

**Introduction:** This is the most joyous day of the year for Christians. It is the day The Savior Jesus secured victory over sin and death for His people when He became the first-fruits of those resurrected when He rose after He died on The Cross as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the faithful (Romans 5:12-21; 6:1-14). \*\*\* This is one of those rare days in the year when all people of faith feel compelled to worship The Savior in person and be with other people of faith. It is a day to celebrate the wonderful gift of Life – eternal, abundant and full of meaning – that was given to the first humans before they rebelled against The Creator. \*\*\* However, like everything about The God of the universe, we must guard against the danger of thinking we know all there is to know about anything. This includes The Resurrection of Jesus. \*\*\* In all cultures with a history of Christian influence, including English speaking cultures, the role of women has grown in the twenty centuries since Jesus fulfilled His Mission to earth. In the apostle Paul's letters to first century churches he made it clear that all divisions people make among themselves are overcome among all people who are IN The Messiah-Savior by faith. This includes the division of male and female (Galatians 3:26-29; Colossians 3:5-11). And, the apostle Peter said that even in the marriage relationship the husband and wife are equal heirs of the gift of life (1 Peter 3:1-7). \*\*\* Our account of Jesus' Resurrection from John's gospel is an early example of God elevating the role of women in His Kingdom. In the Roman culture of the first century, women were second class people. Their testimony was not accepted in court. But, the heart of today's story is that Jesus chose Mary of Magdalene to be the first witness of His Resurrection; and, He sent her as an apostle (sent one) to His apostles (sent ones)!

**Mary Magdalene is the first to see Jesus alive.** Let's now go deeper into our Gospel and Psalm.

**I. Mary Magdalene comes to the tomb, sees the stone moved and tells Peter and John, who run to the tomb; Peter goes in, then John who believes.** (*John 20:1-10*)

- A. Mary Magdalene comes to the tomb on the first day of the week, sees the stone rolled away, runs to Peter and John, who run to the tomb; John arrives first, but does not enter. (*Verses 1-5*)
1. But the first day of the week Mary Magdalene is coming early, still being dark, to the tomb and she is seeing the stone had been taken away from the tomb. (*Verse 1*)  
**Mary:** Mary means 'their rebellion' and she was from the city of Magdala ('tower') south of Gennesaret ('harp') on the west side of the Sea of Galilee. We are told seven demons went out of her (Luke 8:2-3).  
**Before sunrise:** She arrived at the tomb before the sun came up on the morning after Sabbath.  
**Stone moved:** With her eyes she can see that the stone covering the opening of the tomb was moved.
  2. Then she is running and she is coming to Simon Peter and the other disciple whom Jesus loved (John); and, she is saying to them, 'They have taken away The Lord from the tomb and we have not known where they laid Him'. (*Verse 2*)  
**Runs:** She is running to Peter and John (the disciple Jesus named 'son of thunder' and loved).  
**Message:** Mary's message is that Jesus' body is 'missing' from the tomb!
  3. Therefore Peter went out, and the other disciple, and they were coming to the tomb; but, they were running together, and the other disciple ran ahead quickly of Peter, and he came first to the tomb. (*Verses 3-4*)  
**Run together:** After hearing Mary's message, they started out running together.  
**John first:** But, John arrived first. He may have been the youngest apostle and Peter the oldest, so he had the speed of youth!
  4. Having stooped down, he is seeing the linen strips having been laid, nevertheless not he went in. (*Verse 5*)  
**John sees:** John sees the linen burial strips in which Jesus had been wrapped.
- B. Peter follows and goes into the tomb; then John enters, sees and believes, because they did not know the Scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead. (*Verses 6-10*)
1. Then, Simon Peter is also coming, following him, and he went into the tomb and he is seeing the linen strips are being laid; and, the face-cloth, that was being about His head, not with the linen strips being laid, but by itself (it) had been folded up in one place. (*Verses 6-7*)  
**Peter:** Peter (the impulsive one) is the first one to enter into the tomb.  
**What he saw:** And he sees all the pieces of Jesus' grave-clothes in order, having been neatly arranged.
  2. Then, after that the other disciple went in also, who having come first to the tomb; and, he saw and he believed. (*Verse 8*)  
**John enters:** John entered the tomb second, after Peter.  
**Faith:** But, when he saw with knowledge, he believed (that Jesus was risen from the dead)!
  3. Because not yet they had known the Scripture that it is being necessary (that) He from the dead rise. (*Verse 9*)  
**Ignorance:** A Psalm of David says Yahweh will not let His Holy One see decay (Psalm 16:10). Peter applies this to Jesus in his Pentecost sermon (Acts 2:25-31). Isaiah spoke of one whose life was a guilt offering, yet he will see the light of life and justify many (Isaiah 53:10-12). May we all ask The Holy Spirit to give us deeper understanding of any area of our ignorance of Scripture.
  4. Then they went away again to their own, the disciples. (*Verse 10*)  
**Wondering:** It's too wonderful for Peter and John to take in, so they go back to the other disciples.

**II. Mary weeps before Jesus reveals Himself and she calls Him 'Teacher', then He sends her to tell His brothers; Jesus has fulfilled the Psalm of the rejected stone becoming salvation.** (*John 20:11-18; Psalm 118:21-29*)

- A. Mary remains still weeping, sees two angels to whom she answers her Lord is taken away; she turns and thinks Jesus is the gardener and asks Him about the body. (*John 20:11-15*)
1. But Mary had been standing near the tomb, outside weeping; then, as she was weeping, she bent over (looking) into the tomb; and, she is seeing two angels in white sitting: one at the head and one at the feet, where it was laying: the body of Jesus. (*Verses 11-12*)  
**Mary weeps:** Mary stayed in the background while Peter and John were there, but she was weeping the whole time over the status of Jesus.  
**Sees two angels:** When she stoops before the tomb, she sees two angels sitting at either end of where Jesus' body had been.
  2. And they say to her, them, 'Woman! Why are thou weeping?'; and she is saying to them, 'Because they have taken away my Lord, and not I have known where they have laid Him'. (*Verse 13*)  
**Question and answer:** The angels ask Mary why she is weeping. She answers, assuming some people have taken away her Lord who delivered her from seven demons, and she needs to know where He is.

3. Having spoken these (words), she was turned around, and she is perceiving Jesus having stood, and not she has known that Jesus He is. (*Verse 14*)  
**Perceives Jesus:** She looked carefully at Jesus.  
**NOT know:** However, she was not able to discern who He is. He was hidden from her in plain sight. We all have 'blind spots' concerning Jesus: Who He IS, His Words and His Ways.
  4. He is saying to her, Jesus, 'Woman! Why are thou weeping? and whom are thou seeking?'; she, supposing that the gardener he is, she is saying to him, 'Lord, if thou have taken away Him, thou must tell me where thou have laid Him, and I Him will take away'. (*Verse 15*)  
**Jesus' question:** Jesus adds to the angels' question with: whom are thou seeking? Jesus Himself had said: seek and y'all will find (Matthew 7:7).  
**Desperate:** Mary's answer shows her desperation: What has become of Jesus' Body?!
- B. When Jesus calls her by name, Mary calls Him 'Teacher'; He sends her to His disciples with a message and she obeys. (*John 20:16-18*)
1. He is saying to her, Jesus, 'Mary!'; she is turned, that one, she is saying to Him in Hebrew, 'Rabboni', which is being said: 'Teacher'. (*Verse 16*)  
**Name:** When Jesus calls Mary by name, something happens in her and she is turned to Him.  
**Revelation:** Jesus has now revealed himself to Mary and she responds by calling Him 'My Great One' in Hebrew and 'Teacher' in Greek. He IS both; and, she is the first of all His followers to see Him alive!

**Mary Magdalene is the first to see Jesus alive**

2. He is saying to her, Jesus, 'Not of Me, thou must be taking hold, because not yet I have been ascended to My Father; but, thou must be going to My brothers, and thou must be saying to them: I am ascending to My Father and The Father of y'all, and My God and The God of y'all'. (*Verse 17*)  
**Time:** Jesus says that at this time He has not been permanently ascended to His Father; that is, until the end of this age.  
**Sent:** Mary is now sent to Jesus' brothers, His disciples. And she must give them His message.
3. She is coming, Mary Magdalene, and she is telling the disciples that she has seen The Lord, and these things He said to her. (*Verse 18*)  
**Mary obeys:** Out of sheer joy and love to Jesus, the first one to see Jesus alive obeys Him and tells His disciples that she saw Him alive, and what He gave her to say to them.

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- C. The rejected stone has marvelously become the chief corner of salvation, inspiring joy and thanksgiving for eternal strong LOVE. (*Psalms 118:21-29*)  
  1. I will thank Thee because Thou have answered me / then Thou became to me salvation. (*Verse 21*)  
**Pledge:** The Psalmist pledges to thank The Covenant God, Yahweh.  
**Past:** His reason to thank God is that He has already answered and saved. Let all who are redeemed ...

**Thank The Covenant God for His Salvation**

2. Stone they rejected, those building / has become the head of the corner // From Yahweh it has been – this / it is being marvelous in our eyes // This the day He has made – Yahweh / we will rejoice and we will be glad in it. (*Verses 22-24*)  
**Crucifixion:** The stone rejected (for God's Temple) prophetically points to Jesus' crucifixion.  
**Resurrection:** With His resurrection Jesus became the cornerstone for His Church (Ephesians 2:19-22).  
**Joy:** This marvelous chain of events had been eternally planned by The Three-IN-One God Yahweh. When His people realize what He accomplished on Jesus' Resurrection day, they will have great joy!
3. We beseech Thee Yahweh, Thou must save, please / we beseech Thee Yahweh, Thou must cause to prosper, please. (*Verse 25*)  
**Double petition:** God's people earnestly petition Him to both save them and cause them to prosper. In Hebrew, the first petition is: *hō-shē-ā<sup>gh</sup>-nā* (hosanna). Biblical prosperity is when God works in the life of a person seeking Him with all his or her heart – as with Joseph in Egypt.
4. Being blessed, one entering in The Name of Yahweh / we have blessed y'all from The House of Yahweh // God (is) Yahweh, and has caused light to us / y'all must bind the festival (sacrifice) with ropes even to the horns of the altar. (*Verses 26-27*)  
**Blessings:** Jesus came to Jerusalem in The Name of Yahweh and was blessed by God's people. Later in the week He became the Passover Lamb sacrificed for the sins of all people.  
**Light:** In His crucifixion and resurrection Jesus has brought light to all believing IN Him unto salvation. From today forward may we have a profoundly deeper understanding and awe for what it means that Jesus arose from the dead, after His willing sacrifice for us, to be our Savior.
5. My God (are) Thou and I will give thanks to Thee / my God, I will exalt Thee // Y'all must give thanks to Yahweh because (He is) good / because to eternity His strong LOVE. (*Verses 28-29*)  
**Exalt:** God's people declare they will exalt Him to the highest place, where He deserves to be!  
**Strong LOVE:** The reason is that He showed His LOVE when He gave His Life for us, AND He also had power to be the 'first-fruits' of those raised from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:19-26)! May we give continual thanksgiving for Jesus' death and resurrection, and salvation by these acts.

**Thank The Covenant God for His Salvation**

**Conclusion:** Mary Magdalene comes to Jesus' tomb before dawn and discovers the stone rolled away. Then she runs to Peter and John, who then run to the tomb where Peter discovers the grave-clothes set in order and John believes. But, Mary remains weeping until Jesus reveals Himself to her alive. Finally, He sends her to His brothers, the disciples.

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