

Acts 1:1-11 ¹ *The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, ² Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: ³ To whom also he shewed 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: ⁴ And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. ⁵ For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. ⁶ When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? ⁷ And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. ⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. ⁹ And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; ¹¹ Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*

I. Introduction

A. Israel under Roman rule

1. Not easy time for Jews as conquered people
2. Then came Jesus from Nazareth
 - a. He called Twelve to follow Him
 - b. He offered them eternal life
 - c. He told them that He was going to Jerusalem to die
 - i. First warning: Matthew 16:21-23, Mark 8:34-38, Luke 9:23-26
 - ii. Second warning: Matthew 17:22-23, Mark 9:30-32, Luke 9:43-45
 - iii. Third warning: Matthew 20:17-19, Mark 10:32-34, Luke 18:31-34
 - d. He suffered spiritually in His soul in the Garden of Gethsemane
 - e. Judas Iscariot betrayed Him in the garden
 - f. He was tried & falsely accused in an illegal trial
 - g. Roman governor Pontius Pilate ordered His execution as common criminal
 - h. He was buried in a borrowed rich man's tomb

B. After Jesus death

1. Disciples felt great despair over Jesus' death
2. They felt discouraged & lost without any purpose
3. Their Messiah was dead, & they felt their hope of Israel gone

C. Jesus was the promise made, is the promise kept, & will be the promise to come

II. Promise of His Resurrection

A. In the Old Testament

1. God made many prophecies (predictions) in the Old Testament

- a. God's Holy One would not suffer physical corruption in death

Psalm 16:10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

- b. Man of sorrows & walking with grief

Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

- c. He would not open his mouth when afflicted – like when a lamb killed

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

- d. He would die with wicked people & be buried with the rich

Isaiah 53:9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

2. God made no mistakes – God did this all according to Old Testament Scriptures

1 Corinthians 15:3-4³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

B. In the New Testament

1. Jesus predicted that He would be dead only 3 days & 3 nights

Matthew 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

2. Jesus predicted His own death & resurrection (coming back alive from death)

John 2:18-22 ¹⁸ Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things? ¹⁹ Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. ²⁰ Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? ²¹ But he spake of the temple of his body. ²² When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

C. With His disciples

1. Jesus told His Disciples that He would die & rise up alive after 3 days

Mark 9:31-32 ³¹ For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day. ³² But they understood not that saying, and were afraid to ask him.

2. Jesus told His Disciples His coming death & resurrection on their way to Jerusalem

Matthew 16:21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

3. Jesus told His Disciples to meet Him in Galilee after His resurrection

Mark 14:27-28 ²⁷ And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered. ²⁸ But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee.

4. Two angels reminded the women of Jesus promise to come alive again

Luke 24:4-6 ⁴ And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: ⁵ And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,

III. Proof of His Resurrection

A. In the empty tomb

1. Women found heavy stone rolled away from empty tomb

Mark 16:3-6 ³ And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? ⁴ And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. ⁵ And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. ⁶ And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

2. Jesus asked Thomas to His hands & His side

John 20:26-28 ²⁶ And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. ²⁷ Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. ²⁸ And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

B. From the soldiers

1. Soldiers saw angel roll back great stone in front of tomb

Matthew 28:2-4 ² And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. ³ His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: ⁴ And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

2. Priests paid soldiers to spread lie about Jesus followers stealing His body

Matthew 28:12-13, 15 ¹² And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, ¹³ Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him [away] while we slept. ... ¹⁵ So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

C. With the eyewitnesses

1. Mary Magdalene

a. She saw empty tomb first

John 20:1-2 ¹ The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. ² Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.

b. She meets Jesus later in the garden

John 20:14, 16, 18 ¹⁴ And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. ... ¹⁶ Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. ... ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her.

2. Peter & John

John 20:3-7 ³ Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. ⁴ So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. ⁵ And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. ⁶ Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, ⁷ And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

3. Thomas called Didymas met Jesus 8 days after His resurrection

John 20:24-28 ²⁴ But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. ²⁶ And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. ²⁷ Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. ²⁸ And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

4. Disciples in Galilee

a. Seven of His Disciples at Sea of Galile

John 21:1-3, 9, 12 ¹ After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he himself. ² There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples. ³ Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing. ... ⁹ As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread. ... ¹² Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.

b. Eleven Disciples

Matthew 28:16-17 ¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

5. He met with over 500 people at once (probably in Galilee)

1 Corinthians 15:6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

D. Many infallible proofs

1. Jesus spent 40 days on earth after His resurrection

- a. He met two followers on road to Emmaus same day as His resurrection

Luke 24:13-14 ¹³ *And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem [about] threescore furlongs.* ¹⁴ *And they talked together of all these things which had happened.*

Luke 24:25-27 ²⁵ *Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:* ²⁶ *Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?* ²⁷ *And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.*

Luke 24:30-31 ³⁰ *And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them.* ³¹ *And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.*

- b. He showed His Disciples (in Jerusalem) His hands & His feet, and ate piece of fish & some honeycomb

Luke 24:40-43 ⁴⁰ *And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet.* ⁴¹ *And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?* ⁴² *And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.* ⁴³ *And he took it, and did eat before them.*

2. Resurrection of Jesus foundation of Christian faith that Jesus lives

- a. Enemies deny an empty tomb
- b. But evidence declares the empty tomb
- c. Christians believe in the risen Savior
- d. Empty tomb is the “receipt” of payment that Jesus paid the price for my sins

1 Corinthians 15:54-55 ⁵⁴ *So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.* ⁵⁵ *O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*

IV. Promise of His Return

A. Trust

1. Anyone can trust in God’s promises
2. All people trust in something
 - a. Themselves
 - b. Money
 - c. Power

- d. Another personality
 - e. Philosophy
3. But Christian trust in Jesus promise to return back to earth

B. Personal

1. This same Jesus will return in same manner as His first departure from earth
2. Jesus will return in the clouds of the air

Matthew 24:30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

3. All Christians see as if through a dark glass. But we will see Jesus clearly when He returns

1 Corinthian 13:12-13 ¹² For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. ¹³ And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

- a. Today Christians see through faith
- b. Today Christians see through the Scriptures (Bible)

C. Powerful

1. Every person alive will see Jesus return

Revelation 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

2. All people & nations shall serve the Son of Man

Daniel 7:13-14 ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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.

3. Jesus has power over the death & the grave

John 11:25-26 ²⁵ Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: ²⁶ And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

4. Jesus promises to come again

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

V. Conclusion – Pardon of the Cross

A. How can we be ready for His return?

1. Understand we all need a Savior

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God

2. There is a consequence for our sins

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

3. Christ paid the price for sin

Romans 4:25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

4. We must turn to Him in faith

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

B. Pardon for Sin

Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.