

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

Culmination of the Ministry

The Resurrection

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 home.

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 to your God.

Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her.

--- John 20:1-18.

The body of Jesus remained in the tomb through Friday night, the whole of Saturday, and part of Sunday. The student of mystic Christianity understands that the three days refer to the process of Initiation. During the three Creative Days comprising the Saturn, Sun, and Moon Revolutions of the Earth Period, and the cosmic nights between, the Creative Hierarchies worked in the Great Deep perfecting the inner parts of man and the planet. The earth emerged from its watery stage of development in middle Atlantis. Men in reviewing this time through Initiation are said to be three days in the tomb or darkness, and on the fourth day at sunrise to be reborn into the light of a new day.

The story of the Descent into Hell is found in most pre-Christian religions, perhaps the oldest story in preservation being the Babylonian, known as the "Descent of Ishtar." In ancient Greek and Roman literature we find numerous descents into Hades, perhaps the most familiar being those of Hercules, Dionysus, and Persephone. These legends all contain the story of Initiation; consequently, the steps of progress must be similar. Buddha descended into Hades to preach to mortals there. It is interesting to note that each of these saviors or heroes descended into the underworld to aid or rescue someone else. *Here we find the key which alone unlocks the door of Initiation. (Cont'd.)*