

Out of the Shadows

Study Pages

OUT OF THE SHADOWS

- **Matthew 28:1-6** [NKJV] Now after the Sabbath, as the first *day* of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead *men*. But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen... Come, see the place where the Lord lay."

Last week in our discussion, The shadow of the cross stretched long and heavy across Golgotha. Jesus, the Passover's lamb was slain, His blood poured out, And judgment was stayed once and for all.

- Think about it, shadows can't hold back the Light forever.
- On the third day, the stone was rolled away, darkness was dispelled, and the tomb found empty
- The risen Christ stepped out of every Old Testament silhouette into the blazing reality of the Light of His resurrection.
- What began as whispers in Eden and Egypt, foreshadowed in the feast of Passover and echoed by the prophets now stood alive:
 - **Luke 24:6** [NKJV] He is not here; He has risen!...
- The shadows from ancient times faded from view that morning in the light of day, the shadows were left behind in the dust of the empty grave

PASSOVER

- In this series, we've talked a lot about the story of PASSOVER
- So, now let's think about what happened the next day in the story
 - Think about the dismay of the Egyptians when they awoke to find all of their beloved firstborn were dead
 - When Pharaoh realized the cost of his folly, he surrendered and let the people of God go
 - And their departure from centuries of slavery was even more spectacular than anything they had ever dreamed it to be
- When the morning light broke 3 days after the cross, Jesus was indeed risen as the Scripture says
 - **Colossians 1:18** [NKJV] ...the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.
- In the context of Israel's deliverance out of Egypt
 - **Psalms 105:43** [KJV] And he brought forth his people with joy, *and* his chosen with gladness:

- Likewise, to all who would believe in the redemptive work of Christ, our deliverance from the bondage of sin is even more spectacular
 - **1 Peter 1:8** [NET] You have not seen him, but you love him. You do not see him now but you believe in him, and so you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,
 - **[KJV]** ...yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:
- Jesus departure from the shadow of death is still the most miraculous and glorious event of all time
- Imagine how gloriously happy the LORD must have been to make His exit from the shadow of death
 - It was a plan 4,000 years in the making and was a culmination, almost beyond imagination
 - All the years of preparation > All of the sacrifices > All the Victory wrapped up that one emerging moment from the darkness of death into the of light of deliverance
 - **Acts 2:24** [NKJV] whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.
 - **1 Corinthians 15:55** [KJV] O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory?
- One Lamb > One Sacrifice > One Victory for all of time

JONAH

We're still talking about Old Testament types and shadows and, in that context, we can't talk about the resurrection without mentioning Jonah

- Jesus spoken of him in **Matthew 12:38-40** [NKJV] Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You." But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.
- Thank God, Jonah emerged from the darkness to step into the light of day to preach repentance to those who needed to hear it
- For those who have received the light of Jesus' resurrection the light of life that has been bought for us
- So should we be found preaching repentance to those who need to hear
- At the grave of Lazarus, Jesus declared to Martha
 - **John 11:25** [NKJV] ...I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

ABRAHAM & ISAAC

- In that narrative of Abraham & Isaac, we learned that God provided a substitute
- And we now know that Jesus was the ultimate substitute. He paid the price for the sins of all of humanity on that cross

- **Genesis 22:4** [NKJV] Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off.
 - What place was that? Mount Moriah > The SAME place, thousands of years later where Jesus would fulfill that promise
- We also want to take a moment to understand that in Abraham's mind
 - Isaac was as good as dead and when God provided a substitute it was as if Isaac had been raised from the dead
 - **Hebrews 11:17-19** [NKJV] By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God *was* able to raise *him* up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.
 - Figuratively, the son was offered and then restored. So, it is with Jesus. He was offered and then restored; The Father received His Son back from the dead

PROPHETICALLY PROMISED

- **Psalms 16:10** [NLT] For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your holy one to rot in the grave.
 - Peter quoted that same passage in the message he preached in his first sermon on the Day of Pentecost
 - Paul also mentioned it in Acts chapter 13 to the people assembled in Antioch

THE THIRD DAY

- **Hosea 6:2** [NKJV] After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight.
- Even in Hebraic numerology - the number 3 is the number that symbolize resurrection.
- There is a reviving that is noted multiple times in the Scripture on the third day
- Remember, Abraham was noted "on the third day" as finding the place where his son, Isaac, was to be offered, pointing toward the place where God's Son would eventually be sacrificed

SIDE NOTE WORTH MENTIONING

- When I was a child, I often wondered why God would pick, Of all things, Water being turned to wine As the first miracle for which Jesus was noted
 - Why couldn't it have been something related to Healing or Raising the dead or even parting a body of water?
 - No, God picked, of all things, an extremely obscure miracle to officially introduce the world to His only begotten Son
- The answer lies in the prophetic foreshadowing written clearly in John chapter 2
- **John 2:1** [NKJV] On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee...
 - On the third day
 - There is another resurrection coming
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** [NKJV] For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel,

and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

- **1 Corinthians 15:51-52** [NKJV] Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed--in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
- When will it happen? On the third day...
 - **2 Peter 3:8** [NKJV] But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.
- Two thousand years have passed since Christ's first coming
- We are now in what would be termed EARLY on the third day
- What happened EARLY on the third day? Jesus was resurrected from the dead; Out of the shadows He emerged
- For those who believe in Him there is coming a resurrection - a catching away so-to-speak - And we shall depart from the shadows of this life into life eternally in Him
 - His body was raised from the dead on the third day
 - We are His Body, and we, too, shall be raised on the third day
- On the third day... there was a wedding
 - **Revelation 19:7, 9** [NKJV] "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." ... Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed *are* those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."
 - And when He comes for His Bride - His Body - in the Resurrection, there is going to be a wedding - A celebration noted as the Marriage Supper of the Lamb
- Jesus turning water into wine at a wedding on the 3rd day is a foreshadow of what is yet to come
- **John 2:2** Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding.
 - Who's invited to the wedding?
 - Jesus and His disciples. Are you a disciple? I'm a disciple
 - Those who believe in Christ; Those who believe He died on the cross for our sins and rose to new life on the 3rd day
 - **Philippians 3:10** [NKJV] that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection...
- **John 2:3** And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."

- **Matthew 9:17** [NKJV] Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."
 - This points directly to our New Covenant in Christ
 - Out with the Old; In with the New
- **John 2:4** Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."
 - What hour is that?
 - Perhaps He was referring to the hour He mentioned in
 - **Matthew 26:45** [NKJV] Then He came to His disciples and said to them, "Are *you* still sleeping...? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.
 - Regardless, we should all make note of what is written in:
 - **Matthew 25:13** [Mat 25:13 NKJV] Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.
- **John 2:5** His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do *it*."
 - The same still holds true today
 - What He says to us who believe is exactly what we should be found DOING, especially considering His imminent return
- **John 2:6** Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews...
 - These were vessels that were used for ceremonial cleansing
 - **James 4:8, 10** [NKJV] Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. ... Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.
 - Wedding is a ceremony and His bride will be clean and pure
 - **Revelation 19:8** [KJV] And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.
- **John 2:7** Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim.
 - Vessels of honor we are to be and filled to the full should be the sum of our Christian experience
 - **Ephesians 5:18-20** [NLT] Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Thus, a certain worship chorus pops into my head:
 - "There's a new wine we're drinking
 - "It's filled with Holy Ghost power
 - "We're filling up to the top and overflowing...

- **John 2:8** And He said to them, "Draw *some* out now, and take *it* to the master of the feast." And they took *it*.
 - Jesus is always looking for ways to draw out of us all that He has put into us
 - I'm, once again, reminded of an old song with lyrics that say
 - "I am not my own, I've been bought with a price..."
- **John 2:9** When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom.
 - As servants of the most-high God we should all know from where the power of His resurrection comes
 - Yes, it comes from above. Yet, it will proceed from or through
 - Vessels that are pure and clean
 - Vessels that are filled to overflowing with His love, goodness and mercy; Filled with the power of His resurrection; Filled with the power of His glory
- **John 2:10** And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the *guests* have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!"
 - One translation reads "you have saved the best for last"
- **John 2:11** This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.
 - The age of miracles is still upon us;
 - It is now high time for His servants to do likewise manifesting His glory at every opportunity
 - We are in the time considered early on the third day
 - There is a resurrection coming SOON, but until then let us be found manifesting His glory and His goodness to a lost and dying world;
 - Let us be found manifesting the power of His resurrection

AFTER the Resurrection

- **John 20:11-17** [NKJV] But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down *and looked* into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, and did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father..."
 - Why did He not want her to touch Him?
 - Well, it had to do with what was yet to be done.

- Once Jesus was resurrected, there was still one more thing to do
 - **Hebrews 9:11-12, 24:26, 28** [NKJV] But Christ came *as* High Priest of the good things to come... Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. ... For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, *which are* copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us... so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time.,,
- Once Jesus had officially applied His Blood to the mercy in heaven, then, He was able to return and be seen
 - He was found on the road to Emmaus
 - He was found among His disciples
 - For the purposes of revelation and last minute instructions
 - **Luke 24:39-40, 44-48** [NLT] "Look at my hands. Look at my feet. You can see that it's really me. Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don't have bodies, as you see that I do." As he spoke, he showed them his hands and his feet. ... Then he said, "When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said, "Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations... You are witnesses of all these things.
 - **Luke 24:50-51** [NLT] Then Jesus led them to Bethany, and lifting his hands to heaven, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up to heaven.
- Jesus then ascended up on high, passing through the veil that separates time and eternity

THE VEIL AND A FEW OTHERS ODDS & ENDS

- **Matthew 27:51-53** [NKJV] Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.
 - Last week, concerning the veil being torn, we made the good point about the Presence of God departing the temple And a way being made for the Holy Spirit to now dwell in the hearts of men
 - This was a direct result of Jesus' redemptive work on the cross, but we didn't discuss all the other events that are in this passage
 - The earth quaked

- **Matthew 16:18** [NKJV] ...on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- **Hebrews 12:25-28** [NKJV] See that you do not refuse Him who speaks... whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." ... Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.
- The rocks were split
 - **Psalm 78:15, 20** [NKJV] He split the rocks in the wilderness, And gave *them* drink in abundance like the depths. ... Behold, He struck the rock, so that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed...
 - **Psalm 105:41** [NKJV] He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it ran in the dry places *like* a river.
 - **John 7:38** [NKJV] "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."
- The graves were opened
 - Many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised
 - And coming out of the graves after His resurrection
 - They appeared to many
 - Even on the night He was betrayed in the Garden
 - **John 18:4-5** [NKJV] Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, "Whom are you seeking?" They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am *He*."
 - Mark's account gives this further detail... in the same storyline
 - **Mark 14:51** [NKJV] Now a certain young man followed Him, having a linen cloth thrown around *his* naked *body*...
 - If you've ever been to the Mount of Olives or the Garden of Gethsemane, you'd notice there is an ancient burial site nearby. I know of at least one Greek theologian who believes that this young man who was found wrapped in a linen cloth was apparently raised from the dead when Jesus declared, I AM
- We're talking about the veil being torn; We're talking about the earth being shaken; We're talking about rocks being split and the water of the Spirit suddenly being made available to flow out of the hearts of men; We're talking about the dead being raised and the foreshadows of a New Covenant based upon the redemptive work of Christ
 - **2 Corinthians 3:7-18** [NLT] The old way, with laws etched in stone, led to death, though it began with such glory that the people of Israel could not bear to look at Moses' face. For his face shone with the glory of God, even though the brightness was already fading away. Shouldn't we expect far greater glory

under the new way, now that the Holy Spirit is giving life? If the old way, which brings condemnation, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new way, which makes us right with God! In fact, that first glory was not glorious at all compared with the overwhelming glory of the new way. So if the old way, which has been replaced, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new, which remains forever!

Since this new way gives us such confidence, we can be very bold. We are not like Moses, who put a veil over his face so the people of Israel would not see the glory, even though it was destined to fade away. But the people's minds were hardened, and to this day whenever the old covenant is being read, the same veil covers their minds so they cannot understand the truth. And this veil can be removed only by believing in Christ. Yes, even today when they read Moses' writings, their hearts are covered with that veil, and they do not understand. But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord--who is the Spirit--makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

- **18 [NKJV]** But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

IN CONCLUSION

Let's take one more pass through the garden:

- I've been a student of the Word for nearly half a century And I find most intriguing this thread we discovered that runs: From the Garden of Eden > through the Garden of Gethsemane > to Garden which still contains an Empty Tomb
- From that empty Garden Tomb The light of His resurrection turns INSIDE OUT all the shadows that we have discussed
- These three garden settings form a perfect redemptive arc that traces the entire story of humanity and God's plan of redemption across the span of time and eternity.
- Eden was the original shadow of paradise lost; Gethsemane was the place where the deep shadow of the cross was embraced; And the empty garden tomb represents the moment when light is allowed to fully break OUT OF THE SHADOWS - securing Life eternal for humanity once again.