

The Next Seven

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Key New Testament Passages

1 The Post Resurrection Appearance of Jesus to Thomas

Reading: John 20:19-31; 1 Corinthians 15:1-26

2 The Ascension of Jesus into Heaven

Reading: Mark 16:19; Lk 24:50-51; Acts 1:1-11; John 14:1-6; Zechariah 14:1-4

3 The Day of Pentecost

Reading: Acts 2:1-47

4 The Persecution of Stephen

Reading: Acts 7:1-60

5 The Conversion of Saul of Tarsus

Reading: Acts 9:1-31

6 The Gospel Goes to the Gentiles

Reading: Acts 10:1-48

7 John on the Isle of Patmos

Reading: Revelation 1:1-20

New Testament Review – Lesson 5

Overview

Last week's overview ended with a brief highlight of the resurrection of Lazarus from the dead. This mighty miracle of Jesus occurred toward the end of his public ministry.

Immediately after this miracle the Bible says, *“Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death”* (John 11:53). Little did the enemies of Christ know they would soon be the instruments used by God the Father to bring Jesus to the cross. What they meant for evil was used of God to provide salvation for the whole world!

The culmination of our Lord's public ministry occurred the day he rode into Jerusalem on a young donkey. His triumphal entry into the city featured great crowds who adored him and gave God praise for all the mighty works they saw at his hands. Certainly the resurrection of Lazarus was fresh on the minds of many as Jesus rode into the city that Passover season.

At some point during that momentous day Jesus beheld the city and actually wept over it (Luke 19:41-44). He fully understood that in spite of the joyful reception he received on that occasion most of the city and most of his own people did not recognize the time of their visitation. Said another way, they simply did not recognize their Messiah had come to them!

A few days later Jesus proceeded to partake of Passover with his disciples. There he instituted the Lord's Supper and then left with them for the Garden of Gethsemane. It was in this garden Jesus prayed intensely and he was *“heard in that he feared”* (Heb. 5:7-9).

The Lord Jesus submitted to his Father, went on to endure the cross, and then rose from the dead as the conquering seed of the woman! He is now *“the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.”*

Following his bodily resurrection from the dead Jesus appeared to his disciples on a number of occasions. During the last appearance he ascended into heaven (Acts 1:3-11) from whence he shall one day return in great power and glory.

Of course, prior to his ascension the Lord gave his church marching orders to carry the gospel into the whole world. The obedience of the church to do so began in earnest on the Day of Pentecost and continues to this very hour.

We should take careful note the church the Holy Spirit is building rests upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone (Eph. 2:20). Furthermore, during the apostolic era the Holy Spirit completed the New Testament canon of Scripture which documents the new covenant sealed by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The New Testament ends with the book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ. In that prophecy the Lord reveals his plans for the consummation of all things. Clearly, the Lord will keep his word to the church, to Israel, and to his own dear Son.

The Second Coming of Jesus detailed in both the Old and New Testaments consists of a “catching away” of his bride followed by the fulfillment of the 70th week of Daniels ancient prophecy. At the end of that seven year period the Lord Jesus will return with his bride to rescue Israel and establish his earthly kingdom centered in Jerusalem.

Let us keep our lamps trimmed and burning. Let us watch with eager hearts for his return. Let us serve our Lord with a fervent heart and let us pray as did the apostle John—*“even so come Lord Jesus!”*

Digging Deeper

For those students who desire to explore this section of Biblical history further here are a few links to interesting articles available online:

Sequence of the Post-Resurrection Appearances of Jesus

<https://answersingenesis.org/jesus-christ/resurrection/the-sequence-of-christs-post-resurrection-appearances/>

Our Living Lord by the late Dr. W.A. Criswell

<https://www.wacriswell.com/sermons/1961/our-living-lord/>

The Apostle John and the Emperor Domitian

<http://www.biblearchaeology.org/post/2010/01/18/The-King-and-I-The-Apostle-John-and-Emperor-Domitian-Part-1.aspx#Article>

Family Discussion/Devotion

General Knowledge of the New Testament

Why do we call the Sunday before Easter “Palm Sunday?”

In the Lord’s Supper, what does the bread and the cup represent?

What is the name of the garden where Jesus sweat great drops of blood as he earnestly prayed?

What is the name of the Roman authority who gave permission for the crucifixion of Jesus?

In what city did the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus take place?

What disciple doubted the resurrection of Jesus and said he would not believe until he could see and touch the nail scarred hands and wounded side of Jesus?

What occurred following the last appearance of Jesus to the disciples after his resurrection from the dead?

- A. The disciples disbanded for fear of the Jews
- B. Jesus suddenly disappeared never to be seen again
- C. The disciples beheld Jesus as he ascended into heaven and faded from view
- D. The disciples lost faith because they knew they would never see Jesus again

What important event occurred in the early church 50 days after the resurrection of the Lord Jesus?

Who was the first martyr of the church?

Name the three apostles who were considered the pillars of the early church at Jerusalem.

What famous believer was converted on the road to Damascus and became known as the apostle to the gentiles?

What apostle was exiled on the isle of Patmos where he received the book of the Revelation?