

Final Proof

Text : **Matthew 28:1-20**

S#1.
S#2.

A. What's the pivotal event in your life ?

1. In some aspects each person's life experience is rather unique.
2. Thus, the pivotal event in his life is individual to him.
 - a. Graduation from college
 - b. Engagement or marriage
 - c. Death of a loved one

B. Likewise, the pivotal event in the history of nations is individual.

1. With some nations it is a war. (**WW-2** *radically affected many nations*)
2. It may have been a natural disaster. (**Earthquake, Tsunami, Typhoon, Fire**)
3. For some it was a social revolution. (*The rise of communism, our civil war*)

C. What was the pivotal event in world history.

1. The universal flood ... **Genesis 7**
2. The fall of the Roman Empire
3. The rise of the United States of America

S#3.

D. The pivotal event in all of the universe and all of eternity is the resurrection.

1. The resurrection of Jesus was planned before the world was created.

I Pet. 1: 21 – For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but S#4.
has appeared in these last times for the sake of you **21** who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.
2. The resurrection was foretold by the prophets of old.
 - a. **Isa. 25: 8** – He will swallow up death for all time, and the Lord God will S#5.
wipe tears away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; for the Lord has spoken.
 - b. **Luke 24: 27** – Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.
3. During the earthly ministry of Jesus He often spoke of His death and resurrection.
 - a. **John 2: 18-22** ... Destroy this temple and in three day I will raise it up again S#6.
 - b. **Matt. 16: 21** – From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.

4. As Jesus voluntarily laid down His life, He knew He would take it up again.

John 10: 17-18 – For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My **S#7.** life so that I may take it again. **18** No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again.

- E. When the Apostles taught about the events of Jesus' DBR, they called it the plan.**

Acts 2: 23-24 – This Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and **S#8.** foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. **24** But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

I. The sacrifice of Jesus occurred in an evil but unmiraculous fashion.

S#9.

- A. Jesus was arrested in the night in a relatively isolated place.**

S#10.

1. The envious Jews did not want Jesus arrested in the public eye.
2. A significant armed force was sent against him, but He did not resist.
3. His followers would have protected Him, but he would not permit them to do so.
4. Jesus understood that His arrest was part of the plan of God.

- B. His trial was nothing more than an empty attempt to legitimize His murder.**

1. He was taken to the ex-High Priest who had not legitimate power.
2. He was transferred to the sitting High Priest.
3. False witnesses were solicited for a show trial in front of the council.
4. He was transferred to Roman custody with a request that Pilot crucify Him.
5. Pilot saw no guilt in Jesus so he sent Him to Herod. (*tried to pass the buck*)
 - a. Jesus was from Galilee which is in Herod's jurisdiction.
 - b. Neither Herod nor Pilot were normally in Jerusalem, there for the feast.
6. Herod saw no guilt in Him so he ridiculed and abused Jesus before returning Him.
7. Pilot pronounced Jesus innocent and repeatedly tried to release Him. *Jews refused.*

S#11.

- C. Knowing Jesus was innocent Pilot reluctantly agreed to crucify Him for the Jews**

1. Pilot washed his hands as a protest against killing an innocent man, **but** he did it.
2. Each step of the crucifixion fulfilled a prophecy of the Old Testament.
3. Simon carried His cross & mourners followed, but Jesus said, "*Weep for yourselves*"

4. Like the scapegoat of old, Jesus was lead outside the city to be killed.
 - a. Golgotha, Mt. Calvary, and the place of the skull all refer to the same place.
 - b. Just outside the gates of Jerusalem along the main east/west road.
5. Pilot put a sign saying, "The King of the Jews."
 - a. A charge sign stating the crime was put above all who were crucified.
 - b. The sign was meant to be an insult to the Jews.
6. Jesus was crucified between two criminals; this was also part of the insult.
 - a. One of the criminals asked to be remembered by Jesus .. expressing faith.
 - b. Jesus told him he would be saved. (**Luke 23: 43**)
 - c. Jesus forgave the thief's sins under the old law. **S#12.**
Luke 5: 24 – "But, so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." — He said to the paralytic — "I say to you, get up, and pick up your stretcher and go home."
7. Jesus chose when the sacrifice was over saying, "It is finished = Paid in Full"

II. Jesus died a shameful death, but He was buried with respect and honor. **S#13.**

A. Both the Jews and Pilot were surprised at how quickly Jesus had died. **S#14.**

1. The Jews asked for the legs of those crucified to be broken to speed their deaths.
John 19: 31-34 – Then the Jews, because it was the day of preparation, so that **#15.** the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. ³² So the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first man and of the other who was crucified with Him; ³³ but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. ³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.
2. Pilot was surprised to hear that Jesus was already dead.
 - a. **Mark 15: 42-45** – When evening had already come, because it was the **S#16.** preparation day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea came, a prominent member of the Council, who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God; and he gathered up courage and went in before Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Pilate wondered if He was dead by this time, and summoning the centurion, he questioned him as to whether He was already dead. ⁴⁵ And ascertaining this from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.
 - b. As a professional executioner, the centurion was and expert witness.
 - c. Blood and water coming forth from His wound is an indication of death.

B. Two very rich and prominent men buried Jesus in a rich man's tomb. S#17.

1. Joseph of Arimathea was given custody of the body of Jesus.
2. **John 19: 39** ... Nicodemus also assisted Joseph in the burial of Jesus.
3. Jesus was given a first class burial.
 - a. He was wrapped in expensive cloth ... linen.
(**John 20: 7** ... *Separate wrapping for face so Shroud of Turin is fake.*)
 - b. 100 lbs of myrrh and aloes (expensive spices) included in wrapping.
 - c. Placed in a new tomb. (*born poor, lived poor, but buried as the rich*)

C. The tomb was carved out of solid rock and sealed.

1. There were no secret exits. (*Rich people secured their graves from grave-robbers.*)
2. There was a special stone carved to seal the tomb.
 - a. Grave doors were very heavy, some exceeded **6000** lbs.
 - b. There was a downward slopping track carved for the stone.
 - c. The stone was round, but rested on a flat spot.
3. The stone fit closely enough to be sealed. (*keep smell inside*)

D. The burial was hurriedly completed on Friday because Saturday was Sabbath.

1. The women who traveled with Jesus followed at a distance monitoring His care.
2. They made a plan to come back after the Sabbath.
3. They were very religious Jews, but the Sabbath was also enforced by police.

III. Many miraculous events happened at the time of the DBR of our Lord. S#18.**A. While Jesus was on the cross darkness miraculously occurred for 3 hrs. S#19.**

1. **Matt. 27: 45** –Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour. (*Symbolizing the absence/rejection of God*)
2. This darkness was miraculous in multiple ways, not just an eclipse :
 - a. The scope of the darkness covered a wide area “all of the land.”
 - b. The duration of the **darkness** was longer than an eclipse. (**3 hrs**)
Note : The normal eclipse lasts from 2 to 3 minutes.
 The longest possible eclipse is 7 ½ minutes.
 The next 7 minute eclipse will be in the year 2150.
3. Jesus cried out “At the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice,
 “ELOI, ELOI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?” which is translated,
 “MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?” **Mrk 15:34-35**

B. The veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom.**S#21.**

1. **Matt. 25: 51a** – behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom;
2. The word “veil” in Hebrew means a screen, divider or separator that hides.
 - a. The veil of the temple divided the two chambers of the temple – holy & most holy.
 - b. It was a barrier between man and God (**sin**) which was only crossed by High Priest
3. The veil of the Temple was very large and very heavy.
 - a. The “veil” was beautiful, made of fine linen and blue, purple and scarlet yarn.
 - b. It had cherubim woven into it.
 - c. It hung down 60 feet across a 30 foot span and was about an inch thick.
4. When Jesus died upon the cross the barrier between God and man was removed.

C. There was a severe earthquake.

1. **Matt. 25: 51b** – ... the earth shook and the rocks were split.
2. An earthquake that “splits” the rocks is severe.
3. Geological scientists confirm the occurrence of a major earthquake at that time.
4. As the earth shook when the law was given (**Ex. 19:18**), it shook when the requirements of the law were fulfilled.
- * 5. Earth quakes and darkness are both associated with judgments in prophecy.

Amos 8: 7-9 – The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob, "Indeed, I will never **S#22.** forget any of their deeds. 8 Because of this will not the land quake And everyone who dwells in it mourn? Indeed, all of it will rise up like the Nile, And it will be tossed about And subside like the Nile of Egypt. 9 It will come about in that day," declares the Lord God, "That I will make the sun go down at noon And make the earth dark in broad daylight. **S#23.**

D. The tombs were opened and many holy ones came forth to make appearances.

1. **Matt. 25: 52-53** – The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; **53** and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many.
2. The earth quake could have opened some tombs, but it could not raise the dead.
3. **I Thes. 4: 16 & I Cor. 16: 20-23** ... These appearances prove Jesus' power over death.

IV. Jesus was resurrected in His body ... He was NOT just a spirit.**S#24.****A. There were multiple witnesses that Jesus was buried in that tomb.**

1. **Matt. 27: 55** – Many women were there looking on from a distance, who had...
2. These were the women who came back to the tomb and found it empty.

B. The guards were witnesses

1. Pilate granted the Jews a guard to insure Jesus stayed in the grave.

Matt. 27: 62-66 – Now on the next day, the day after the preparation, the chief **S#25.** priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate, **63** and said, "Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I am to rise again.' **64** "Therefore, give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day, otherwise His disciples may come and steal Him away and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last deception will be worse than the first." **65** Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go, make it as secure as you know how." **66** And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone.

2. The first step in securing a body is to make sure you have the body.
3. This was after sunset on Friday.

S#26.**C. At sunrise on Sunday, the women found that the body was not in the tomb.**

1. The women came to add spices to those on His body, but the tomb was empty.
2. The heavy stone was rolled away and the body of Jesus was not there.
3. The angel told them, "*Why do you seek the living with the dead.*"
4. Jesus met them and they worshipped Him.

S#27.**D. Matt. 28: 11ff ... The guards confirmed that the body of Jesus was gone.**

1. The Jewish leaders accepted that the body was gone.
2. They bribed the guards to say the body of Jesus was stolen.

D. Peter and John confirmed that the tomb was empty.**Summation:****A. The resurrection of Jesus happened exactly as God planned it.**

Acts 2: 23-24 – this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and **S#28.** foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. **24** " But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

B. The resurrection is the ultimate proof that Jesus is the all-powerful God.

Rom. 1: 4 – who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection **S#29.** from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,

INVITATION : *He is the source of all life .. he offers you life eternal .. accept* **S#30.**
S#31. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**Matthew 28: 1-20**

1 Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. **2** And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. **3** And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. **4** The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men. **5** The angel said to the women, " Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. **6** "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. **7** "Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you."

8 And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples. **9** And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. **10** Then Jesus said to them, " Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me."

11 Now while they were on their way, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all that had happened. **12** And when they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, **13** and said, "You are to say, 'His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.' **14** "And if this should come to the governor's ears, we will win him over and keep you out of trouble." **15** And they took the money and did as they had been instructed; and this story was widely spread among the Jews, and is to this day.

16 But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. **17** When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. **18** And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, " All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** " Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."