

AS DAWN ARRIVED . . . HE AROSE

Matthew 28:1–7

May our eyes be open to the truth of Jesus' resurrection. May our eyes be open to what it meant for the disciples back then. May our eyes be open to what it means for us now.

—Charles R. Swindoll

PANIC seizes the mind when a person feels lost—and not supermall lost. Rather, the kind of lost as when you're boating on a lake and a thick fog rolls in blanketing the waters. The kind of lost when you lose your map in the wilderness and you're days away from civilization. Fear sets in. Anxiety locks out any memory that might prove useful to finding your way.

Such a feeling accurately captures the distress of the disciples when Jesus exhaled His final breath. Joseph put Jesus' body in a dark tomb. As a massive stone sealed His fate, the disciples' hope faded into oblivion.

Or did it?

In this study, we journey to that miraculous moment when the darkness of Saturday night became the light of Sunday morning—the day when Jesus who was crucified became Jesus who is resurrected.



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PREPARE YOUR HEART

Paul suffered more than most. Toil-filled nights, dangers at sea, wilderness perils, duplicitous partners, back-thrashings, hunger, thirst—Paul endured it all. But through it all, Paul discovered a divine secret. Look at what he wrote to the church in Philippi:

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. . . . The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. . . . I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:6–7, 9, 11–13 NASB)

Paul grounded his peace on strength from the presence of Judah’s conquering Lion. Through faith in the resurrected Christ, we gain access to peace unshakable.

Take a moment to consider the reality of Jesus’ resurrection. Then ask the Spirit to deepen your understanding of that world-changing event, which we focus on in this study.





TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus told His disciples on three occasions to expect His death and resurrection.

From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead. But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. “Heaven forbid, Lord,” he said. “This will never happen to you!” (Matthew 16:21–22)

After they gathered again in Galilee, Jesus told them, “The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of his enemies. He will be killed, but on the third day he will be raised from the dead.” And the disciples were filled with grief. (17:22–23)

As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside privately and told them what was going to happen to him. “Listen,” he said, “we’re going up to Jerusalem, where the Son of Man will be betrayed to the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. They will sentence him to die. Then they will hand him over to the Romans to be mocked, flogged with a whip, and crucified. But on the third day he will be raised from the dead.” (20:17–19)

Summarize Jesus’ warning and explain why Jesus warned them.

Three separate times, Jesus prepared His disciples for His death and resurrection. Three separate times they turned a deaf ear. —Chuck Swindoll



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SEARCHING
THE
SCRIPTURES

STUDY

In this *Searching the Scriptures* study, we incorporate correlation during observation and interpretation. Correlation compares one biblical passage with another. Correlation helps us understand the Bible's teaching on history when multiple authors write on the same event.

Correlation proves vital for understanding the Bible's most important event: Jesus' resurrection.



Observation: Early One Morning

First, observe *Matthew 28:1–7* and *John 20:1–2*. Note key characters and events. How do these two passages correlate with each other?

Observe the next event, *John 20:3–10*. Note who does what and when. Summarize the events. What commentary did the apostle John (the gospel's author) provide, and how does it relate to Jesus' three statements in Matthew 16:21–22; 17:22–23; and 20:17–19?

The stone was removed from Jesus' tomb to let people in to see, not to let the supernatural out to appear. —Chuck Swindoll



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Mary's mistaken conclusion that someone had taken Jesus' body must have set Peter and John's minds racing as fast as their feet while they ran to the tomb. When they arrived, they beheld the rolled-away stone, the corpse-less rock slab, and the wadded face shroud lying separate from the linen body-wrappings. Fear coalesced with confusion as they contemplated what they saw. Did someone actually take Jesus' body? If not, what could this mean? Peter struggled to understand, but in the apostle John, a flame of belief began flickering.



Interpretation: He Arose Victorious

Biblical authors often use dialogue and speech in their narratives to couch theological truth. Such is the case in the resurrection narratives. Below we provide three passages in which the meaning of Jesus' resurrection flows from the words of the characters.

When Mary Magdalene heard, “He isn’t here. He’s risen from the dead,” . . . she felt lost until Jesus appeared. —Chuck Swindoll

Jesus near the Tomb

Read [John 20:11–18](#). Verse 17 depicts Jesus sharing the significance of His resurrection. What did Jesus teach in this verse and why is it important? (See also [John 14:19–21](#); [16:25–28](#), [31–33](#).)

Jesus behind Closed Doors

Read [John 20:19–30](#). This passage contains two scenes. The first on the first day of Jesus' resurrection and the second on the eighth day after His resurrection.



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What did Jesus tell the disciples in the first scene, and how do His statements relate to His resurrection (John 20:19–25)?

What did Jesus repeat in the second scene (20:26–30), and how did Thomas respond to Jesus? What do Thomas' words inform us about Jesus' resurrection?

Jesus in Galilee

Read *Matthew 28:16–20*. In Matthew, this speech contains Jesus' final words to His disciples. Reflect on this short paragraph. Consider how Jesus' words relate to His resurrection. Explain below.

After seeing the resurrected Jesus, the disciples who hid in fear became the evangelists of the first century. —Chuck Swindoll





Application: Let Us Sing

Apply this study by enjoying the presence of our resurrected Lord. He lives. He sits at the right hand of the Father. He intercedes on our behalf. Draw near to Jesus and He will draw near to you.

In his letter to the Colossian church, Paul wrote:

Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.
(Colossians 3:16)

Meditate on the following hymn about Jesus' resurrection. Posture your heart toward Christ and let your words flow to Him.

O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing!

*O sons and daughters of the King,
whom heavenly hosts in glory sing,
today the grave has lost its sting.
Alleluia!*

*That Easter morn at break of day,
the faithful women went their way
to seek the tomb where Jesus lay.
Alleluia!*

*An angel clad in white they see,
who sat and spoke unto the three,
"Your Lord has gone to Galilee."
Alleluia!*

*When Thomas first the tidings heard
that some had seen the risen Lord,
he doubted the disciples' word.
Lord, have mercy!*

*At night the apostles met in fear;
among them came their Master dear
and said, "My peace be with you here."
Alleluia!*

*"My pierced side, O Thomas, see,
and look upon my hands, my feet;
not faithless but believing be."
Alleluia!*

*No longer Thomas then denied;
he saw the feet, the hands, the side.
"You are my Lord and God!" he cried.
Alleluia!*

*How blest are they who have not seen
and yet whose faith has constant been,
for they eternal life shall win.
Alleluia!¹*



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Now write a brief reflection on Jesus' resurrection. If you are a Christian, think over how you once were lost but now are found. Consider how the resurrection's power can remove what gloom may be in your heart and what fog might be in your mind.

The world laid enchained as if locked in a dark dungeon with no hope of freedom, no alleviation of anxiety, and no consolation of love—until Christ came. He died and then resurrected which beamed into the world a ray of light, an invitation for all. He chases after us, comforts us, and restores us in the Father's love. He has arisen. On the final day, we too shall arise as He did. Praise God!



A FINAL PRAYER

Father, how awesome is Your power! On that morning, through the resurrection of Your Son, You reversed the penalty and power of sin and death. Because of Jesus, I am no longer lost. I know who I am because I know I am Yours. I know where I am because I know where He is. Father, please strengthen me with the peace of Christ that surpasses all understanding. In His mighty name, amen.

ENDNOTE

1. Jean Tisserand, attr., "O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing," trans. J. M. Neale, https://hymnary.org/text/o_sons_and_daughters_let_us_sing.



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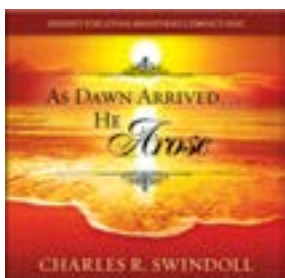
Matthew 28:1-7

SEARCHING
THE
SCRIPTURES

STUDY



Tools for Digging Deeper



As Dawn Arrived...He Arose
by Charles R. Swindoll
single CD



Suddenly One Morning
A Radio Theater Production
by Charles R. Swindoll
single CD



Sunday to Sunday
by Charles R. Swindoll and
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For the 2020 broadcasts, this *Searching the Scriptures* study was developed by Aaron Massey in collaboration with Bryce Klabunde, executive vice president of Pastoral Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages.



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