

The Jerusalem Times

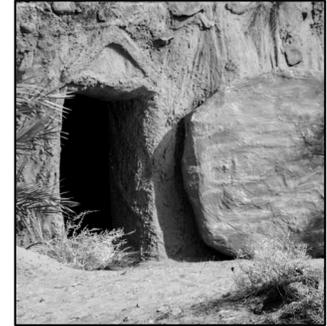
½ Denarius

17th day of Nisan

Weather: Cloudy & Cool

HAS JESUS COME BACK TO LIFE?

JERUSALEM (JP) – The name of Jesus of Nazareth is dominating today’s news, just days after He was executed by the Romans. Reports are circulating throughout Jerusalem that the convicted traitor who claimed to be God has come back to life. In fact, many people are claiming that Jesus is the long-anticipated Messiah.



Local women discovered Jesus’ tomb open and His body missing

Numerous eyewitnesses have come forward with their bizarre stories in recent days.

Mary Magdalene was one of the first to discover that Jesus’ body was missing. She arrived at the tomb early Sunday morning and found the _____ removed from the opening. “I assumed someone had _____ Jesus’ body away, so I went immediately and told _____ and _____ (v. 2). When they arrived at the tomb, they went _____ and looked around, but then they went _____” (v. 10). Of this incident, John said, “At that point I _____ Jesus had actually risen from the dead, but Peter still wasn’t sure” (v. 8).

Mary Magdalene went on to say that after Peter and John left, she looked into the open tomb. “I know this sounds crazy, but I saw two _____ (v. 12). They asked why I was _____, so I told them someone had taken _____ body away (v. 13).”



Jesus’ disciples Peter (right) and John examine the empty tomb

Mary then told the strangest part of her story. “I turned around and saw a man. I was crying, so I couldn’t see clearly (v. 14). The man asked why I was _____, and _____ I was looking for. I assumed he was the _____, so I asked him where Jesus’ body was (v. 15). The man then called me _____, and I immediately realized it was Jesus (v. 16)! Jesus is really alive again!”

Mary said she fell to the ground and began worshiping Jesus, but He told her to _____ to His _____ and take a message to them (v. 17). “I went immediately to the disciples and told them I had _____ the _____.”

That evening, several of Jesus’ disciples met behind closed doors, because they _____ the Jews. Andrew, one of those present, claims that _____ miraculously appeared in the room. Andrew claims that Jesus said, “_____ be unto _____” (v. 19). “Jesus then showed us the wounds in His _____ and _____, which He received during the crucifixion,” reported Andrew. “We were very _____ to see Jesus alive again” (v. 20).

Continued – see **JESUS** on page 2

JESUS (continued from p. 1)

Matthew, a former tax collector who abandoned his office a few years ago to follow Jesus, said Jesus gave them some instructions. “He said that as His _____ had _____ Him, Jesus was _____ us out into the world. Jesus wants us to tell everybody about Him” (v. 21).

Another of Jesus’ disciples, Thomas (known to some as Didymus), was not present when Jesus allegedly appeared to His disciples. “The other guys immediately came and told me Jesus was alive, but I didn’t believe them. I said that unless I saw and touched the hole from the _____ in His _____, and stuck my _____ into the wound in His _____, I will not _____” (v. 25).

“I hate to admit it,” Thomas went on to say, “but I just couldn’t believe Jesus was alive.” When asked if he still rejected the story being told by the other disciples, Thomas replied, “Oh, no. I believe now.” He said the incident that changed his mind took place a week later. “We were all gathered together in a locked room, when suddenly _____ appeared (v. 26). Jesus wished us all peace, and then He came right to me. I didn’t say a word, but Jesus told me to touch the hole in His _____ with my _____, and to stick my _____ into the wound in His _____. He told me not to be _____, but to _____” (v. 27).

Thomas concluded his statement by saying, “Boy, was I convinced! I immediately fell to my knees and said to Jesus, ‘My _____ and my _____’ (v. 28). I’m not unsure anymore; now I want everyone to know that I believe Jesus Christ is God!” When asked if Jesus said anything else, Thomas stated, “Jesus said I believed in Him because I _____ Him. He said those who _____ without _____ Him are especially blessed” (v. 29).

John, one of the youngest of Jesus’ disciples, says he is planning to write a book about Jesus’ life and ministry. “It won’t be possible to write down all the miracles and wonders Jesus did, but I want to write this book so people will _____ that Jesus is the _____, the Son of _____, and so they can have everlasting _____ through Jesus” (v. 31).

Public opinion in Jerusalem is divided as to whether Jesus has actually risen from the dead. Everyone, both those who believe and the skeptics, agree that Jesus’ disciples have become much more vocal and bold in recent days. They have taken Jesus’ alleged instructions literally, and seem determined to tell everyone in Jerusalem about Jesus. The Jewish religious leaders don’t know how to explain their new boldness and fearlessness.