

## Who Is Jesus

Part Eighteen / Wednesday, May 22, 2019

### THE FORTY DAYS OF MYSTERY

1 Jesus Christ died on the cross in Jerusalem on a Friday, somewhere close to 3 p.m., April  
2 7, A.D.30. On Sunday morning, April 9, very early, He burst forth from the tomb.  
3 While we do not know of anyone who actually saw His emergence from the secured  
4 grave, there were countless witness to seeing Him following His resurrection.

5  
6 1 John 1:1-3

7 The one who existed from the beginning is the one we have heard and seen. We saw  
8 him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is Jesus Christ, the Word  
9 of life. [2] This one who is life from God was shown to us, and we have seen him. And  
10 now we testify and announce to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the  
11 Father, and then he was shown to us. [3] We are telling you about what we ourselves have  
12 actually seen and heard, so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is  
13 with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

14  
15 JOHN

16  
17 1 John 1:1-3

18 **That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen**  
19 **with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the**  
20 **Word of life; [2] (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness,**  
21 **and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested**  
22 **unto us;)** [3] **That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also**  
23 **may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with**  
24 **his Son Jesus Christ.**

25  
26 LUKE

27  
28 Luke 1:1-3

29 **Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those**  
30 **things which are most surely believed among us, [2] Even as they delivered them**  
31 **unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word; [3]**  
32 **It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the**  
33 **very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,**

34  
35 Acts 1:1-3

36 **The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do**

1 and teach, [2] Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy  
2 Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: [3] To  
3 whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being  
4 seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of  
5 God:

6  
7 PAUL

8  
9 1 Cor. 15:6-8

10 After that, he (Jesus) was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom  
11 the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep (died) [7] After  
12 that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. [8] And last of all he was seen of  
13 me also, as of one born out of due time.

14  
15 PETER

16  
17 Acts 10:39-42

18 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and  
19 in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: [40] Him God raised up the  
20 third day, and shewed him openly; [41] Not to all the people, but unto witnesses  
21 chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from  
22 the dead. [42] And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it  
23 is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.

24  
25 I was recently in the great Israeli museum in Jerusalem. There you will discover several  
26 fascinating ossuaries (stone boxes that hold human bones), one believed to have held the  
27 bones of the high priest Caiaphas (who oversaw the trial of Jesus) and the other that held  
28 the bones of James, the brother of Christ, who suffered martyrdom by stoning sometime  
29 around 62 A.D. But you will not find any ossuary perceived by anybody to hold the  
30 bones of Jesus. Why? *Because no bones were ever found.*

31  
32 No bones. No body. No trace of Jesus' body every turned up. Why? Because He  
33 had risen and then ascended by to His father in Heaven: Acts 1:9-11 **And when he**  
34 **had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received**  
35 **him out of their sight. [10] And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he**  
36 **went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; [11] Which also said, Ye**  
37 **men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken**  
38 **up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into**  
39 **heaven.** All any enemy or critic of the Christ had to do to eliminate Christianity was to  
40 come up with a body! No one ever has.



The stone ossuary that held the bones of James, the half-brother of Jesus, now a part of the Israeli Museum in Jerusalem.

There may be some who question the reality of the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. If so, I highly recommend they read a book by Josh McDowell titled *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*. This brilliant apologist (defender of the faith) has spoken in colleges and universities all over the world. Another defense of the Resurrection is the number of people who saw Jesus (many of whom conversed with Him) following His emergence from the tomb.

Let's take a look at the witnesses of the Risen Christ:

1. Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene

Mark 16:9-11

**Now when Jesus was risen 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.**

1 2. Jesus walked to Emmaus with Cleophas and another man

2  
3 Luke 24:13-32

4 **And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which**  
5 **was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. [14] And they talked together of all**  
6 **these things which had happened. [15] And it came to pass, that, while they**  
7 **communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. [16]**  
8 **But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. [17] And he said unto**  
9 **them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye**  
10 **walk, and are sad? [18] And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering**  
11 **said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things**  
12 **which are come to pass there in these days? [19] And he said unto them, What**  
13 **things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet**  
14 **mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: [20] And how the chief**  
15 **priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified**  
16 **him. [21] But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and**  
17 **beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done. [22] Yea, and**  
18 **certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the**  
19 **sepulchre; [23] And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had**  
20 **also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. [24] And certain of them**  
21 **which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had**  
22 **said: but him they saw not. [25] Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to**  
23 **believe all that the prophets have spoken: [26] Ought not Christ to have suffered**  
24 **these things, and to enter into his glory? [27] And beginning at Moses and all the**  
25 **prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.**  
26 **[28] And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though**  
27 **he would have gone further. [29] But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us:**  
28 **for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.**  
29 **[30] And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it,**  
30 **and brake, and gave to them. [31] And their eyes were opened, and they knew him;**  
31 **and he vanished out of their sight. [32] And they said one to another, Did not our**  
32 **heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us**  
33 **the scriptures?**

34  
35 This is another of the classic Bible stories - post Resurrection. Emmaus was a suburb of  
36 Jerusalem, about seven miles northwest of the city walls. Two men, who had believed in  
37 Jesus, were walking home after the crucifixion of our Lord. They were shaken, trying to  
38 make some sense of things when suddenly Jesus appeared and began walking with them.  
39 Their hopes and dreams were shattered. "We were hoping that He was the One Who was  
40 going to rescue Israel," they mourned. Then Jesus appeared! The lesson is clear: It is

1 only in Jesus that the world makes sense!

2  
3 Now the two men could hardly wait to share the great news. Upon reaching Jerusalem  
4 again they found others who had already shared their experience.

5  
6 3. The great news reached Peter

7  
8 Luke 24:33-35

9 **And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven**  
10 **gathered together, and them that were with them, [34] Saying, The Lord is risen**  
11 **indeed, and hath appeared to Simon. [35] And they told what things were done in the**  
12 **way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.**

13  
14 4. Jesus appeared to all the disciples except Thomas with a commission

15  
16 Mark 16:14

17 **Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them**  
18 **with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had**  
19 **seen him after he was risen.**

20  
21 5. The appearance of Jesus to the disciples the next Sunday night

22  
23 John 20:26-31

24 **And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then**  
25 **came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.**  
26 **[27] Then saith he to Thomas, reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and**  
27 **reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.**  
28 **[28] And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. [29] Jesus**  
29 **saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are**  
30 **they that have not seen, and yet have believed.**

31 **[30] And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which**  
32 **are not written in this book: [31] But these are written, that ye might believe that**  
33 **Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his**  
34 **name.**

35  
36 “...the doors being shut...” (Vs. 26) I loved that verse and used it often on our  
37 nationwide Revivaltime broadcast, which reached 80 nations on 600 stations every Sunday  
38 for 42 years. The Gospel was launched into nations that opposed Christianity, into cities  
39 that had no church or Gospel witness, and reached multitudes of people every week – the  
40 doors being shut.

1 6. The appearance of Jesus to seven disciples beside the Sea of Galilee

2  
3 John 21:1-25

4 **After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias;**  
5 **and on this wise shewed he himself. [2] There were together Simon Peter, and**  
6 **Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee,**  
7 **and two other of his disciples. [3] Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They**  
8 **say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship**  
9 **immediately; and that night they caught nothing. [4] But when the morning was now**  
10 **come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus. [5] Then**  
11 **Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No. [6] And**  
12 **he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They**  
13 **cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes. [7]**  
14 **Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when**  
15 **Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was**  
16 **naked,) and did cast himself into the sea. [8] And the other disciples came in a little**  
17 **ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging**  
18 **the net with fishes. [9] As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of**  
19 **coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread. [10] Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the**  
20 **fish which ye have now caught. [11] Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land**  
21 **full of great fishes, a hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet**  
22 **was not the net broken. [12] Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the**  
23 **disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord. [13] Jesus then**  
24 **cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise. [14] This is now the**  
25 **third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the**  
26 **dead.**

27 **[15] So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas,**  
28 **lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I**  
29 **love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. [16] He saith to him again the second**  
30 **time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou**  
31 **knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. [17] He saith unto him**  
32 **the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he**  
33 **said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou**  
34 **knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my**  
35 **sheep. [18] Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst**  
36 **thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt**  
37 **stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou**  
38 **wouldest not. [19] This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God.**  
39 **And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me. [20] Then Peter, turning**  
40 **about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast**

1 at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? [21] Peter seeing him saith  
2 to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? [22] Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he  
3 tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me. [23] Then went this saying  
4 abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto  
5 him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? [24]  
6 This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we  
7 know that his testimony is true. [25] And there are also many other things which  
8 Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the  
9 world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

10  
11 The site of this appearance is my favorite spot in all the Galilee. The risen Lord prepared  
12 breakfast for the seven fishermen (disciples) a mile or two south of Capernaum - where  
13 Peter and others lived.

14  
15 It was here that Jesus told Peter that he, too would one day be crucified. Peter pointed to  
16 John and asked, "Well, what about him? Is he going to die in that way to?" To which  
17 Jesus replied, in effect, "What I do with John is none of your business. You follow me!"  
18

#### 19 7. The appearance of Jesus to the eleven disciples on a mountain in Galilee

20  
21 Matthew 28:16-20

22 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had  
23 appointed them. [17] And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some  
24 doubted. [18] And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto  
25 me in heaven and in earth. [19] Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them  
26 in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: [20] Teaching them  
27 to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you  
28 **always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.**

29  
30 Our mission as followers of Jesus is to reach the world with the Gospel - not just our own  
31 town.

#### 32 33 8. Jesus appeared to about 500 people in Galilee

34  
35 1 Cor. 15:6

36 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the  
37 greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep ( have passed away).  
38

39 A number of good Bible scholars believe this meeting took place on Mount Tabor (picture  
40 on the next page). Tabor is centrally located in southern Galilee and rises about 1900 feet



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Mount Tabor - a stand-alone bowl-shaped mountain in lower Galilee at the eastern end of the Valley of Armageddon. Some believe it was the site of the Transfiguration of Jesus, an assumption I question as Scriptures had Jesus at Mount Hermon before and after the event. But it could have been here that the Resurrected Jesus appeared to 500 persons, as accounted by Paul in I Corinthians 15:6.

above the plain. It was here that Deborah and Barak defeated the Canaanites and their King Hazor. However, it would not have been that much more distance to the hillside overlooking the Sea of Galilee where Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount.

The important factor is that Jesus rise from the dead and was seen alive by hundreds of people.

9. Jesus appeared to James, his half brother

1 Cor. 15:7

**After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.**

10. Jesus appeared to all the disciples with a commission

Acts 1:3-8

**To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs,**



1 being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of  
2 God: [4] And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should  
3 not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye  
4 have heard of me. [5] For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized  
5 with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. [6] When they therefore were come  
6 together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the  
7 kingdom to Israel? [7] And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or  
8 the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. [8] But ye shall receive  
9 power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me  
10 both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of  
11 the earth.

12  
13 Every Pentecostal believer on the planet should be familiar with that passage. The  
14 remaining disciples met over a hundred other believers on Mount Zion in the very upper  
15 room where Jesus celebrated Passover with them the night prior to His crucifixion. There  
16 they were filled with power from the Holy Spirit just as Jesus has promised in verse 8:

17  
18 Acts 2:1-4

19 **And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one**  
20 **place. [2] And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind,**  
21 **and it filled all the house where they were sitting. [3] And there appeared unto them**  
22 **cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. [4] And they were all filled**  
23 **with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them**  
24 **utterance.**

25  
26 Those “tongues” were not some “gibberish,” but known languages known by the people  
27 throughout the area: Acts 2:5-12 **And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout**  
28 **men, out of every nation under heaven. [6] Now when this was noised abroad, the**  
29 **multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them**  
30 **speak in his own language. [7] And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to**  
31 **another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? [8] And how hear we every**  
32 **man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? [9] Parthians, and Medes, and**  
33 **Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in**  
34 **Pontus, and Asia, [10] Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya**  
35 **about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, [11] Cretes and Arabians,**  
36 **we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. [12] And they**  
37 **were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?**

38  
39 On that very day, over 3,000 were saved and baptized in water (in the Mikvehs baths  
40 located at the southern entrance to the Temple.

1 11. The Apostle Paul saw Jesus

2  
3 Acts 9:3-6

4 **And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round**  
5 **about him a light from heaven: [4] And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying**  
6 **unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? [5] And he said, Who art thou, Lord?**  
7 **And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick**  
8 **against the pricks. [6] And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou**  
9 **have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be**  
10 **told thee what thou must do.**

11  
12 1 Cor. 15:8

13 **And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.**

14  
15 In Caesarea Maritima (by the sea), awaiting a voyage to Rome to appear before Caesar  
16 Nero, Paul encountered King Agrippa. Paul delivered a verbal witness of his own  
17 encounter with Christ:

18  
19 Acts 26:12-19

20 **Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief**  
21 **priests, [13] At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the**  
22 **brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.**  
23 **[14] And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and**  
24 **saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee**  
25 **to kick against the pricks. [15] And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am**  
26 **Jesus whom thou persecutest. [16] But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have**  
27 **appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of**  
28 **these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto**  
29 **thee; [17] Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I**  
30 **send thee, [18] To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from**  
31 **the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and**  
32 **inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. [19] Whereupon,**  
33 **O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:**

34  
35 Several days ago, our group in Israel stood by the side of that very road to Damascus, just a  
36 mile or so from the Syrian border. Somewhere along that road, Paul was stopped cold by  
37 Jesus Christ - to whom Paul committed life. And, as he summarized to the King, "I was  
38 not disobedient!"

39  
40 12. John met Christ on the Isle of Patmos - Rome's death island in the Aegean Sea

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Patmos Island - located between Turkey (east) and Greece (west) where John was sentenced to life by Roman Emperor Domitian. The emperor died first and the next emperor freed John to return to Ephesus, Turkey, where he pastored and wrote the Gospel of John, I, II and III John epistles and the majestic book of revelation.

Rev. 1:10-20

**I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, [11] Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. [12] And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; [13] And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. [14] His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; [15] And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. [16] And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. [17] And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: [18] I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.**

John

Perhaps no apostle knew Jesus better than John. He was the only original disciples who did not die a violent death. Even after his incarceration on the Island of Patmos, when he returned to Ephesus, Turkey, he lived to about the age of 95.

John knew things about Jesus that I don't think we have been permitted to know. Most intriguing to me is his last passage in his Gospel:

(John 21:25) **And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.**

**What a statement! I cannot find any commentary of worth that attempts to shed light on that verse. What things? Where? When? Any effort to solve that is purely speculation until we remember we are dealing with glorified, resurrected Son of the Living God for Whom all things are possible!**

**Some day we will know! But this we are assured of:**

**JESUS IS ALIVE!**

Next week: The Ascension of Jesus Back To Heaven