

Responding to the atheists and skeptics—2- The different times when women went to the tomb.

SUMMARY OF THE RESURRECTION EVENTS

- Event #1: Saturday, 5:45 p.m., April 4, 33: Two Marys go to “look” at tomb then return, Matt. 28:1.
Event #2: Sunday, 3:00 a.m., April 5, 33: Earthquake and angel from heaven, Matt. 28:2-4.
Event #3: Sunday, 4:00 a.m., April 5, 33: MM visits the tomb before daybreak, Jn. 20:1.
Event #4: Sunday, 4:15 a.m.: MM reports empty tomb to John & Peter, Jn. 20:2.
Event #5: Sunday, 4:30 a.m.: Peter and John run to the tomb, Jn. 20:3-9.
Event #6: Sunday, 4:40 a.m.: MM returns to tomb & sees 2 angels, Jn. 20:10-13.
Event #7: Sunday, 4:50 a.m.: MM sees the Risen Lord, Jn. 20:14-17.
Event #8: Sunday, 5:00 a.m.: MM tells disciples who do not believe her, Jn. 20:18; Mk. 16:9-11.
Event #9: Sunday, 6:00 a.m.: MM & other women go to tomb of Jesus, Mk. 16:1-3; Lk. 24:1-2.
Event #10: Sunday, 6:30 a.m.: Women enter tomb; 3 angels, Mt. 28:5-7; Mk 16:4-7; Lk. 24:3-8.
Event #11: Sunday, 7:00 a.m.: Women run in fear; Jesus meets them, Mt. 28:8-10; Mk. 16:8.
Event #12: Sunday, 8:00 a.m.: Women went to tell disciples; soldiers report, Mat 28:11-15.
Event #13: Sunday, 8:10 a.m.: Once again, the disciples do not believe the women, Lk. 24:9-11
Event #14: Sunday, 8:30 a.m.: However, Peter runs to the tomb a second time, Lk. 24:12.
Event #15: Sunday, 8:45 a.m.: Private meeting between Jesus and Peter, 1 Cor. 15:5; Lk. 24:34.
Event #16: Sunday, 10 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Jesus & 2 travelers to Emmaus, Mk. 16:12; Lk. 24:13-32.
Event #17: Sunday, 5:00 p.m. The 2 travelers tell the 11 Disciples, Mk. 16:13; Lk. 24:33-35.
Event #18: Sunday, 5:20 p.m. Thomas leaves; Jesus appears, Lk. 24:36-49; Jn. 20:19-25.
Event #19: 8 days after the resurrection. Jesus appears to Thomas, Mk. 16:14-18; Jn 20:26-31.
Event #20: 2 weeks after the resurrection. Jesus appears to disciples on shore of Galilean Sea, Jn 21:1-25.
Event #21: 3 weeks after the resurrection. Jesus appears to eleven disciples on mountain, Matt. 28:16-20.
Event #22: 40 days after the resurrection. Jesus’s last group appearance, and His ascension into Heaven, Mk 16:19-20; Lk. 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-12.
Event #23: 3-6 years after the resurrection. Jesus appears to Saul of Tarsus, Acts 9:3-9.

We are now in the final chapter of these studies where I will directly answer the specific **attacks** on the resurrection narratives by various atheists and skeptics. A good representation of the attacks on the resurrection accounts of Jesus Christ is found at Dan Barker's website—Barker must have a very high IQ to be member of Prometheus Club, he is anything but the local village atheist who often has more bad attitude than good wit—more heat than light;-)

The next charge of inconsistencies: (cf. <http://www.ffrf.org/legacy/books/lfif/?t=stone>)

What time did the women visit the tomb?

- Matthew: "as it began to dawn" (28:1)
- Mark: "very early in the morning . . . at the rising of the sun" (16:2, KJV); "when the sun had risen" (NRSV); "just after sunrise" (NIV)
- Luke: "very early in the morning" (24:1, KJV) "at early dawn" (NRSV)
- John: "when it was yet dark" (20:1)

Responses to the above:

- Careful and exacting exegesis of Matthew's "as it began to dawn" (28:1) demonstrates that this is Saturday evening when the next day begins to dawn according to Jewish calendar. See above: Event #1: Saturday, 5:45 p.m., April 4, 33.
- As Barker notes, Mark and Luke both say that it was "very early in the morning." (I can't help but wonder why he throws in other translations. Is he trying to obfuscate a bit?) Mary Magdalene and the other women did go to the tomb "very early in the morning" as documented above: "Event #9: Sunday, 6:00 a.m.: MM & other women go to tomb of Jesus, Mk. 16:1-3; Lk. 24:1-2."
- John's "when it was yet dark" refers to Mary Magdalene's lone visit to the tomb. This is documented in event #3 above: "Sunday, 4:00 a.m., April 5, 33: MM visits the tomb before daybreak, Jn. 20:1."

Another way to look at my **response** to the **attacks** :

- Matthew: "as it began to dawn" (28:1) = **event #1**.
- Mark: "very early in the morning . . . at the rising of the sun" (16:2, KJV); "when the sun had risen" (NRSV); "just after sunrise" (NIV) = **event #9**
- Luke: "very early in the morning" (24:1, KJV) "at early dawn" (NRSV) = **event #9**.
- John: "when it was yet dark" (20:1) = **event #3**.

For review, I will keep a running chart on the validity of the attacks on the resurrection accounts:

Scorecard on the validity of the atheistic and skeptical attacks on the resurrection narratives of Jesus Christ:

1. It is impossible to provide a reasonable and non-contradictory narrative of the resurrection narratives that includes every single passage. **FALSE:** See above for hour-by hour narrative—not a single passage is omitted. Above is a reasonable account-- it is very plausible.
2. There is a contradiction regarding the earthquake occurring after the women visit the tomb (Matt 28:1-2) versus before visiting the tomb. **FALSE:** Matt. 28:1-2 occurred Saturday evening (see event 1 above) before earthquake and should not be confused with event 9.
3. There is contradiction between the times of morning the women visited the tomb **FALSE:** Skeptics make the *error* in conflating events 1, 3, and 9.

It does not matter how high one's IQ is; history has shown that those who attack the Word of God end up with a great deal of egg on their faces. What a demonstration of God's grace! Furthermore, the believer with Bible doctrine has vast resources of wisdom to tap into for a thriving wonderful life that the most intelligent people in the world have no clue about. The truth of the matter is that the most intelligent person without doctrine is rather dimwitted when it comes to the most important things of life: the true nature of God and man and life! How sad! What a waste of God-given talent!

1 Corinthians 1:19-20 For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And the cleverness of the clever I will set aside." Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. 21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

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Pastor Don