

He is Risen

A dramatic scene of an open tomb. A large, smooth, light-colored stone is rolled away from the entrance of a dark, rocky tomb. The interior of the tomb is empty, with a white cloth lying on the floor. In the background, through the tomb's opening, three crosses are visible on a hill under a blue sky with white clouds. The lighting is warm and focused on the tomb's entrance.

*"On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord."
(John 20:19-20)*

Just as He Said

Part 22 of the series – Three Years That Changed the World

“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So, she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!” (John 20:1-2)

✓ **A few important points of clarification:**

- ✓ Jesus died and was buried in Joseph’s tomb on the **Friday**, the Jewish Day of Preparation which precedes the Sabath, and prior to this “first day of the week”
- ✓ The Sabath was **Saturday** (the seventh day, the day of rest)
- ✓ This “first day of the week” was **Sunday** which would mark the 3 days since Christ died and was buried. (Part of Friday, all of Saturday, and early Sunday morning)

“For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” (Matthew 12:40)

“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So, she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

(John 20:1-2)

- ✓ There were other women who came to the tomb that morning, but **John only mentions Mary Magdalene**

*“After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, **Mary Magdalene** and the **other Mary** went to look at the tomb”*
(Matthew 28:21)

*“When the Sabbath was over, **Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome** bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body. **Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise,** they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?” (Mark 16:1-3)*

“On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb.
(Luke 24:1)

“When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. It was **Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them** who told this to the apostles. (Luke 24:9-10)

“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So, she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

(John 20:1-2)

- ✓ We need to look at the other Gospel writers to obtain a full account of what transpired that morning of the “first day of the week” which was the third day after Jesus was crucified:

“On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

(Luke 24:1-3)

“When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body. **Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise,** they were on their way to the tomb and **they asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?”** But when they looked up, **they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.** As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.” (Mark 16:1-5)

“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So, she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

(John 20:1-2)

- ✓ We need to look at the other Gospel writers to obtain a full account of what transpired that morning of the “first day of the week” which was the third day after Jesus was crucified (continued.....)

“After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. 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. (Matthew 28:1-2)

- ✓ All four Gospels record the stone being rolled away by the time the women arrived
- ✓ Mathew is the only one who mentions an earthquake occurring at the time the stone is rolled away along with the angel of the Lord who came down from heaven.

Other Insights from Matthew's account (not included in the other Gospels)

- ✓ In addition to the earthquake and the angel who appeared, there were Roman guards present outside the tomb:

"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. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. (Matthew 28:2-4)

- ✓ Why were the Roman guards there?

"The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first." "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and **posting the guard.**" (Matthew 27:62-66)

- ✓ I can only imagine what went through the minds of those soldiers who witnessed the angel rolling the stone away (not to let Jesus out but to show he wasn't there) as Matthew says; **"they shook and became like dead men"**.

Other Insights from Matthew's account (not included in the other Gospels)

- ✓ Matthew is also the only Gospel writer who records the exchange between the guards from the tomb and the religious leaders:

“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.** When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” 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 28:11-15)
- ✓ This account does corroborate the fact that Jesus did in fact die and perhaps the guards and the religious leaders knew of Jesus' resurrection long before the disciples
- ✓ Despite their acknowledgement of the claims by Jesus that he would rise from the dead on the third day, they chose not to verify the guards claims and simply dismissed the idea much like they dismissed the other miracles performed by Jesus.

“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, **Mary Magdalene** went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So, she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

(John 20:1-2)

- ✓ The stone had already been removed by the angel, not to let Jesus out but to show his followers that he in fact rose from the dead just as he said he would.
- ✓ All of the gospel accounts reveal that the women came to the tomb expecting the stone to be in place and wondering how they would roll it away when they arrived
- ✓ John doesn’t record Mary Magdalene seeing the angel as recorded by the other gospel writers, so it is possible that she didn’t.
- ✓ She does acknowledge the stone was removed (perhaps she thought grave robbers had done it) and then immediately goes to where Peter and the other disciples were

Other Insights from Matthew, Mark, and Luke regarding the appearance of the angel

“The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. *Come and see the place where he lay.* 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.” (Matthew 28:5-7)

“As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. **“You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. *See the place where they laid him.* But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’” (Mark 16:5-7)**

“They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with 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; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ Then they remembered his words. (Luke 24:2-8)

“So, Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the **other disciple outran Peter** and **reached the tomb first**. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen.” (John 20:3-7)

- ✓ This report no doubt stirred the hearts of these two disciples (Peter, and the other disciple, who was clearly John, the writer of this gospel account), so they ran to the tomb to see for themselves what the women had told them.
- ✓ These two disciples, no doubt heartbroken at the death of their Rabbi, must have been **gripped with fear** (perhaps thinking that Jesus’ body had been stolen and they faced the potential wrath of the religious leaders for following him) **and hope** (wondering if it were true that Jesus had in fact risen from the dead) at the same time. Any doubts about the resurrection of Jesus were about to be erased!

“So, Peter and **the other disciple** started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. **He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in**. Then **Simon Peter** came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. **He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen**.” (John 20:3-7)

- ✓ The reason John (the other disciple) may not have initially gone into the tomb was to avoid the risk of defilement (being near a dead body).
- ✓ Both Peter and John must have been puzzled at what they saw. If grave robbers stole the body of Jesus, why would they have left the expensive linens behind.
- ✓ They (although probably still confused) begin to consider the possibility that Jesus had risen from the dead and “passed through” the grave clothes.
- ✓ The presence of the grave clothes debunks the claim by the religious leaders that the disciples stole Jesus’ body, for why would they strip his clothes and leave them

“Finally, the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.” (John 20:7-10)

- ✓ The empty tomb, the undisturbed grave clothes, and the neatly rolled up face cloth was enough for John to believe that Jesus had in fact risen from the dead
- ✓ Both disciples (acknowledged by John) still did not “fully” understand what the scriptures taught about Jesus’ resurrection from the dead:

“Therefore, my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay. You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand” (Psalm 16:9-11)

- ✓ Both Peter and John will return to where they were staying and very soon Jesus will appear to them and erase all doubt whether the resurrection had happened. But first, Jesus will appear to Mary Magdalene to ease her heartbreak.

“Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.”
(John 20:11-14)

- ✓ Mary of Magdala (Mary Magdalene) was the first believer to witness the resurrected Christ. She is the same woman who was possessed by 7 demons and Jesus cast them out of her:

“After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also **some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out**” Luke 8:1-2)

- ✓ After Peter and John returned to where they were staying, Mary returned to the tomb and she was crying. More than likely (on her return) Mary did not cross paths with Peter, John or the other women, for she had no idea about Jesus’ resurrection.

“Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and **saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been**, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” **They have taken my Lord away,”** she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” **At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.**” (John 20:11-14)

- ✓ Mary looks in the tomb and sees two angels seated where Jesus’ body had been
- ✓ She was sad (evidenced by her tears) and when asked by the angels as to why she was crying – her assumption was that someone took Jesus’ body, and she did not know where they (whoever it was) took him.
- ✓ It is interesting to note that Mary didn’t notice any thing unusual and she wasn’t disturbed by the angels (often in scripture they are described with human like form)
- ✓ The appearance of Jesus to Mary was so unexpected that she didn’t recognize him

“He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” **Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!”** (which means “Teacher”).” (John 20:15-16)

- ✓ Mary still crying, didn't recognize Jesus (she even thought he could have been the gardener) and assumed Jesus' body was removed from the tomb.
- ✓ Keep in mind that the last time Mary saw Jesus was when he was on the cross with a bruised and bloodied body, so it makes perfect sense, she didn't recognize him
- ✓ Just like the other disciples, she knew of Jesus' teachings about him rising from the dead but all that emotion, along with her tears – she might have been confused
- ✓ But, when Jesus called her by name (like the Good Shepherd that he was), she knew his voice and responded accordingly – “Rabboni” (**My Teacher**)

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me” (John 10:27)

“Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.” (John 20:17-18)

- ✓ It's not completely clear why Jesus tells Mary to “not hold on to me” and the consensus is that his body was in a state of transition (he had not ascended to the Father) and perhaps he was “redirecting” her to change her perspective from a “physical” relationship to a “spiritual” relationship based on faith.
- ✓ Jesus instructs her to go to his disciples (he calls the “my brothers” – Hebrews 2:11) and tell them everything she witnessed.
- ✓ Jesus later meets with the disciples and will remove all their doubts and assuage all their fears but there are still many things he will teach them and prepare them for.

“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.” (John 20:19-20)

- ✓ It is now evening time on the Sunday that Jesus rose from the dead
- ✓ The disciples (minus Thomas) had gathered in an undisclosed location (perhaps they returned to the upper room in Jerusalem)
- ✓ Wherever they were, they were fearful of being arrested so they had locked the doors to the location where they were.
- ✓ The locked doors didn't stop Jesus from entering the room and the conclusion is drawn that his glorified resurrected body allowed him to pass through the walls
- ✓ Jesus, now standing in their midst, verifies it is him by showing his “physical” wounds (nail pierced hands and feet, along with his pierced side - Luke 24:39)



THE NATURE OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTED BODY

- His body was a real body, not a phantom, or like Casper the friendly ghost.
 - He had flesh and bones (Luke 24:36-43)
 - Thomas touched His flesh (John 20:20-29)
 - His physical wounds were evidenced



THE NATURE OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTED BODY

- His body was more than just a mere natural body (John 20:17, Acts 1:1-11)
- His body was immortal for it could not die again (Romans 6:9-10, Rev. 1:18)

“Again, Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”
And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”
(John 20:21-23)

- ✓ The disciples were at last convinced that Jesus had risen from the dead and while they were rejoicing – Jesus proceeds to give them instruction and promises them an empowerment beyond anything they had previously witnessed.
- ✓ These words “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you” are perhaps a precursor to the command found in Matthew 28:18-20 (Often called The Great Commission)

“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

- ✓ They would be his representatives, and their mission was to spread the Good News!

“Again, Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that **he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”** (John 20:21-23)

- ✓ For their new commission they needed “spiritual power” and Jesus breathed on them and said – “Receive the Holy Spirit”. This privilege and authority of “forgiving sin” is something only God can do (Mark 2:7, Daniel 9:9), but the Apostles and (for that matter) any believer can recognize and declare:
 - Those who genuinely repent and believe will have their sins forgiven by God
 - Those who reject Jesus will die in their sin (John 8:24, Hebrews 10:26-27)
- ✓ Approximately 50 days later, on the Day of Pentecost, these special ambassadors (Apostles) will again witness the Holy Spirit’s empowerment and indwelling in which the they will witness a public and dramatic outpouring of miraculous power.

“Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, **was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So, the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But **he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”** (John 20:24-25)**

- ✓ Thomas was not present (and perhaps there were others) when Jesus appeared to the disciples the first time:
 - Thomas had the nickname “Didymus” (twin) because he had a twin sibling
 - Based on how scripture defines him, Thomas seems to be a bit of a pessimist (John 11:8-16, John 14:2-5).
 - Although history gives him the nickname “doubting Thomas”, based on this passage in John 20:25, the track record of the other disciples was really no better
- ✓ What may have made Thomas different and why he might have been absent the first time Jesus appeared to the disciples was not that his doubt was greater, but perhaps **his sorrow may have been greater.**

“A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, **Jesus came and stood among them** and said, “Peace be with you!” **Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands.** Reach out your hand and **put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”** Thomas said to him, **“My Lord and my God!”** Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; ***blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.***” (John 20:26-29)

- ✓ Jesus immediately singled out Thomas to bring him to a point of personal commitment:
 - Jesus told him to put his fingers where the nails pierced his hands
 - Jesus told him to put his hand where the sword pierced his side
- ✓ To that point Thomas (previously a pessimistic and skeptical man) boldly declared; “My Lord and my God!” Making it abundantly clear this was God in human flesh
- ✓ All believers (though some unable to see him physically) are recipients of this special blessing; ***“blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”***

WHY THE RESURRECTION?

- Because sin brought death and separation from God – Christ conquered that by raising from the dead!
- Because Jesus told us He would raise from the dead and be seated at the right hand of God. (*Matthew 26:64, Acts 5:31, 7:55*)

“You have said so,” Jesus replied. “But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”
(Matthew 26:44)

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION

- It became the dividing line between the early Jewish leaders and the Apostles (Acts 5:30-32, 38-39)
- It was the central component of the Apostles teaching and preaching. (Acts 2,3,4,5, | Peter 1:21-23, | Corinthians 15, Philippians 3:20-21)
- Even the greatest of skeptics since the time of the Apostles, conclude that if the resurrection actually took place, then it must be what it claims to be ~ a direct revelation from God.



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION

“The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.” (Acts 5:30-32)

“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body” (Philippians 3:20-21)



WHAT IF THE RESURRECTION WERE NOT TRUE?

“And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished” (1 Corinthians 15:14-18)



WHAT IF THE RESURRECTION WERE NOT TRUE?

- There would have been no early church
- There would have been no miracles performed by the Apostles for where would their authority and power have come from?
- There would have been no Paul (as we know him) and no letters to guide us toward true faith
- The hope and faith displayed by Mary, Martha, Mary Magdalene and other influential women of the New Testament would have been pointless



WHAT IF THE RESURRECTION WERE NOT TRUE?

- There would have been no Gospel according to John and no letters from him to guide us toward the light and toward true love
- There would have been no Timothy (as we know him) for why would he follow Jesus and be mentored by Paul if the resurrection were not true.
- There would have been no Lydia from Philippi to aid in the establishment of the church there for in whom would they have placed their hope



William Evans writes; “If the resurrection of Christ can be successfully denied, if it can be proven to be absolutely untrue, then the whole fabric of the Gospel falls to pieces, the whole structure of the Christian religion is shaken at its foundation, and the very arch of Christianity crumbles into dust. Then it has wrought only imaginary changes, deluded its most faithful adherents, deceived and disappointed the hopes of its most devoted disciples, and the finest moral achievements that adorn the pages of the history of the Christian church have been based upon a falsehood”
(**William Evans, The Great Doctrines of the Bible page 85**)

EVIDENCES FOR THE RESURRECTION

- An Empty Tomb! (Matthew 28:1-8, Mark 16:1-7, Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-20)
 - Attested by the women who first visited the tomb
 - Attested by the angel
 - Attested by the other disciples
 - Attested by the Roman guards though they were later bribed to change their story (Matthew 28:11-15)

EVIDENCES FOR THE RESURRECTION

- The testimony of over 500 witnesses (see chart page 13)
- The testimony of Paul (1 Corinthians 15:1-19, Romans 8:11, Acts 9:1-9)
- The Testimony of Jesus Christ Himself (Revelation 1:17-18, John 20:20-29)
- The continual declaration by the Apostles
- The lack of credible early proof that He did not raise from the dead
- The continued teaching throughout 2000+ years of church history
- Present day believers who continue to teach the same

“Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:30-31)

- ✓ These two verses are John’s summary statement as to his goal and purpose in writing his account of the Life of Christ.
 - **Those who were not there** to witness Jesus rising from the dead will depend on this gospel account as well as (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) to tell the story of Jesus.
 - **What has been written** (though much more was witnessed by the disciples and not recorded) **is more than enough to point people to Jesus**.
- ✓ John has clearly established in his Gospel account that **Jesus Christ is God** (John 1:1, 14), He is; **the Bread of Life** (John 6:35), **the Light of the World** (John 8:12), **The Door** (John 10:7), **The Good Shepherd** (John 10:11), **The Resurrection and the Life** (John 11:25), **The Way, The Truth and The Life** (John 14:6), and the **True Vine** (John 15:1-5)