

Interactive Study of Lucan Resurrection Day Narrative

Easter Day 2019

The Resurrection of Jesus - NRSV

24 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' ⁸Then they remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at **what had happened**.

Message

Luke's Resurrection Part A:

The Empty Grave

Note:

Luke is a serious historian linking his material together to give a reliable account. This is a report compiled by someone who heard the first and second hand reports of others much the way a journalist would form a story from information they got to hear.

Opening:

A First Basic Question

Q1 What Happened?

What was the big thing?

Q1 So what had happened that amazed people?

What was the big event here in Luke 24.1-12?

NB Distinguish secondary events from primary significant event.

-Not theory or explanation but what was reported to have happened?

A1 The body of Jesus was not found where it had been left in the tomb 3 days earlier.

Other aspects are secondary details around this main event.

The explanation given here for the empty tomb is: He –*Jesus*- has risen as he said he would.

Note:

There is nothing said here about the Resurrection itself. No one saw it.

The Empty Tomb is the first part of the resurrection story and all we hear from Luke today.

Three Subsequent Questions to ask of this account:

3 Subsequent Questions

Q2 Really?

Yes - Because:

No - Because:

Q2 REALLY?

How sound and trustworthy is this report of the Empty Tomb?

Yes Why?

Possible reasons - in brief:

1. One of several accounts of resurrection - 4 Gospels +
2. This is a detailed account with times and named people - not 'once upon a time'...
3. Surprise of those involved. This was not what anyone expected.
4. Randomness of development - no structure or orchestration at work
5. Women were reported as discovering this and men did not believe them.
6. Body never found.

No Why? -

Due to alternative explanations:

- A. This does not happen in my world or life experience.
- B. Women went to the wrong tomb!
- C. Body gone, but stolen.
 - a. To whose benefit? – not that of religious authorities.
- D. Disciples faked it.
 - a. Then why did they persist in scam and die for it?
- E. Jesus had not died on cross but survived and recovered in tomb.
 - a. Old idea, eg Mohammed. But wider history agrees 100% - Jesus was executed.

Q3 If tomb was empty, is the explanation that 'Jesus has risen from the grave' believable?

NO?

- A. People imagined it. yet some were sceptical eg Thomas.

Yes?

- B. It was predicted

Does this and other accounts of the empty tomb along with the following accounts of resurrection appearances hold?

Yes? / No? Because?

3 Subsequent Questions

Q4 What does this mean?

Q4 If true, what does this mean?

- A4** Jesus is uniquely who and what he says he is.
- Claims are 100% authentic.
 - Listen to him - trust him.

- No one else in history like him. Graves of others are still there with bones inside.
- The expected resurrection Jesus and others spoke about has begun in history. This changes our horizon today and future destiny. The grave is not the ultimate box.
- A new mode of humanity has begun. Jesus Christ is a new Adam and calls us to follow him.

This is where the story comes to us.