**The Resurrected Redeemer**

(Matthew 28:6 KJV)

*He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.*

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n this chapter Matthew tells us about “an angel of the Lord.” The last time we have seen an angel of the Lord in Matthew’s Gospel is in the story of Christ’s birth. At Christ’s birth the angel was a messenger from the Lord; he explained to Joseph the meaning of Mary’s pregnancy and gave him precise instructions from God; to take Mary home as his wife. We immediately see that this angel too is a messenger from the Lord and he explains the meaning of the empty tomb and gives instructions from God Himself to the women at the tomb. “*He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay” (Matthew 28:6).*

The resurrection of Jesus Christ has very important meaning. It was the final proof that everything He had said was true. He has endured His betrayal by Judas, an arrest in the garden of Gethsemane, an unjustified trial before Pontius Pilate, a horrendous beating with a torching whip, and a hammering down of His body by nails to a wooden cross. But that’s not the end of the story, “And He died!” The synoptic gospels declared that His body was buried namely by Nicodemus, and Joseph of Arimathea both of whom were His secret disciples. It’s no doubt after His burial that He rose after such gruesome crucifixion from physical death back to a literal to life with an unidentified body and then ascended to heaven.

In dealing with the death of Jesus; Satan got a thrill out of such horrific suffering. But t**he great thrill of the crucifixion is not the fact Jesus died, many have died. The thrill is the fact Jesus died, and now lives.** The good news from the grave yard declares that Jesus rose and left the dead, and caused Satan’s empire to crumble. There will never be a tomb compared to Jesus’ tomb. The tomb of Buddha has a body in it. The tomb of Mohammed has a body in it. But the tomb of Jesus is empty. Hallelujah!

1. **Because of His Resurrection We Have a Pardon:**

Jesus Christ came into this world to die as our substitute for our sins. The sinless Son of God came to give His life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28). While Jesus was alive, He had predicted that He would rise from the dead. He challenged his enemies, “*Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up*.” He was speaking about his bodily resurrection (John 2:19). Jesus also told His disciples many times that He would be killed by the leaders in Jerusalem which were welded in Judaism, but be raised to life on the third day. The leaders who killed Jesus were aware of this prediction that He would rise from the dead. Although they did not believe it, they wanted to ensure that it would not happen, so they set a guard around the tomb.

*Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch* (Matthew 27:62-66).

But the strategy of the Chief Priests and Pharisees didn’t succeed? Despite their scheme, Jesus rose from the dead a conqueror. Remember how Jesus had said to Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life?” During His ministry on earth, Jesus brought a number of people to life from the dead, including Martha’s brother Lazarus, who had been dead for four days (John 11). But the resurrection of Jesus Christ was