

Lesson: GRAVEYARD STORY FOR THE AGES

Pastors have funerals stories that are unusual, but none could compare with the ones we will study today in our lesson text.

We will study **SIX** aspects of a Graveyard Story for the Ages. *We will begin by showing six catastrophic events associated with death and resurrection of Jesus Christ that make this lesson a Graveyard Story for the Ages.*

1. **Four catastrophic events** associated with **death of Jesus**.

- Mid-day (noon to 3pm) **darkness** during **last 3 hours of crucifixion** of Jesus (Matt.27:45/ like Moses plague of darkness to death/ Ex.10:21-29; 11:5-7; 12:12-13, 29).
- **Veil of Holy of Holies** torn down the moment of death of Jesus (27:50-51).
- **First earthquake** in Jerusalem at **death of Jesus** (27:50-51).
- Many tombs of **followers of Jesus** were opened and remained **open until after** the resurrection of Jesus (27:52/ **3-day burial**/ Matt.12:40/ 16:21; 17:23; 20:19; 27:64).

2. **Two more catastrophic** events were associated with the **resurrection of Jesus**.

- **Second earthquake** in Jerusalem at the time of **resurrection of Jesus** (Matt.27:53-54; 28:2).
- Then **the followers** of Jesus Christ **came out of these opened graves** and **appeared** to many in Jerusalem (27:53-54).

These **six catastrophic events** occurred in perfect timing of God with **four messianic Jewish holidays** (Lev.23:1-23/ Matt.5:17) of Passover (death), Unleavened Bread (3-day burial), and First Fruits (resurrection) and Feast of Weeks called Pentecost (50 days after First Fruits) in Acts 2 (Jesus' baptizing with Holy Spirit / Matt.3:11-12; Acts 1:3-5).

3. These followers of Jesus who had died previously went to Abraham's bosom in Sheol (Luke 16:19-31). **Three** important **major events** associated with the burial-resurrection of Jesus.

First, **followers of Jesus were raised** – "*And coming out of **after** His resurrection.*" (Matt.27:52).

Secondly, they appeared to many in Jerusalem - "*They entered the **holy city and appeared to many.***" (27:53/ *missionaries of Luke 16:28-31*)

Thirdly, The Roman centurion and the Temple police **all gave same eye-witness testimony** – "*Truly this was the Son of God!*" (27:54)

4. **Overwhelming evidence** was given as facts **by seven aorist passive indicative**. They were given in sequence order by the Roman Centurion and Temple police guarding the tomb of Jesus to the Jewish authority (Matt.27:50-66).

- Jesus yielded up (**a.p.ind.3ps**) His spirit (Matt.27:50; John 19:31-37).
- Temple veil was torn down (**a.p.ind.3ps**) from up to bottom (Matt.27:51; Heb.9:3).
- Earthquake shook (**a.p.ind.3ps**) graveyard (Matt.27:51/ Mark 15:38-39).
- Rocks split (**a.p.ind.3pl**) in the graveyard (27:51).
- Certain tombs were opened (**a.p.ind.3pl**) for three days (27:52).
- Followers of Jesus were raised (**a.p.ind.3pl**) **after Jesus** (27:52).
- These followers appeared to many in the city (**a.p.ind.3pl**) (27:53).

5. Where did Jesus go and what did He do during the 3-days burial (Matt.12:38-40)?

He went to Sheol as prophesied in Ps.16:8-10/ Matt.12:40; Eph.4:9; Phil.2:10; Isa.14:9) .

He met with **one of the two thieves** of crucifixion with Him in Paradise –“*Truly I say to you, today you shall be **with Me** in **Paradise**.*” (Luke 23:43)

He met with His followers that would be raised following His resurrection (Matt.27:50-54/ **Luke 16:26-31/ Abaham’s bosom**).

He gave an official proclamation in Tartarus of Sheol to the fallen angels of Gen.6 (1 Pet.3:18-22; 2 Pet.2:4-5; Jude 6; Rev.9:1; Luke 8:31).

He officially shut down Abraham’s bosom or Paradise in Sheol during the church age (2 Cor.5:6-8; 2 Cor.12:1-4; Phil.1:21-26).

He official received the Keys to Sheol (Rev.1:8; 9:1-12; 20:1-3; Heb.9:28).

6. Jesus was abandoned while on the cross (Matt.27:46; Ps.22:1); but not while in Sheol (Ps.16:10; Acts 2:27, 31; **13:35-39**; Rom.8:11).

Jesus’ 3-day burial and then resurrection mattered to six groups

- It mattered to apostate Jewish leadership (Matt.27:63--64).
- It mattered to the Roman Centurion and Temple police (Matt.28:1-4, 11-15).
- It mattered to those followers who were raised after Jesus (Matt.27:50-54).
- It mattered to Jesus’ disciples (John 2:22).
- It mattered to Paul’s **gospel message** to the world (1 Cor.15:1-4).
- **It should matter to each church age believer of Moody and St. Clair Co. (Rom.6:8-14).**