things could be said, but I want to add just one more --taken from the book of Acts which was also written by Luke. It is this:

IV. HE HAD TO BE RAISED FROM THE DEAD OR HE COULD NOT COME AGAIN AS PREDICTED--WITH THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION OF ALL CHRISTIANS WHO HAVE DIED.

Cf. Acts 1:10, 11.

Paul wrote, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." Cf. 1 Cor. 15:19.

If Jesus Christ is not raised, we have no blessed hope! We can eliminate 1 Thess. 4:13-18 out of our Bibles--if He was not raised from the dead.

Concl: But, oh, how wonderful to come back to our text again. (Read Luke 24:6,7.)

This is not a false hope. This is the only hope that the world has.

But let me say this in closing: NONE OF THIS WILL MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU UNLESS AND UNTIL YOU RECEIVE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOR!

Do you know Him? Have you placed your faith in Him? He died for you, but He is not your Savior until you have opened your heart to Him.