

1) Daniel in the Lions' Den paintings

2) Handel's Messiah: Bringing Scripture to Life

Week 6 of 7, John Kincaid, Autumn, 2018

3) Daniel in the Lions' Den – Dan.6

- Focus is on one day in Daniel's life
- Same amount of Scripture as Daniel chapter 7, the panoramic view of world history
- The lions' den was very significant to God. Why?

4) The darkest hour is just before dawn

- Daniel's enemies set a trap to kill him
- Daniel obeyed God rather than men, like John & Peter
- The king had no choice; he sent Daniel to the lions
- The king ran back at dawn, hoping Daniel survived
- Daniel is alive! Like Isaac, Joseph and Jesus

5) Not of the world – John 17:16

- Why should we care about Daniel's story?
- The early church was still being fed to the lions
- Believers today are being thrown the "lions"
- We are out of step with the world
- Daniel's 3 friends stood while everyone else bowed; Daniel kneeled while others stood. Dan.3, 6
- We live every day in a lions' den we call the world
- Satan wants to devour our soul. 1 Pet.5:8

6) The Resurrection of God's Son

- The king thought Daniel would die; Jesus really died.
- Compare King Darius coming at dawn, his reunion with Daniel, to Matt.28:1-9. •The lions' den is important to God because it foreshadows the resurrection of His Son. • The king destroyed Daniel's enemies, then proclaimed Daniel's God throughout the kingdom
- The return of Christ will destroy God's enemies

7) The Return of God's Son The lions' den is important to God because it foreshadows the return of His Son

- The lions' den pictures Christ's resurrection & return
- Easter vs. Armageddon, salvation vs. condemnation
- What makes the difference between these outcomes?
- Each person must call on Christ. There is no other way

8) With power and great glory – Matt.24:30

- 1st Coming of Jesus: the suffering servant of Isa.53
- 2nd Coming: He will return to earth in power as King
- The last time the world saw Jesus, His body was being carried from the cross to the tomb. John 14:19
- The next time, He will appear in glory to judge

9) The Breath of God • God spoke the universe into existence. God breathed life into Adam. Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit on others. All Scripture is God-breathed.

- In Dan.2:31-35, the rock is the returning Christ
- Antichrist will be the most powerful king in history
- Christ will destroy Antichrist with a puff.

10) Why do the nations (Psa.2:1-2) so furiously rage together, and why do the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord, and against His Anointed.

Let us break their bonds asunder (Psalm 2:3) and cast away their yokes from us.

11) He that dwelleth in heaven (Psa.2:4) shall laugh them to scorn; the Lord shall have them in derision.

Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; (Psa.2:9)

Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

12) Handel Sculptor: Luis-Francois Roubiliac

13) America's Sculptor: Daniel Chester French

14) Amidst the blaze of noon

- Handel was partially paralyzed by a stroke in 1737
- During the last 7 years of his life, he was blind
- Soon after his eyes failed, Samson was performed
- The once-mighty organist had to give up his keyboard
- The tenor sang Handel's text: "Total eclipse - All dark"
- The irony of a blind Samson, and a blind composer no longer able to perform, moved the audience to tears

15) One of the first

- Handel was internationally famous in his own lifetime
- His music dominated Britain 150 years after his death
- "Handel was the master of us all." - Franz J. Haydn
- "Handel was the greatest composer ever." - Beethoven
- Handel was one of the first composers to have:
 - a biography written, centennial celebrations of his birth & a complete edition of his music published

16) Following Handel's Footsteps - Handel's legacy:

- Joy to the World (words by Isaac Watts)
- Thine is the Glory (Risen, conq'ring Son)
- English Oratorio → hymns & choir anthems

• Handel inspired great composers:

- Beethoven: 'Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee'
- Beethoven's 'Hallelujah' (from Mount of Olives)
- Haydn: Creation ('The Heavens are Telling')
- Mendelssohn: 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing'

17) And With His Stripes (Beethoven's handwriting)

18) From Handel to Beethoven

- Handel's life work was published in 40 volumes
- Beethoven cherished his set; he copied it by hand
- Beethoven greatly admired Handel's work
- Handel's Messiah permeated Beethoven's mind
- On his deathbed, Beethoven quoted from Messiah
- He said "If there is a physician that can help me now His name shall be called Wonderful"

19) We Shall See Him • We know we shall see the great Physician. God is faithful. How do we know we will go to heaven? Because of the price He paid, the promise He made & prayer He prayed

- We will see His glory in heaven

20) Our Messiah's Anthem

- Our citizenship is in heaven. • For all eternity, we will sing glory to God. • There is a Hebrew word meaning "Praise God!". • It occurs only 4 times in the New Testament, all in the 1st 6 verses of Rev.19 when Messiah returns. The word is *Hallelujah*

21) Hallelujah (Rev.19:6) For the Lord God omnipotent reigns. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever. King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah!

22) Many convincing proofs – Acts 1:3

- If the resurrection didn't happen: – our faith is futile; – those who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost; – you are still in your sins. • But we have eyewitness testimony. • Our risen Lord appeared to many people during the 40 days between Easter and His ascension

• 500+ people saw Him at the same time. 1 Cor.15:3-8
23) Evidence for the Resurrection • The changed lives of the apostles. • They came out of hiding as courageous leaders. • They risked their lives to preach resurrection
• Dramatic conversions / transformations of James, Paul, many Jerusalem priests. • Thousands were convinced that Christ was risen. • Explosive church growth

24) Knowledge of the truth – 1 Tim.2:4; 2 Tim.2:25

• Christianity became a religion separate from Judaism
• Christians stopped worship on the Saturday Sabbath
• They met on Sunday to celebrate the resurrection
• Carefully examining the Gospels led many to faith:
– Simon Greenleaf (wrote the textbook on evidence)
– C.S. Lewis (author) – Lee Strobel (journalist)
– William Ramsay (Oxford scholar, archaeologist)
– Josh McDowell (author: apologetics, youth ministry)

25) Women told the apostles – Luke 24:10 • Women comforted Jesus, confronted Peter, and warned Pilate.

• Women observed His burial. • Women were the last to leave the cross, and first to arrive at the empty tomb.
• 1st witnesses: Women couldn't testify in Jewish court
• If resurrection was fiction, why women in lead roles?
• These details would not appear unless they were true

26) Pietà (statue of Mary/Jesus by Michelangelo age 24)

27) The Empty Tomb and the Missing Body

• Jewish historians admit that the tomb was empty
• In Jerusalem, preaching the resurrection would be foolish unless everyone knew the tomb was empty
• Temple authorities couldn't counteract the apostles' preaching; they couldn't find the body of Jesus
• They would have paid a fortune for information
• Instead they were so desperate to silence Christians that they had to resort to persecution

28) Natural explanations for the resurrection

• Paul & early Christians were absolutely convinced of the resurrection. 1 Cor.15:3-4, 14-19; 1 Thes.4:14
• All the proposed "natural explanations" for the empty tomb are unconvincing, weak and improbable
• These alternative theories all require at least as much faith as believing the resurrection itself

• Here are the top 6 alternatives proposed by critics:

29) Natural explanation #1 • Stolen body - oldest & simplest theory. Obstacles: • Robbery of a guarded tomb required strong incentive/courage. Who had these traits?
• Not the disciples; they were dejected and fearful. • Not Pilate; he was glad his problem was solved. • Not the Jewish leaders; they desperately wanted to prove the corpse was undisturbed on the 3rd day. • If authorities had the body, why accuse the disciples of taking it?

30) Natural explanation #2 • Wrong tomb; the women were in the wrong location. The burial had been hasty; it was hard to see at dawn. Gardener tried to help, but they ran away. • Obstacles: The 2 Mary's directly observed the burial and size of the stone.

• Joseph, John, Peter, the Jewish authorities or the guards would have corrected the women within hours

31) Natural explanation #3 "Lettuce"; the gardener was upset about curiosity seekers trampling his lettuce patch,

so he moved the body to disperse the crowd. • This was one of the earliest non-Christian theories. • Obstacles: Roman soldiers & Joseph (owner of the tomb) would have prevented this. How would the gardener roll away the stone & leave the grave cloth undisturbed?

32) Natural explanation #4 • "Swoon"; Jesus didn't die, he fainted. • Later in the tomb, He revived, pushed the stone & tiptoed past the guards. From 2nd century
• Disciples helped Him recover, but He had a relapse
• He gathered the disciples on the Mount of Olives. He walked off into the fog, then died in the woods
• Obstacles: it goes against all the evidence

• Crucifixion victims did not escape with their lives
33) Natural explanation #5 Hallucination: appearances were mass hysteria. • It was contagious; others could see it too. • It was a delusion to help believers in their grief
• Recorded in the 2nd century. Obstacles: 500+ people saw Him at the same time. • Inconsistent with symptoms of mass hallucinations. • Why did the visions stop after 40 days? • Doesn't explain the empty tomb

34) Natural explanation #6

• Jesus had a twin brother, very few people knew
• But after Jesus died, the disciples convinced him to pretend he was Jesus. Obstacles: 1) No previous mention that this person exists. 2) Thomas saw crucifixion wounds (was the twin also wounded?)

35) They knew it was true

• Apostles preached at the Temple, expecting death
• Many are willing to die for what they believe is true
• But there's no reason to die for what you know is a lie
• The apostles were in a unique position to know for sure what actually happened on the first Easter
• They devoted their lives to Him; they knew it was true

36) The first-fruits of them that sleep • For believers, death is like sleep. • A grave is a temporary resting place
• Our word cemetery comes from a Greek word meaning "a place where strangers rest" • The early church used this same word for 2 different places: church graveyard & the hotel where people sleep a while, then leave

37) The God of Love - Eph.2:4-5, 1 John 3:1

• God saved us because of His great love. John 3:16
• We were God's enemies; He sacrificed His Son for us
• God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. • Christ is the firstfruits, the 1st person who received a permanent resurrection body. Firstfruits implies there will a 2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc. • Because He lives, you also shall live.

38) I know that my Redeemer liveth (Job 19:25-26) and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though worms destroy this body yet in my flesh shall I see God. For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first-fruits of them that sleep

39) Since by man came death (1 Cor.15:21-22) by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, Even so in Christ shall all be made alive.