

## II. What does it mean?

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”  
...”And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”  
Matthew 28:18,20b

When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven. Hebrews 1:3

### 1. Jesus is with us in this Life; The Good And The Bad.

“All things work together for good to those who love God.”  
Romans 8:28

### 2. Jesus is with us in the Scriptures and the Gospel

“I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.” Matthew 28:18-20a

“Weren’t our hearts on fire when he opened the Scriptures to us?”  
Luke 24:32

### 3. Jesus is with us in Christian Community

... “surely I am with you always”... Matthew 28:20

### 4. Jesus is with us to the End of Life’s Struggles

...to the very end of the age...

What that means is that at the end of history he will be there, because he has risen from the dead. That means in the end, everything is going to be made right.

Jesus: Don’t get lost in despair; believe in God, and keep on believing in Me. 2 My Father’s home is designed to accommodate all of you. If there were not room for everyone, I would have told you that. I am going to make arrangements for your arrival. 3 I will be there to greet you personally and welcome you home, where we will be together.  
John 14:1-3



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## The Resurrection Did It Really Happen?

Matthew 28:1-20

<sup>1</sup> After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. <sup>2</sup> There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. <sup>4</sup> The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.” <sup>8</sup> So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.” <sup>11</sup> While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. <sup>12</sup> When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, <sup>13</sup> telling them, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ <sup>14</sup> If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” <sup>15</sup> So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day. <sup>16</sup> Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

## TWO QUESTIONS

### I. Did it really happen?

When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, <sup>13</sup>telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' ...<sup>16</sup> "So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. **And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.**"  
Matthew 28:12,13,16

He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. <sup>5</sup>He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. <sup>6</sup>After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, **most of whom are still alive**, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him. 1 Corinthians 15:4-8

### 3 Reasons to Trust in the Historical Accuracy of the Resurrection

#### 1. The Evidence of the Women Eyewitnesses

"So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples." <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him.

Matthew 28:8,9

#### Now what does that mean?

It means in a very male dominated world where the testimony of women wasn't even legal, the only possible motivation you would have for writing an account of the resurrection of Christ and saying women were the first eyewitnesses is if it actually happened that way.

#### 2. The Perception of the Eyewitnesses

"Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; **but some doubted.**" Matthew 28:16,17

Do you have any doubts that Jesus was raised from the dead? *I'm sure some of you more than others. But there's a skeptic in there right?*

**What kind of evidence would you need?** How strong would the evidence have to be to blow away all of your doubts completely?

They would have to be pretty strong, right? And my point is their doubts were as strong as your doubts; therefore, they must have received that kind of evidence.

#### 3. Their Lives Were Changed By What They Saw

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore **go and make disciples of all nations ...**" Matthew 28:20

#### Did you ever consider what Jesus was asking of them?

*"You eleven uneducated fishermen from a backwater Judea, get out there and change the world."*

Over the next forty years they did just that. Starting right there in Jerusalem, then Samaria, they headed out to the ends of the Roman Empire and did exactly that—they changed the world.

*You say, "All right, so maybe the tomb was empty, but it could have been a hoax. His followers could have taken his body away."*

Right. His followers could have taken his body away, and then hundreds and hundreds of those liars lived lives of compassion, courage, and sacrificial love that changed the world, and then they died for the fraud. **No, I don't think so.**

*You say, "All right, so there probably was an empty tomb, and it probably wasn't a hoax, but maybe it was a sincere delusion. They wanted so badly to have Jesus ... They really thought it was true, and they thought themselves right into believing it."*

All that statement proves is how little you understand about first-century history. The Jews are the last people on the face of the earth to be willing to worship a human being as God and yet these Jewish people got such evidence that he really was alive and their lives were changed dramatically by it.