

"The King's Resurrection & Return"

Matthew 28; 1 Thessalonians 4

Review: Matthew's 11 sections:

Unlike all other kings Jesus rose from the dead; David was still in the grave.

Introduction: The early Church was about to be born as the Holy Spirit prepared to empower its first leaders (Acts 2). Peter speaks for all of them in Acts 2:14-36 and in his sermon he connects King David and King Jesus, David remains dead but Jesus has risen from the dead and concludes with - Acts 2:36. David's prophetic words have come true (Psalms 16:8-11; Psalms 110:1).

Matthew on Jesus' resurrection:

First, Matthew's testimony of Jesus' resurrection - Matthew 28:1-10

Second, The Guard's reaction to the resurrection - Matthew 28:11-14

Third, Jesus' commissioning of his disciples - Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus told his disciples three important things in his final instructions. First, Jesus has authority and He gave it to his disciples to make disciples. Second, disciples need two things, initiation and guidance: baptism and discipling in obedience. Third, they needed to realize that this project is personally sanctioned by God, and that Jesus is always with those who disciple.

Paul on Jesus' Return - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Summary: As a child of God, I am certain that my sins are forgiven in Jesus Christ; that I have been imputed the righteousness of Jesus Christ and after I die, before Jesus returns or upon his return, I will meet him in the air and so I will forever be with the Lord. Everyone else will face the wrath of God.

Conclusion: Jesus foretold his death and his resurrection (Matthew 16:21; Matthew 17:22-23; Matthew 20:17-19) to his disciples; but they never really listened or they didn't really believe him. After his gruesome death they abandoned Jesus (Except John) and even after his resurrection they struggled to believe what had really taken place. Luke and John record stories of disciples who needed to see Jesus for themselves—or they would not be convinced even on the testimony of close friends. But once they fully realized that their friend and rabbi had died an awful death and rose from that death three days later they gave their lives to spread the gospel.

Peter, in his Pentecost sermon, connects the greatest King in Israel's history, David, with the King of kings, the Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 2:22-36) Jesus is the 'promise fulfilled' that God made to King David! (2 Samuel 7:11-16)