

***“Paul’s First Letter to Timothy — Prisoners of Hope — Part 6,
Mary Magdalene and the Other Women”***

Review:

Last Time: ‘Prisoners of Hope’, Part 5, “Mary and Joseph — Blessedness Upon Women, Overflowing.”

Today: We continue our study on “Prisoners of Hope”, Part 6 — “Women, Chosen First by the Lord, to See Him Alive!”.

Review:

- ***Mary — A Virgin is Granted Motherhood in Due Time of “the Seed of the Woman”***
- ***The Virgin Mary — Elizabeth Sings a Song of Praise Regarding Mary’s Conception of Our Lord Jesus***
- ***The Virgin Mary — Her Own Song of Praise Marks Her Conception***
- ***John’s Birth — Zachariah Testifies Regarding the Birth of His Son, John***
- ***Israel’s Salvation — Zachariah’s Second Song of Praise is Messianic Indeed***

- ***Mary — A Virgin is Granted Motherhood of “the Seed of the Woman”***

Luke 1:26-28, 31-33

26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name [was] Mary.

28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, [thou that art] highly favoured, the Lord [is] with thee: blessed [art] thou among women.

...

31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

- ***Note that it was Gabriel and again the message was personal but this time it was not a message to her husband as in the case of Elizabeth, but was to Mary herself. Here it is Gabriel revealing himself and his message directly to Mary! Note that most***

significantly here it is stated that Mary was a virgin! No wonder in verse 37 we read these words: "For with God nothing shall be impossible." And indeed with God nothing shall be impossible!

- ***The Virgin Mary — Elizabeth Sings a Song of Praise Regarding Mary's Conception of Our Lord Jesus***
 - ***FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF OUR STUDY TODAY, VERSES 44 AND 45 ARE SO TELLING. THE SEED OF THE WOMAN PROPHECY MUST HAVE BEEN ON HER MIND OR SHE WOULD NEVER HAVE UTTERED THESE WORDS AND THOSE OF VERSE 42.***
- ***The Virgin Mary — Her Own Song of Praise Marks Her Conception and it remarkably models Hannah's:***

Luke 1:46-51

***46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,
47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
48 For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
49 For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy [is] his name.
50 And his mercy [is] on them that fear him from generation to generation.
51 He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
52 He hath put down the mighty from [their] seats, and exalted them of low degree.
53 He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.
54 He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of [his] mercy;
55 As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever [lit. "unto the age"].
56 And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house.***

- ***Considering the seed of the woman promise, is it not crystal clear that these women were "Prisoners of hope" and that they knew it well? Indeed they all were. That that hope was the hope of Gen. 3:16 is proven over and over again in scripture. Was Paul right in his words in 1 Tim. 2:15, "saved through childbearing ..."?***
- ***"Prisoners of Hope"! That is what continues to be the privilege of mankind until our current day, and surely for the women that***

blessing also continues even though “the Seed of the Woman” prophecies have been in many ways already fulfilled. But more remains, as the rest of the prophetic program is brought to pass in due time. For us, living under the Dispensation of the Grace of God, though still in this “age” as so many before, our hope is still in that Seed and as Paul wrote in 1 Tim. 2:15, that hope endures. The great privilege of believing women today is as before, “Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.” Amen.

Today: Mary Magdalene & the Other Women — The First Persons to See the Resurrected Lord Jesus!

Our Outline:

- ***Mary Magdalene and the Others — ‘They’ Visited the Open Tomb***
- ***Mary Magdalene and the Others — ‘They’ Were Visited By The Risen Christ***
- ***Mary Magdalene and the Others — ‘They’ Will Visit Many With Their Testimonies***

I. Mary Magdalene and the Others — ‘They’ Visited the Open Tomb:

[READ] Mark 16:1-8 [they return to tell the disciples of the empty tomb — not the men first but the women!]

1 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. [See Luke 24:1,10 for the details: 1 Now upon the first [day] of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain [others] with them ...

10 It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary [the mother] of James, and other [women that were] with them (Salome, etc.), which told these things unto the apostles.”]

2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.

3 And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?

4 And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. [See Mt. 28:2 for details on the earthquake rolling the stone away. We will go there in a moment]

5 And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.

6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: **he is risen; he is not here:** behold the place where they laid him.

7 But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

8 And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any *man*; for they were afraid.

- *The emphasis here is on the sheer dedication of these women to their Lord, whether in life — or in death. Their great desire to prepare his body after his burial was the proof of that.*
- *But there is no evidence here of their resurrection faith. Fear, not joy, was their response even though the word was given that he was risen! And it seems that they ran in every direction after the angel's report.*
- *Mary, the Lord's mother, was not with them, it seems. BUT THEY WERE INDEED VISITORS, WERE THEY NOT? VISITORS TO THE EMPTY TOMB AND THEREFORE POTENTIAL WITNESSES TO WHAT HAD OCCURRED, IF ONLY ... AND THERE WERE A NUMBER OF "IFs HERE".*

II. Mary Magdalene and the Others — 'They' Were Visited By The Risen Christ:

- *But the sacrifice of those women was met by the risen Lord who loved them so dearly. IT WAS MET WITH HIS "VISITATION" OF THEM!! SO PRECIOUS INDEED THAT MUST HAVE BEEN.*

[READ] Matt. 28:1-10

1 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first [day] of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead [men].

5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

9 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

10 Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

- ***It was the work of a mighty angel and an angel-caused earthquake that rolled the stone away!***
- ***They ran to tell the disciples that Christ was risen indeed ... AND JESUS MET THEM ON THE PATH -- HE VISITED THEM! AMEN. This changed their fear to joy for sure -- and they worshipped him.***
- ***THIS IS THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF THE RISEN CHRIST TO ANYONE AND IT IS SOME WOMEN, SOME HERE UNNAMED... there is something in this that is significant. Do you know what that is?***
- ***Perhaps one of the most remarkable things is this, that our Lord's mother was not one of that blessed group early that morning. It seems that she would need to go to Galilee to see him in his resurrection glory.***

[READ] John 20:1-10 [Mary now comes with the disciples but not with the other women this time, it seems]

1 The first [day] of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early [with a number of other women according to other references], when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

2 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.

3 Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.

4 So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.

5 And he stooping down, [and looking in], saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.

6 Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie,

7 And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

8 Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.

9 For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.

10 Then the disciples went away again unto their own home. *[and they had not yet seen the risen Lord!]*

[READ] John 20:11-18

11 But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, *[and looked]* into the sepulchre,

12 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.

13 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.

14 And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

15 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.

16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not *[don't hold on to me!]*; 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 your God.

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

- *So the Lord now has visited Mary Magdalene! She responds with great emotion as one might expect based on her earlier deeds.*
- *Note her testimony in verse 18! I am sure it was the first of a great many.*

III. Mary Magdalene and the Others – ‘They’ Will Visit Many With Their Testimonies:

[READ] Luke 23:55-56

55 And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid. ***[so that they could return and properly prepare the body of the Lord in his death]***

56 And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.

...

[READ]Luke 24:8-10

8 And they remembered his words,

9 And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest. *[along with their own personal visitation by the Lord on the way back!]*

10 It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary [the mother] of James, and other [women that were] with them, which told these things unto the apostles... *[and no doubt to many others in the course of time]*

- *These all so blessed in this magnificent way wanted also to bless others. What a testimony they had and used to great advantage.*
- *Verse 9: "... and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest". **THEY VISITED, THEY WERE VISITED, AND THEY VISITED OTHERS WITH SUCH GOOD NEWS INDEED. WE SHOULD DO THE SAME!***

A Challenging Verse About Mary Magdalene (at the End of Mark):

Mark 16:9-14, 20

9 Now when Jesus was risen early the first *day* of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

Summarizing it all ...

10 And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept.

11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

12 After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.

13 And they went and told *it* unto the residue: neither believed they them.

14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

...

20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with *them*, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Application:

- ***There are many lessons to be learned here in these many verses. Then they may be applied effectively to our lives:***
 - ***The Lord chooses those he will for his work and they are often in the world's eyes, of no account or reputation. Or, they may have been great in the world's eyes and then had fallen into disrepute. The many women here central to the sacred record were of that mold.***
 - ***The Lord accomplishes his plan even against the most insurmountable of odds. The enemies are indeed everywhere it seems, and yet the Lord of glory works gloriously to the end that he is glorified in every way.***
 - ***We are privileged to be a part of that great work. For us it is a matter of witness, of testimony.***
 - ***WE HAVE VISITED HIS WORD AND HAVE COME TO KNOW HIS WORK***
 - ***HE HAS VISITED US IN SO MANY WAYS AND CONTINUES TO DO SO***
 - ***WE WILL THEREFORE GIVE GREAT WITNESS TO HIM AND HIS WORK UNDER GRACE.***
 - ***WE ARE ALL ON BOARD FOR THIS GREAT WORK. ARE WE NOT? IT IS ALWAYS DARKEST BEFORE THE DAWN AS WE HAVE LEARNED AGAIN TODAY. THE LIGHT IS STILL SHINING, IF ONLY, SOMETIMES, IN OUR HEARTS.***

BE CONFIDENT AND FULL OF HOPE NOW AND ALWAYS! AMEN.