

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

"Then Came Jesus"

John 20:19-23

April 7, 1985

INTRODUCTION

1. Here is an event of tremendous proportions. It is part of the record of Christ's post-resurrection ministry. He was alive and gave witness to that fact. The simple statement, using an aorist historical tense verb, is that Christ "came" (v. 20). Hallelujah.

2. Some of His disciples knew He was out of the grave (v. 18). Others still doubted the truth of it (vv. 24-29). It was a rather confusing situation and one in which the historical event still had to make a firm mark (Luke 24). But in the fact of all this, "Jesus came."

3. Questions are raised about His coming. Here are some of them:

1. WHEN DID JESUS COME?

a. When sin was atoned.

The work for which He had come into the world was done. He came to die for sins (Matt. 20:28). He had to be lifted up (John 12:32-34). It was absolutely necessary for Him to die (Luke 24:46). He had done this, hence He came back! Never think that anyone can do more for sin. It is done (John 19:30).

b. When Satan was defeated.

The convicting work of the Spirit is related to complete victory over Satan (John 16:11). The perfect tense of the verb (John 16:11) shows a final work at the cross against Satan. Paul confirms this (Heb. 2:14) and uses a verb which completely disannuls Satan's power. His final overthrow is eschatological (Rev. 12).

c. When demons were vanquished.

As with Satan, his entire entourage which he leads is utterly defeated (Col. 2:15). Once and for all, it is declared that angelic agencies are subdued. All the present fuss about demons is strange (1 John 4:4).

2. HOW DID JESUS COME?

a. Bodily

There is no ghost or apparition here. The Scriptures support a bodily resurrection of the Son of God. This is why His "feet" were held and He was worshipped (Matt. 28:9). This is why He walked with men, He was felt by them, and He ate with them (Luke 24:33-43).

b. Mysteriously

You cannot rid the Bible of the miraculous!

To do so is to deny the supernatural. This we cannot do. Hence, it is recorded that Christ came when the doors were shut (perfect tense!). This gives some insight into the resurrection body of the believer for we shall be like Him (1 John 3:1-3).

c. Centrally

The significant phrase is "in the midst" (v. 19). This is where He belongs (v. 5:6). It is where He was as a child (Luke 2:46) and on the cross (John 19:18). He should be now (Rev. 1:13).

3. WHY DID JESUS COME:

a. To present peace

Twice it is stated in this text (vv. 19, 21). He had previously indicated this (John 16:33). There is no peace without our Lord (Isa. 57:21).

b. To provide proof

What Thomas desired to see later for proof (v. 25) our Lord provided here (v. 20). If there is any doubt about the bodily resurrection, there cannot now be.

c. To provoke passion

The main thrust of today's dispensation is world-wide evangelism with a view to the establishment of the church (v. 21; Acts 15:15-18). Disciples were not to sit, but occupy through meaningful witness in all the world. There is a parallel between His work and ours.

d. To promise power

The reception of the Holy Spirit here was an interim experience (v. 22). It provided the disciples with the dynamic for post resurrection ministry prior to the descent of the Holy Spirit for His activity during this Age of Grace (John 7:38-39; Acts 2). With this power and associated with their commission (v. 21), they were able to declare as fact here on earth what God had already established in heaven (mark the perfect tenses for the verbs "are remitted" and "are retained" in v. 23).

CONCLUSION

To read this section of the Word is thrilling. It provides the rationale for the testimony of the Word concerning the disciples (v. 20). To see Him brings gladness. Do you know "Jesus came" for YOU too?