

Perfect Predictions with Perfect Timing

International Bible Lesson

Luke 24:1-12

Sunday, April 20, 2014

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“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” (Luke 24:6-7—KJV).

“Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again” (Luke 24:6-7—NRSV).

When the angels met the women at Jesus’ tomb on Easter morning, they gave them good reasons to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. Unlike what everyone expected of the Messiah, everything Jesus had foretold about His going to Jerusalem and His suffering, death, and resurrection had come true exactly as He had prophesied when they were still in Galilee. First, when Judas betrayed Jesus and led the guards to arrest Him, Jesus was handed over to sinners. Second, instead of being stoned to death as was the custom of the Jews according to the Law of Moses, Jesus said He must be condemned to a cross, which was the Roman way of executing criminals. Later, the Apostle Paul explained how Jesus not only foretold His way of death, but Jesus died according to the Scriptures: “For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). To qualify as God’s promised Messiah, Jesus had to fulfill many difficult prophecies; including, execution on a cross and being sealed in a tomb, rising in a human body and appearing to many witnesses. Not only did Jesus need to rise from the dead perfectly, but His arrest, trial, crucifixion, death, and resurrection had to be timed perfectly during a three day period according to the Old Testament and Jesus’ predictions.

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Thinking Further

The International Sunday School Lesson for April 20, 2014 is from Hosea 6:1-6 and Luke 24:1-12. The “Thinking Further” Questions below are from these two lessons.

1. How might you describe God’s punishment when God designs it to be discipline for those who are His children?

2. Compare Hosea 6:1 — “Come, let us return to the LORD; for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up,” and Hebrews 12:5-6 — “And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as children — ‘My child, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, or lose heart when you are punished by him; for the Lord disciplines those whom he loves, and chastises every child whom he accepts’” (see Deuteronomy 8:5).

3. What is one fact about Jesus’ resurrection that you remember from other books of the Bible that Luke does not include in these verses?

4. Why do you think the apostles would not believe the women?

5. Why do you believe in Jesus’ resurrection?