

The Good News About Jesus as Luke Wrote It

Chapter 24.1-53

HoneyBee base version for oral translation

September 2023 Draft¹

Background

- Daybreak came by 6 o'clock a.m. at that time of the year.
- An open tomb could suggest a robbery or a seizure by authorities.
- In scripture, angels appear as human beings, sometimes with a radiant/bright appearance.
- Emmaus was about 11 km from Jerusalem.
- Most Jews expected Messiah to gain victory over Israel's enemies (e.g. the Romans).
- It was usual for Jews to offer lodging and bread to travelers.
- In crucifixion, sometimes arms were tied with ropes to a crossbar, other times nails were driven through wrists and through heel bones.
- Jews believed the Law, the Prophets and the Psalms to be scripture, but the canon/official grouping of other writings had not yet been fixed in the first century CE.

History

- In 458 BCE, Artaxerxes ordered Ezra to return to Jerusalem. Daniel's 70 weeks (490 years), calculated from that date, concluded in 33 CE, the probable year of Jesus' resurrection. Hence the high expectation of Messiah's appearance.
- Jesus was crucified Thursday, April 2nd, lay in his tomb Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights (=Nisan 14, 15, 16), rising early Sunday, April 5th..

Themes

- "The Son of Man must be handed over into the hands/control of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again." v7
- "It was necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory." v26
- "The Lord has risen indeed!" v34 "Thus it is written that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day." v46.

Jesus is resurrected to life!

¹ Before dawn on Sunday, those women *from Galilee* went to *Jesus'* tomb.² They took with them the spices that they had prepared to put on *Jesus'* body. ² They saw that somebody had rolled the stone away from the tomb's entrance. ³ They went into the tomb, but the Lord *Jesus'* body/corpse was not there!⁴ They did not know what to think about that.

¹ Licensed for use under Creative Commons. Text in *italics* is implied from historical or cultural context. Superscripted ^(pl) means plural, ^(sg) singular, ^(inc) inclusive, ^(exc) exclusive pronoun.

² OR the place/cave where Jesus was buried.

³ Then suddenly *two angels* stood by them, *appearing as* men wearing bright shining clothes. ⁵ This so frightened the women, that they bowed down with their faces on the ground. One *angel* said to them, “You should not be seeking someone who is alive in a place where they bury dead people! ⁶ Jesus is not here, because he has become alive again!⁴ Remember that while he was still with you in Galilee district, he said to you^(pl), ⁷ ‘Even though I am the Divine Human Son who came from heaven, I must allow sinful men to seize/arrest me. They will kill me by nailing me to a cross, but on the third day after that, I will become alive again.’⁵ ⁸ Then the women remembered that Jesus had said that.

⁹ So the women left the tomb, went to the eleven apostles and Jesus’ other disciples, and told to them these things *that had happened*. ¹⁰ The women who told these things to the apostles were Mary from Magdala village, Joanna, Mary who was the mother of James, and the other women who were with them. ¹¹ But the apostles thought that the women’s report⁶ was nonsense, and so did not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb anyway. He stooped *down* and looked inside. He only saw the linen cloths *in which Jesus’ body had been wrapped lying there empty*.⁷ So, wondering what had happened, he went home.

Jesus talks to two disciples on the road to Emmaus

¹³ That same day two *disciples*⁸ were walking to *their home* in a village named Emmaus. It was about eleven kilometers from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about all the things that *they had seen* happen *in Jerusalem*.⁹ ¹⁵ While they were discussing those things, Jesus himself came near to them¹⁰ and began walking with them. ¹⁶ But something kept them from recognizing him. ¹⁷ Jesus said to them, “What were you^(pl) talking about while you were walking?” They stopped, and their faces looked very sad.

¹⁸ One of them, whose name was Cleopas, replied, “You^(sg) must be the only person who is visiting Jerusalem for the Passover festival who does not know the events/things that have happened there in recent days! ¹⁹ He said to them, “What events?” *Cleopas* replied,

“The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth. He was a powerful prophet. Many people saw him perform great miracles, and God enabled him to teach wonderful messages! ²⁰ But our chief priests and leaders arrested him *and handed him over to the Roman authorities*. *The governor sentenced/ordered him to die. Then soldiers killed him by nailing him to a cross.*”

³ OR They were confused / wondering.

⁴ OR has risen/ returned from death.

⁵ OR I will rise/return from death. See Luke 17:22-25; 18:31-33.

⁶ OR what the women reported.

⁷ OR lying there [*on the bed/shelf/ledge*] empty *without a corpse inside them*. (Neither Luke nor John says where the linen was lying. Nor on what Jesus was laid. However, excavated tombs usually had a bed / shelf / ledge on which bodies/corpses were laid.)

⁸ OR two disciples *married to each other*. See Mark 16:12. (Only one disciple/person is named and they share a house, so these two may have been a married couple. In Greek, the masculine plurals are not gender specific. If possible, try to translate this throughout the passage in a way that would allow for the two to be either two men or a man and his wife.)

⁹ OR that had happened *to Jesus*.

¹⁰ OR approached / overtook them *from behind/the rear*.

The Good News about Jesus as Luke Wrote it

²¹ We ^(exc) were hoping that Jesus was the one who would free us Israelites from our enemies. *But this does not seem possible now, because three days have already passed since they killed him.* ²² On the other hand, some women from our group amazed us. Early this morning they went to the tomb in which *Jesus' body was laid*.

²³ But Jesus' body was not there! When they came back to our group, they reported that they had seen some angels who said, "He has become alive again!" ²⁴ Then some of those who were with us went to the tomb. There they saw that things were exactly as the women had reported. But they did not see Jesus."

²⁵ He said to them, "You foolish men! You are too slow/hesitant to believe all that the prophets wrote *about the Messiah!* ²⁶ *They wrote that it was necessary that the Messiah should suffer all those things and die, before he becomes the glorious king whom you want.*" ²⁷ Then Jesus explained to them the things written about him in the Scriptures. He started with what Moses wrote *about him*, and then he explained to them what all the other prophets wrote about him.

²⁸ They came near to the village to which the two *disciples* were going. Jesus indicated that he would walk/travel further, ²⁹ but they urged him to not do so. They said, "Stay with us *tonight*, because it is late in the afternoon and it will soon be dark." So he went into *their house* to stay with them. ³⁰ When they sat down to eat, Jesus took some bread and thanked God for it. He broke it and gave some pieces to them. ³¹ Just then *God* enabled the two to recognize him. But immediately Jesus disappeared from their sight!

³² The two *disciples* said to each other, "We felt joyful while Jesus was talking with us on the road, explaining the scriptures to us! *We should go tell the other disciples what happened to us!*" ³³ So they left immediately and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven apostles and others who had gathered together with them.

Jesus appears to other disciples

³⁴ *The apostles and others listened to the two men and replied to them, "It is true that the Lord has become alive again, and he has appeared to Peter!"* ³⁵ Then the two *disciples* told the others what had happened as they were walking along the road, and how they both recognized Jesus as he broke some bread for them. ³⁶ As they were saying that, Jesus himself suddenly appeared among them. He said to them, "*May God give peace to you!*"¹¹ ³⁷ They were startled and afraid, because they thought that they were seeing *Jesus' ghost!*¹² ³⁸ So, Jesus said to them, "Do not be alarmed/frightened! Stop doubting that I am alive/Jesus? ³⁹ Look at the *nail* wounds in my hands and in my feet! I am really Jesus! Touch me and feel my body. I have bones and flesh, but ghosts do not have bones and flesh!"

⁴⁰ After Jesus said that, he showed to them the *nail* wounds in his hands and in his feet. ⁴¹ They were joyful and amazed, but they still did not believe that his body was alive again. So he said to them,

¹¹ OR I greet you with peace. (You may use "Shalom" or "Peace be with you" or another respectful greeting. This is a greeting, not a prayer nor a promise.)

¹² OR spirit. OR soul. OR breath. OR invisible life. (You may use your language's usual word for the part that keeps on living after a body dies.)

“Do you have anything here to eat?”⁴² So they gave to him a piece of broiled/cooked fish.⁴³ While they were watching, he took it and ate it. *Then they believed him.*

Jesus explains to his apostles what the scriptures say about him, and he commissions them.

⁴⁴ Then Jesus said to his apostles, “I shall repeat what I told you while I was still with you: Everything that was written about me by Moses, by the other prophets, and in the Psalms, must happen!”¹³ ⁴⁵ Then he enabled them to understand *the things that the Scriptures say about him.* ⁴⁶ He said to them,

“The scriptures say that the Messiah must suffer and *die/be killed and* return to life¹⁴ after three days. ⁴⁷ They also say that Messiah’s disciples must go tell every people group in the world that God will forgive sins for everyone who repents *and believes in me, the Messiah.* Starting here in Jerusalem, ⁴⁸ you apostles must testify to people about all these things that happened to me. ⁴⁹ And I will *soon* send to you the *Holy Spirit* whom my Father has promised *to give to you.* So, you must stay in *Jerusalem*, until God fills you with¹⁵ his heavenly power.”

Jesus returns to heaven

⁵⁰ Then Jesus led the apostles outside the city until they came near to Bethany village. There he held his arms over them¹⁶ and blessed them.¹⁷ ⁵¹ As he was doing so, he left them and went up into the sky/heaven. ⁵² The apostles *bowed down and* worshiped him. Then they returned to Jerusalem very joyful. ⁵³ Each day they went to the temple *courtyard*, where they spent time praising God.

¹³ OR will be fulfilled. OR must come to be.

¹⁴ OR start living again. OR be raised back to living again. OR be resurrected.

¹⁵ OR cloths you with. OR sends to you.

¹⁶ OR he raised his hands.

¹⁷ OR prayed that God would favor/bless them.