

MATTHEW 2

**THE
PREACHER'S
OUTLINE & SERMON
BIBLE®**

MATTHEW 2

THE PREACHER'S OUTLINE & SERMON BIBLE®

NEW TESTAMENT

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION



Leadership Ministries Worldwide
Chattanooga, TN

**THE PREACHER'S OUTLINE & SERMON BIBLE® - MATTHEW 1
NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION**

Copyright © 1998 by
ALPHA-OMEGA MINISTRIES, INC.

All Rights Reserved

The Holy Bible, New International Version
Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society
Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers

All other Bible study aids,
references, indexes, reference materials
Copyright © 1991 by Alpha-Omega Ministries, Inc.

**All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored
in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic,
mechanical, photo-copy, recording, or otherwise—without the prior
permission of the copyright owners.**

Previous Editions of **The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible®**,
New International Version NT Copyright © 1998
King James Version Copyright © 2000
by Alpha-Omega Ministries, Inc.

Please address all requests for information or permission to:
Leadership Ministries Worldwide
PO Box 21310
Chattanooga, TN 37424-0310
Ph.# (423) 855-2181 FAX (423) 855-8616 E-Mail info@outlinebible.org
<http://www.outlinebible.org>

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 98-067967
International Standard Book Number: 978-1-57407-077-4

Printed in the United States of America

1 2 3 4 5 12 13 14 15 16

MATTHEW 28:1-15

CHAPTER 28		
<p>1. The time of the resurrection</p> <p>2. The first witnesses of the resurrection</p> <p>a. Mary Magdalene</p> <p>b. The other Mary</p> <p>3. The miraculous events of the resurrection</p> <p>a. The great earthquake</p> <p>b. The great stone rolled back</p> <p>c. The radiant figure</p> <p>1) Appearance: Dazzling</p> <p>2) Clothing: White as snow</p> <p>d. The terrified guards</p> <p>1) Shook</p> <p>2) Acted as dead men</p> <p>4. The appeals of the resurrection</p> <p>a. Do not fear: Your seeking for the Messiah is known to God</p> <p>1) He was crucified</p> <p>2) He is risen^{DS1}</p> <p>b. Come, see: Believe & live</p> <p>c. Go quickly & tell the glorious news</p>	<p>XVII. THE MESSIAH'S TRIUMPHANT RESURRECTION, 28:1-20</p> <p>A. The Messiah's Resurrection: Surrounding Events, 28:1-15</p> <p><i>(Mk 16:1-13; Lu 24:1-49; Jn 20:1-23)</i></p> <p>After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.</p> <p>2 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.</p> <p>3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.</p> <p>4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.</p> <p>5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.</p> <p>6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.</p> <p>7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going</p>	<p>ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."</p> <p>8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.</p> <p>9 Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him.</p> <p>10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."</p> <p>11 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.</p> <p>12 When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money,</p> <p>13 Telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.'</p> <p>14 If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble."</p> <p>15 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.</p> <p>1) He meets you</p> <p>2) You will see Him^{DS2}</p> <p>3) The women obeyed: With fear & great joy</p> <p>5. The glorious encounter with the Lord of the resurrection^{DS3}</p> <p>6. The attempt to discredit the resurrection</p> <p>a. The guards reported the resurrection</p> <p>b. The authorities were baffled: Devised a plan</p> <p>c. The authorities bribed & assured the soldiers of protection from Pilate</p> <p>d. The lie was found out: The truth marched on</p>

DIVISION XVII

THE MESSIAH'S TRIUMPHANT RESURRECTION, 28:1-20

A. The Messiah's Resurrection: Surrounding Events, 28:1-15

(28:1-15) **Introduction:** Matthew reports five significant events surrounding the resurrection—events that stir interest and challenge action.

1. The time of the resurrection (v.1).
2. The first witnesses of the resurrection (v.1).
3. The miraculous events of the resurrection (vv.2-4).
4. The appeals of the resurrection (vv.5-8).
5. The glorious encounter with the Lord of the resurrection (vv.9-10).
6. The attempt to discredit the resurrection (vv.11-15).

1 (28:1) **Jesus Christ, Resurrection:** the time of the resurrection. Jesus arose after the Sabbath was over, that is, on Sunday, the first day of the week. There are four facts to note about this.

1. Matthew said, "After the Sabbath" which means late on the Sabbath. Matthew was not speaking of strict Jewish

time. This would mean the Sabbath had ended at 6 p.m. the preceding evening of Saturday (see DEEPER STUDY # 1—Mk.6:48). He was using the common day-to-day idea of time. He was simply adding the nighttime to the preceding day (see Mk.16:1).

2. Jesus arose before dawn, before the sun arose on Sunday morning. This was significant to the early Christian believers, so significant that they broke away from the practice of worshipping on the Sabbath or Saturday. They began to worship on Sunday, the day of the resurrection of their Lord.

On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight. (Acts 20:7)

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. (1 Cor 16:2)

3. Jesus arose on the first day of the week, on Sunday morning. This means that He arose on the third day just as He had said (Mt.12:40; 16:21; 17:23; 20:19; Mk.9:31; 10:34; Lu.9:22; 18:33; 24:7, 46). His arising from the dead is a triumph, a conquest over death. Death reigns no more. Its rule has been broken. (See note—Ro.8:2-4.)

Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, (2 Cor 1:9-10)

But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. (2 Tim 1:10)

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. (Heb 2:9, 14-15)

4. Again, Jesus arose on the first day of the week, Sunday morning. He was in the grave on the Sabbath, unable to observe the laws governing the great season of the Passover and the Sabbath. He was dead; therefore, the law and its observances had no authority over Him. This is symbolic of the identification believers gain in Christ. When a man believes in Jesus Christ, God identifies the man with Christ, in particular with the death of Christ. God counts the man as having died with Christ. Therefore, in Christ's death believers become dead to the law (see note—Ro.7:4; DEEPER STUDY # 2—8:3; note—Mt.5:17-18 for more discussion).

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— (Rom 6:6)

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Gal 2:20)

Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: (Col 2:20)

2 (28:1) **Jesus Christ, Resurrection:** the first witnesses of the resurrection. Note several things.

1. The first witnesses were women, not men, not even his own disciples. The women took the lead in love and care for the Lord Jesus.

2. Two reasons are given for the women's coming to the tomb of Jesus.

a. Matthew says the women "came...to look at the tomb." The Greek word *to look at* (theoresai) means to contemplate, to gaze, to observe in order to grasp. They came to be close to their Lord, the One who meant so much to them, to mourn over Him, to think through all that had happened. This is an important point, for it perhaps explains why the women were more prepared to believe the miracle of the resurrection.

When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping. When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it. (Mark 16:9-11)

It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. (Luke 24:10-11)

Thought 1. Thinking and meditating upon the Lord will help us to understand the Lord and prepare us to receive the great truth of His resurrection.

"Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. (Isa 1:18)

b. Mark says the women came to "anoint Jesus' body" (Mk.16:1). They cared, so they wanted to take care of His body as loved ones do.

Thought 1. The women are an example to us in taking care of the bodies of our loved ones.

3. Mary Magdalene stands out as the most prominent of the women who witnessed the resurrection of the Lord. Her love and devotion must have been deep, very deep. Mary had a very special quality about her, possessing a deeper love and devotion than most (see Mk.16:1, 9; Lu.24:10; Jn.20:11-18).

4. The other Mary was the mother of James and Joses. She just could not tear herself away from the body of Jesus which indicates a very special love and devotion for Him (Mt.27:56, 61; 28:1; Mk.15:40; Lu.24:10). She was probably the mother of Cleopas as well (see Jn.19:25).

3 (28:2-4) **Jesus Christ, Resurrection:** the miraculous events of the resurrection.

1. There was a "violent earthquake." Nothing more is said, only that it was *violent*. The earthquake symbolized that a *historical convulsion* was taking place, an event that never before had happened: a man was rising from the dead, the man Christ Jesus, the Son of God Himself.

Tragically, He had been put to death by the hands of men, but gloriously He was being raised from the dead by the power of God (Ro.1:4; Ep.1:19-20). The historical event was a picture of the unbelievable convulsion that God was planning for the end time: the resurrection of all the dead. The resurrection of God's dear Son paved the way and prefigured the resurrection of all men. History was witnessing the most convulsive event of all time; the quaking of the earth was bound to happen.

2. There was the great stone rolled back (see DEEPER STUDY # 1—Mt.27:65-66). The stone was not rolled back for the benefit of Christ, but for the witnesses to the resurrection. When Christ arose, He was in His resurrection body, the body of the spiritual dimension of being which has no physical bounds. But the witnesses needed to enter the tomb to see the truth (see outline and notes—Jn.20:1-10).

3. There was the radiant figure, the angel of the Lord. Note two facts about the angel.

- a. He rolled back the stone for the sake of the witnesses. He was a ministering spirit of God's, serving by helping God's people (see DEEPER STUDY # 1—He.1:4-14).
- b. His appearance was dazzling:
 - ⇒ just like lightning—visible, quick, startling, striking, frightening, brilliant.
 - ⇒ just like snow—white, pure, glistening.

4. There were the guards and their terror. Matthew seems to indicate that the guards witnessed the flashing appearance of the angel and the rolling back of the stone. The suddenness of the event, the brilliant appearance and the enormous strength of the angel were like a volcanic eruption to them. They quaked, shook, and fell as dead men to the ground. They were either stricken unconscious or were so terrified they pretended to be unconscious.

Thought 1. The power of God is awesome and terrifying. The guards had been told they were to guard a dead body against thieving men. They were totally unprepared and unable to stand against the power of God and His messenger (angel). There is a strong lesson here for every unbeliever.

**For nothing is impossible with God.”
(Luke 1:37)**

**Then Jesus came to them and said,
“All authority in heaven and on earth has
been given to me. (Mat 28:18)**

**No one takes it from me, but I lay it
down of my own accord. I have authority
to lay it down and authority to take it up
again. This command I received from my
Father.” (John 10:18)**

**And who through the Spirit of holiness
was declared with power to be the Son of
God by his resurrection from the dead: Je-
sus Christ our Lord. (Rom 1:4)**

**Which he exerted in Christ when he
raised him from the dead and seated him at
his right hand in the heavenly realms, (Eph
1:20)**

**By his power he churned up the sea; by
his wisdom he cut Rahab to pieces. (Job 26:12)**

**Who formed the mountains by your
power, having armed yourself with
strength, (Psa 65:6)**

**Our God is in heaven; he does whatev-
er pleases him. (Psa 115:3)**

**Yes, and from ancient days I am he.
No one can deliver out of my hand. When I
act, who can reverse it?” (Isa 43:13)**

4 (28:5-8) **Jesus Christ, Resurrection:** the appeals of the resurrection. When the women arrived at the tomb, they saw the dazzling angel sitting on the stone. Mark says they saw “a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side” (Mk.16:5). Luke says “two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them” (Lu.24:4). Apparently, many angels were all about the tomb and the surrounding area attending Christ, joying and rejoicing over what God had done. At the right time, one angel appeared to the women, then two. Note that they appeared as men, that is, as messengers of God.

The appeals of the resurrection are a message within themselves.

1. Do not fear. There are three reasons why the person who seeks after Christ should not fear.

- a. God knows the person who is seeking after the Messiah. He knows the movement of every heart. The person who seeks diligently shall find (Mt.7:7).

**“Ask and it will be given to you; seek
and you will find; knock and the door will
be opened to you. For everyone who asks
receives; he who seeks finds; and to him
who knocks, the door will be opened. (Mat
7:7-8)**

**But if from there you seek the LORD
your God, you will find him if you look for
him with all your heart and with all your
soul. (Deu 4:29)**

**For I know the plans I have for you,”
declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you
and not to harm you, plans to give you
hope and a future. Then you will call upon
me and come and pray to me, and I will lis-
ten to you. You will seek me and find me
when you seek me with all your heart. (Jer
29:11-13)**

- b. Christ has been crucified to save every man.

**But Jesus said to them, “I have shown
you many great miracles from the Father.
For which of these do you stone me?” “We
are not stoning you for any of these,” re-
plied the Jews, “but for blasphemy, be-
cause you, a mere man, claim to be God.”
(John 10:32-33)**

**You see, at just the right time, when
we were still powerless, Christ died for the
ungodly. (Rom 5:6)**

**And he died for all, that those who live
should no longer live for themselves but for
him who died for them and was raised
again. (2 Cor 5:15)**

**He himself bore our sins in his body on
the tree, so that we might die to sins and
live for righteousness; by his wounds you
have been healed. (1 Pet 2:24)**

**And they sang a new song: “You are
worthy to take the scroll and to open its
seals, because you were slain, and with
your blood you purchased men for God**

from every tribe and language and people and nation. (Rev 5:9)

- c. Christ has now risen from the dead and conquered death.

But also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. (Rom 4:24-25)

And his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, (Eph 1:19-20)

2. Come see: believe. Note that the angel reminded the women of the Lord's words: "He has risen, just as He said" (see Mt.16:21; 17:23; 20:19; 26:32). Note also that the women were told to "come and see the place." They were eyewitnesses of His resurrection.

Thought 1. Believers can become witnesses of the Lord's death and resurrection—clear witnesses. They can see as though they were eye-witnesses—all by God's Spirit.

You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. (Gal 3:1)

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. (John 14:26)

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. (Rom 8:16)

3. Go quickly and tell the glorious news. Sharing the glorious news is essential. It is the greatest news of all history: Christ is risen. He shall meet you and you shall see Him.

Note several things.

- The women obeyed. They became the very first witnesses for the risen Lord.
- The discouraged believers (disciples) were the first ones the women were to tell. The discouraged were to be encouraged and stirred to join the great force of witnesses.
- The witnessing was to be done quickly.

5 (28:9-10) **Jesus Christ, Resurrection:** the glorious encounter with Jesus Himself. Note what happened when the women personally encountered Christ.

1. Jesus said, "Greetings"; that is, rejoice.

They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. (John 16:2)

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! (Phil 4:4)

2. The women worshipped Him in amazement, adoration, and awe.

3. Jesus said: "Do not be afraid."

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. (2 Tim 1:7)

4. He said, "Go and tell my brothers": the commission was repeated because of the extreme importance of bearing the glorious news.

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." (Mat 28:19-20)

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. (Mark 16:15)

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. (2 Tim 2:2)

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me. (Col 1:27-29)

DEEPER STUDY # 1

(28:6-7) **Resurrection Predicted:** Christ predicted His resurrection time and again.

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. (Mat 16:21)

They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life." And the disciples were filled with grief. (Mat 17:23)

And will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!" (Mat 20:19)

But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee." (Mat 26:32)

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. (Mark 9:9)

But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee." (Mark 14:28)

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." (John 2:19)

MATTHEW 28:1-15

But I have had God's help to this very day, and so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen— that the Christ would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would proclaim light to his own people and to the Gentiles.” (Acts 26:22-23)

DEEPER STUDY # 2

(28:9) **Greetings** (chairete): rejoice. The word means more than just a simple greeting or welcome. Jesus was telling the women to be glad, to celebrate. He wanted them to rejoice because He was with them. He had risen from the dead just as He had predicted.

6 (28:11-15) **Jesus Christ, Resurrection**: the attempt to discredit the resurrection. The outline above is adequate to see the event being described.

1. The guards reported the resurrection.
2. The authorities were baffled, and they devised a plan to decide what to do.
3. The authorities bribed and assured the soldiers of protection from Pilate.

4. The soldiers were to claim that Jesus' body had been stolen by His disciples.

5. The lie was found out; the truth marched on.

Thought 1. If the guards were asleep, how would they know what happened? Deception and lying are always contradicted by the truth.

Thought 2. Truth will always prevail (v.15). It may take some time, but its triumph is assured.

Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:32)

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, (Eph 6:14)

Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment. (Prov 12:19)

DEEPER STUDY # 3

(28:11-15) **Jesus—Plots Against**: note the plots against Jesus. The authorities had used treachery to arrest Him; an illegal court to try Him (Mt.26:59); false charges to accuse Him before Pilate (Mt.27:1, 2, 11f); and now they were using bribery to discredit His resurrection.

<p>1. He met the disciples in Galilee</p> <p>a. They met on a pre-appointed mountain</p> <p>b. They worshipped Him</p> <p>c. Some doubted</p> <p>2. He assured the disciples of</p>	<p>B. The Messiah's Final Commission to His Disciples, 28:16-20 (Mk 16:15-18; Lu 24:46-49; Jn 17:18; 20:21; Ac. 1:8)</p> <p>16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.</p> <p>17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.</p> <p>18 Then Jesus came to</p>	<p>them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.</p> <p>19 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,</p> <p>20 And teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."</p>	<p>His power</p> <p>a. Is a given power</p> <p>b. Is in heaven & earth</p> <p>3. He commissioned His disciples</p> <p>a. To make disciples of all nations</p> <p>b. To baptize</p> <p>c. To teach all that He had commanded</p> <p>4. He promised to be with His disciples</p>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

DIVISION XVII

THE MESSIAH'S TRIUMPHANT RESURRECTION, 28:1-20

B. The Messiah's Final Commission to His Disciples, 28:16-20

(28:16-20) **Introduction:** Matthew began his gospel by proclaiming that the baby Jesus was the Son of David, the promised King of Israel (Mt.1:1-2). He now closes his gospel by proclaiming that the Lord Jesus possesses all power and authority in heaven and earth. The Lord Jesus had risen from the dead, and in the power of His resurrection His followers are to go forth proclaiming His glorious kingdom.

In this great passage, Matthew covers the great commission of the resurrected Lord, the King to whom all power and authority belong.

- 1. He met the disciples in Galilee (vv.16-17).
- 2. He assured the disciples of His power (v.18).
- 3. He commissioned His disciples (vv.19-20).
- 4. He promised to be with His disciples (v.20).

1 (28:16-17) **Disciples:** the disciples met Jesus in Galilee. Note several background facts.

1. Matthew says the eleven disciples met Christ. The eleven were the prominent ones, but apparently there were over five hundred believers present, all seeing Him at once (1 Co.15:6). The reference to "they" and "some doubted" (v.17) seems to indicate that this was the great appearance to the mass of believers mentioned by Paul. Christ had already appeared to the eleven on several occasions. They already knew the reality of His resurrection. It is unlikely that they were the ones who were questioning at this time (Mk.16:12-14; Lu.24:13-48; Jn.20:19-25; 20:26-31; 21:1-25).

2. The disciples met the Lord in Galilee on a pre-appointed mountain (see Mt.26:32; 28:7, 10). The Lord had apparently instructed the apostles to pass the word along and to gather all His disciples to meet Him in a mass meeting in Galilee. A particular mountain was designated as the meeting place. Note that Galilee was where the Lord had conducted most of His ministry and where most of His disciples lived. It was also some distance from Jerusalem, a place somewhat safe from the immediate enemies of Christ.

Thought 1. There are appointed places where we are to meet the Lord: in prayer, devotions, worship, and Bible study. When we meet the Lord as He says, He meets us. We must meet the Lord as He instructs if we are to know the reality of His resurrection.

3. This is significant. They worshipped Him, but some doubted. They just were not sure. Note what Jesus did: He "came to them and said" (v.18). Apparently, His *coming and speaking to them* erased their doubt and questioning.

Thought 1. When we meet Christ as He instructs, He meets us. When He meets us, all fear and doubt vanish. The person who truly seeks after Christ, who truly seeks to meet Him, will have his doubts erased. Christ will *come and speak to him*.

2 (28:18) **Power:** Jesus assured His followers of His power.

1. Jesus' power or authority is a given power. It is given by God, and it is given for one reason: to exalt Christ above and over all.

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, (Phil 2:8-9)

2. Jesus' power is above and over all that is in heaven and in earth. His authority is over all the universe. His authority includes at least three areas.

- a. The Lord's authority includes the power to rule and reign...
 - to receive the worship and subjection of all men who willingly surrender to His dominion.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Rom 12:1-2)

You were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. (1 Cor 6:20)

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. (Rom 10:9-10)

In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" (Rev 5:12)

- to bow the knee of all men and to receive their acknowledgement of His Lordship.

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil 2:9-11)

- b. The Lord's authority includes the power to govern and direct...
- the affairs of men without violating man's freedom.

After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. (Mark 16:19)

But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God." (Luke 22:69)

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. (Rom 13:1)

Who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him. (1 Pet 3:22)

- the affairs of nature and the world without violating the laws of nature.

The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!" (Mat 8:27)

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, (Eph 1:22)

- c. The Lord's authority includes the power to forgive sins, to judge, receive and reject men, and to save and deliver men through life and death. (See outline and notes—Ro. 8:28-39.)

But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home." (Mat 9:6)

When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" (Luke 5:20-21)

Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, (John 5:22)

And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. (John 5:27)

3. Jesus' power assures the believer of deliverance. Note *when* Jesus came to them and spoke about His power: immediately upon the heels of some doubting and immediately before charging His disciples to go into a hostile world. He proclaimed His power in order to erase doubt and to strengthen His disciples in going forth. His power was the disciples' assurance of victory.

Now, in dealing with the supreme power and authority of Jesus Christ, there are two points that must always be remembered.

1. The Lord's supreme reign is not yet fully seen. God has not yet revealed His Son's supremacy in an absolute sense. However, there is a *striking reason* for God's delaying the visible enthronement of His Son. God wants His Son to still be seen as the Savior of the world. He wants more and more persons to be saved before He ends the world and begins the sovereign reign of His Son upon earth.

First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Pet 3:3-4, 8-9)

2. The Lord's supreme reign over all the universe is assured.

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. (2 Pet 3:10-13)

And put everything under his feet.” In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. (Heb 2:8-10)

Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For he “has put everything under his feet.” Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all. (1 Cor 15:24-28)

3 (28:19-20) **Commission, Great—Disciples, Making:** Jesus commissioned His followers. He commissioned not only the eleven apostles, but all who were present, more than five hundred disciples. However, note something of crucial importance: it was impossible for that generation to reach the whole world in its lifetime. Therefore, the commission given to the first generation of believers extends beyond to all generations of believers. The very same charge given to them is given to us. Our Lord charges us with the very same words, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations....”

The Lord’s commission was threefold.

1. He commissions us to “go...and make disciples of all nations.” This is one of the crucial verses in the Bible. No verse is more important for genuine believers.

Teaching and baptizing are not enough to reach the world for Christ. Both are important, and Christ commissions both; but He says something else must precede both: discipleship. “Therefore go and ‘matheteuo’ all nations” (Mt.28:19). “Matheteuo” means to make disciples. Thus the verse accurately reads, “Therefore go and ‘make disciples’ of all nations....” Most messages that are preached on this passage stress the objective of our Lord, the reaching of all nations, as though this is what our Lord had in mind. There is no question, the great commission is what Christ had in mind. He has instructed us to go to all nations and evangelize them. But there is the strong conviction that He had more than that objective in mind, more than just an overriding purpose—much more.

Our Lord was not only telling us “to go and evangelize,” He was telling us *how* to go and *how* to evangelize. He was not only giving His ultimate *objective* and overriding purpose, He was giving *the method* to use in evangelizing the world.

Think about the word *matheteuo* (make disciples). What does our Lord mean by “make disciples”? Does it not mean that we are to do what He did: make disciples and do things with them as He did. Is He not telling us to do exactly as He did?

What *did* He do? Christ “came to seek and save what was lost” (Lu.19:10). He sought the lost, those who were willing to commit their lives to Him. And when He found such a person, He saved that person. When Christ found a person who was willing to commit his life, Christ attached Himself to that person. Christ began to mold and make that person into His image. The word *attach* is the key word. It is probably the word that best describes discipleship. Christ made disciples of men by attaching Himself to them; and through that personal attachment, they were able to observe His life and conversation; and in seeing and hearing, they began to absorb and assimilate His very character and behavior. They began to follow Him and to serve Him more closely. In simple terms, this is what our Lord did. This is the way He made disciples. This was His mission and His method, His obsession: to attach Himself to willing believers.

There is another way to describe what Christ did. Christ envisioned something beyond Himself and beyond His day and time. He envisioned an *extension* of Himself, an *extension* of His very being, and an *extension* of His mission and method. The way He chose to extend Himself was discipleship, attaching Himself to committed persons; and through attachment, the persons absorbed and assimilated the Lord’s very character and mission. They in turn attached themselves to others and disciplined them. They, too, expected their disciples to make disciples of others who were willing to commit their lives to Christ. Thus was the glorious message of Christ to march down through the centuries (2 Ti.2:2).

There is no question what our Lord’s commission is: we are to go; but more than that, we are to make disciples, to attach ourselves to those persons who will follow our Lord until they in turn can make disciples (2 Ti.2:2).

As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’ (Mat 10:7)

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.” (Mat 28:19-20)

He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. (Mark 16:15)

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:31)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

“Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said, “and tell the people the full message of this new life.” (Acts 5:20)

Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. (2 Tim 4:2)

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, (1 Pet 3:15)

2. He commissioned us to baptize all nations (see DEEPER STUDY # 1—Mk.16:16; note—Lk.3:21; DEEPER STUDY # 1—Ac.2:38). Two things need to be noted here.

- a. Baptism is of crucial importance. Christ says that it is as essential as teaching, despite the fact that it is a one-time act. It is as much a part of the commission of Christ as discipling and teaching. Christ is definitely teaching that baptism is to be the immediate sign and the identifying sign that a person is now stepping out of the heathen (unbelieving) ranks and taking his stand with Christ.
- b. Baptism “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” means more than just saying a formula as one is baptized, much more. It means...
 - a statement of faith: of belief in God as the true Father of Jesus Christ; of belief in Christ as the true Son of God, the Savior of the world; of belief in the Holy Spirit as the Comforter of the believer.
 - a commitment to follow God: to follow Him as revealed in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (cp. Christ’s constant references to God as His Father, to Himself as the Son, and to the Holy Spirit throughout the Gospel of John. Also see Mt.11:27; 24:36. Also see outlines and notes, *Holy Spirit*—Jn.14:15-26; 16:7-15; Ro.8:1-17.)

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. (Mark 16:16)

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days. (Acts 10:48)

And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.’ (Acts 22:16)

3. He commissioned us to teach all that Christ had commanded. Teaching is just as essential as making disciples and baptizing. One is not to be emphasized over the other. All are part of the commission of our Lord. Note what is to be taught: “everything I have commanded you.”

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.” (Mat 28:19-20)

It is written in the Prophets: ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. (John 6:45)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. (Col 3:16)

If you point these things out to the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, brought up in the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. (1 Tim 4:6)

Command and teach these things. (1 Tim 4:11)

And the Lord’s servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. (2 Tim 2:24)

These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. (Deu 6:6-7)

They are to teach my people the difference between the holy and the common and show them how to distinguish between the unclean and the clean. (Ezek 44:23)

Thought 1. What Christ taught and commanded must be studied and studied, to the point of learning and knowing and practicing. The commandments of Christ will be the first things taught. They should be the rule of society.

Thought 2. Society deteriorates and crumbles when it neglects the teaching and commandments of Christ.

4 (28:20) **Jesus Christ, Presence:** Jesus promised to be with His followers—always.

1. Note the word “Surely,” or behold. Christ used this striking word to get the attention of His followers, to startle them to wake up and listen. He was about to encourage them in the great task He had charged to their care.

2. Note the great promise: “I am with you.” He gave emphatic assurance: not “I will be with you,” but “I am with you.” Christ is with the believer as the believer goes forth to make disciples of all nations. Christ is with us...

- every step
- every decision
- every trial
- every joy
- every day
- every hour
- every sorrow
- when without
- when poor
- when having nothing
- when having plenty
- when abused
- when sick
- when facing death

3. Note the boundless promise: “always, to the very end of the age.” There is not a moment when Christ is not with the believer to help him in his witness, even if his witness means abuse, persecution, and martyrdom.

For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.” (Mat 18:20)

And teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Mat 28:20)

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?” (Heb 13:5-6)

MATTHEW 28:16-20

I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” (Gen 28:15)

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold

you with my righteous right hand. (Isa 41:10)

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. (Isa 43:2)