

2-2018

An Analysis Concerning the Resurrection of Jesus

Harold Willmington

Liberty University, hwillmington@liberty.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/second_person



Part of the [Biblical Studies Commons](#), [Christianity Commons](#), and the [Religious Thought, Theology and Philosophy of Religion Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Willmington, Harold, "An Analysis Concerning the Resurrection of Jesus" (2018). *The Second Person File*. 186.

https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/second_person/186

This The Final Days of Jesus Christ's Ministry is brought to you for free and open access by the Theological Studies at Scholars Crossing. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Second Person File by an authorized administrator of Scholars Crossing. For more information, please contact scholarlycommunications@liberty.edu.

AN ANALYSIS CONCERNING THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures." (1 Cor. 15:3-4)

R. C. Foster writes: "A French philosopher decided to create a new religion for France following the wild excesses of the French Revolution which severed most of the nation from Christianity. He approached the great French statesman Tallyrand for advice on how to proceed. Tallyrand replied sarcastically that it should be a very simple task for the philosopher to create a substitute for Christianity: all he needed to do would be to have himself crucified and then raised from the dead!" (*Studies in the Life of Christ*, R. C. Foster, Baker Books, Grand Rapids, Mich., 1979)

We will overview this all important historical fact and theological truth in three-fold fashion.

PART ONE: The CLASSIFICATION of the Resurrection (the Second Work)

To explain, consider the following: Every work that God has ever done, is doing now, or ever will do, can be correctly arranged (classified) under one of two main categories, namely, His work in creation and His work in redemption! Furthermore, God has chosen two special days of the week to serve as a reminder concerning these all-important accomplishments.

SATURDAY, celebrating His first great work, that of creation (Gen. 2:1-3; Ex. 20:8-11).

SUNDAY, celebrating His second great work, that of redemption. This is why the resurrection occurred on Sunday, and why the early Christians observed the first day of the week as their official day of worship (Mt. 28:1; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2).

PART TWO: The PROCLAMATION of the Resurrection (the Empty Tomb)

A. The trips to the tomb

1. By the women

"In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre." (Mt. 28:1) "And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him." (Mk. 16:1)

2. By the disciples

"The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the LORD out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him. Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. So they ran both

together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed. For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.” (Jn. 20:1-10)

- a. Note the arrangement of the neatly folded grave clothes suggesting Jesus' resurrection was an orderly event, carefully planned, and unhurried to say the least.
- b. We are told that John "saw and believed." Just what though did he believe? Was it that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead, or simply that something mysterious and supernatural had occurred? The immediate events following this would suggest the latter, for John seemed to be as shocked as the other disciples when the Savior later appeared to them in the Upper Room (Lk. 24:36-43).

B. The terror at the tomb

”And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men... Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done. And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. And if this come to the governors ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.” (Mt. 28:4, 11-15)

1. The splendor and glory of angels is almost inconceivable. Note two other references to their brightness:

”And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire.” (Rev. 10:1) ”And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.” (Rev. 18:1)

2. There are at least two glaring flaws in this "official explanation concerning the empty tomb."
 - a. In the first place the soldiers were to say they had fallen asleep. But if so, how could they have known that *”his disciples came... and stole him away”*?
 - b. In the second place, if it were true, why were they not put to death for sleeping on duty? (See Acts 12:19.)

C. The transaction in the tomb

"And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you." (Mk. 16:2-7)

D. The testimony from the tomb

"And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word." (Mt. 28:8)

E. The talk about the tomb

"It was Mary Magdalene and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not. Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass." (Lk. 24:10-12)

PART THREE: The VALIDATIONS of the Resurrection (the Risen Lord)

Following His resurrection, Jesus would appear on ten separate occasions. Five of these appearances transpired on the first Easter Sunday, and the final five during the remaining 39 days before His ascension. (Acts 1:3)

FIRST RESURRECTION APPEARANCE

Before Mary Magdalene:

"Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils. And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not." (Mk. 16:9-11)

"But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my LORD, and I know not where they have laid him. And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus saith

unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my father but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God. Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the LORD, and that he had spoken these things unto her.” (Jn. 20:11-18)

- This was undoubtedly one of the two most dramatic "recognition meetings" in all the Bible. The first involved Joseph revealing himself to his brothers in Egypt (see Gen. 45:1-3). It was a Samaritan woman to whom Christ first revealed his messiahship (see Jn. 4:25-26). It is now to another woman, Mary Magdalene, that Christ first appears in his resurrection body. Both were formerly women of questionable moral background (see Mk. 16:9).
- Why did Mary fail to recognize Jesus? Probably for several reasons:
 1. Her eyes were blinded with tears.
 2. The early morning light was still too dim.
 3. She was not expecting to see him.

SECOND RESURRECTION APPEARANCE

Before some women:

A. Their encounter with the angels of God

“Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words.” (Lk. 24:1-8)

“But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.” (Mk. 16:7)

B. Their encounter with the Son of God

“And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.” (Mt. 28:9-10)

1. Note His phrase, "Go to my brethren." There is a progressive intimacy between Jesus and his disciples. He calls them servants (Jn. 13:13), friends (Jn. 15:15), and here, brethren. Note also the phrase, "I ascend unto my Father." Some hold that Christ ascended that very first Easter Sunday to sprinkle His blood as the ultimate sacrifice within the heavenly sanctuary.
2. In fact, this occasion marks the third time women have been instructed to relate the glorious news of the resurrection to men (Jn. 20:17; Mk. 16:7; Mt. 28:10)! One reason for this is the fact that only one disciple (John) was present at the crucifixion, but many faithful women were there from start to finish!

THIRD RESURRECTION APPEARANCE

Before Simon Peter:

"Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon." (Lk. 24:34)

"And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve." (1 Cor. 15:5)

What a meeting this must have been. The last time these two saw each other, the one was bitterly cursing and denying the other.

FOURTH RESURRECTION APPEARANCE

Before two disciples en route to Emmaus:

"After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them." (Mk. 16:12-13)

"And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad? And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days? And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done. Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not."

Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them. And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures? And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon. And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.” (Lk. 24:13-35)

There are at least four phrases that are worthy of our attention in this passage:

A. *“Today is the third day”* (Lk. 24:21)

The phrase “today is the third day since these things were done” may have been a reference to the Jewish belief that after the third day the soul left the body for good. In other words, the situation was now hopeless.

B. *“Beginning at Moses”* (Lk. 24:27)

During the eight mile walk between Jerusalem and Emmaus, our Lord, in essence, provides for these two saddened believers the ultimate “walk thru” summary of the Hebrews Old Testament scriptures!

He no doubt spoke of the following Old Testament events, objects, feasts, etc.

1. The protoevangelium verse (Gen. 3:15), or “first gospel” verse, which promises the eventual victory of the Messiah over Satan (see also Gal. 4:4; Rom. 16:20; Isa. 53:5).
2. His virgin birth in Bethlehem (Isa. 7:14; Micah 5:2)
3. His work as a prophet and priest (Deut. 18:15; Gen. 14:18-20)
4. His Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem (Zech. 9:9)
5. His rejection by Israel (Isa. 53:3)
6. His betrayal for 30 pieces of silver (Zech. 11:12-13)
7. His work as the Passover Lamb and smitten Rock (Ex. 12:12-13, 17:6-7)
8. His suffering and death (Psa. 22)
9. His resurrection (Psa. 16:10)

C. *“The day is far spent”* (Lk. 24:29)

The two disciples reminded their unrecognized friend that *“the day is far spent.”* Spiritually speaking, however, it was just the opposite. The terrible night of Calvary was

far spent. The glorious morning of the resurrection was now at hand.

"The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light." (Rom. 13:12)

D. *"Did not our heart burn within us...?"* (Lk. 24:32)

The Old Testament prophet Jeremiah could certainly have identified with this statement:

"Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak anymore in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay." (Jer. 20:9)

FIFTH RESURRECTION APPEARANCE

Before the ten apostles in the Upper Room:

"Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you." (Jn. 20:19)

"And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. And he took it, and did eat before them." (Lk. 24:36-43)

"Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained." (Jn. 20:21-23)

- A. What kind of body did Jesus have after His resurrection? This is of great importance to the Christian, for he or she will someday have a similar body, as testified by both Paul and John (see Phil. 3:21; 1 Jn. 3:1-3).
1. His new body had flesh and bone (Lk. 24:39-40).
 2. He ate food in the new body (Lk. 24:41-43; Jn. 21:12-13; Acts 10:41).
 3. His new body still bore the marks of His crucifixion (Jn. 20:25-27; Lk. 24:40; Rev. 5:6).
 4. His new body was not subjected to material laws (Jn. 20:19; Lk. 24:31, 36).
- B. The disciples thought they had seen a ghost (Lk. 24:37)! They had previously made the same mistake during a life-threatening storm:

“And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.”
(Mt. 14:25-27)

- C. The giving of the Holy Spirit here (Jn. 20:22) was apparently a temporary act, awaiting His full and final appearance as recorded in Acts 2:1-4.

SIXTH RESURRECTION APPEARANCE

Before the eleven apostles in the Upper Room:

A. The reluctance of Thomas

“But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the LORD. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.” (Jn. 20:24-25)

B. The revelation to Thomas

“And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My LORD and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.” (Jn. 20:26-29)

During the 1990s a well-known American religious leader claimed to have seen the risen Christ on at least twelve separate occasions! Most evangelical Christians would have difficulty with this claim, but even if true, according to Jesus' words here, all those Christians who have believed without seeing exotic visions are far more blessed than those who do! The following passages give strong testimony to this:

“For we walk by faith, not by sight.” (2 Cor. 5:7)

“Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.” (1 Pet. 1:8)

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen ... But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him... By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaohs daughter... By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.” (Heb. 11:1, 6, 24, 27)

SEVENTH RESURRECTION APPEARANCE

Before seven apostles beside the Sea of Galilee:

"After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he himself There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing. But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No. And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. And They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes. Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It Is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea. And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes. As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread. Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught. Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken. Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord. Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise. This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead. So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, to vest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep. Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdest thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldst: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldst not. This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me. Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me. Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?" (Jn. 21:1-23)

- A. These seven, remembering the thrice repeated divine command (Mt. 26:32; 28:7, 10) to meet the risen Savior in Galilee had all assembled here. Just who the missing four were, where they were, and why they were absent is not recorded.

B. At the conclusion, this appearance, Jesus provides Peter's eventual martyrdom, hinting that it might be by crucifixion. Peter would later recall the Savior's words on this subject:

"Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me." (2 Pet. 1:12-14)

EIGHTH RESURRECTION APPEARANCE

Before eleven apostles and 500 disciples:

"After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep." (1 Cor. 15:6)

"Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Mt. 28:16-20)

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." (Mk. 16:16-18)

On this occasion Jesus lists five signs that will accompany them who believe. Of these five, four were fulfilled in the book of Acts.

1. They shall cast out demons (Acts 5:16; 16:16-18; 19:12b).
2. They shall speak with new tongues (Acts 2:1-4; 10:44-46; 19:6).
3. They shall take up serpents (Acts 18:3-6).
4. No poison, if swallowed, would harm them (no record in the New Testament of this happening).
5. They shall heal the sick (Acts 5:15; 19:12a).

NINTH RESURRECTION APPEARANCE

Before James, His half-brother:

"After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles." (1 Cor. 15:7)

Until this event James was apparently an unbeliever and highly critical of his older half-brother Jesus, as indicated by the following passage:

"After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him. Now the Jew's feast of tabernacles was at hand. His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest. For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world. For neither did his brethren believe in him." (Jn. 7:1-5)

TENTH RESURRECTION APPEARANCE

Before the eleven apostles on the Mount of Olives:

"And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." (Lk. 24:44-49)

"To whom also he skewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:3-8)

- A. Jesus speaks regarding the fulfillment of scripture (Lk. 24:44). In essence He was referring to the forty-plus Old Testament messianic prophecies He had already personally fulfilled, beginning with His virgin birth in Bethlehem to His glorious resurrection!
- B. In Acts 1:8 Jesus gives the divine program schedule for the preaching of the gospel. This pattern was carefully followed in the book of Acts.
 - 1. Witnessing in Jerusalem (Acts 2-7)
 - 2. Witnessing in Judea and Samaria (Acts 8-12)
 - 3. Witnessing worldwide (Acts 13-28)