

It Was Sunrise When They Came To The Sepulcher

(Copyright ©1truth1law.com 2013)

It Was Sunrise When They Came to the Sepulcher (Mk. 16:2).

It Was Sometime Before Sunrise When They Came (Jn. 20:1).

There is an old adage which states that “it’s always darkest just before dawn.” The inference is that, from the darkest point of the evening, light gradually begins to grow in intensity until the sun appears above the horizon. How anyone describes this period of time can vary from one person to another. Such is the case when Mark and John wrote about the women who came to Christ’s sepulcher,

Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week (which commenced at dark the previous evening; see study: How to Determine the Beginning and End of the Day), they (the women) came to the tomb when the **sun had risen** (SGD 393; at the rising, to rise from {darkness}) (Mk. 16:2; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

It is an assumption on the part of those who use Mark’s and John’s account of when the women arrived at Christ’s tomb, to claim there is a contradiction, that the sun was already above the horizon when they arrived. The original Greek word, mentioned in the quotation above (SGD 393), is describing the sun becoming brighter as it rises from darkness. This would be described as twilight today. The translators of the original King James Version of the Bible described the action of early morning sunlight more accurately, when they translated it in an active sense,

And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they (the women) came unto the sepulcher **at the rising of the sun** (Mk. 16:2; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added; KJV).

Therefore, the women arrived at a point in time between darkness and first light, neither of which translates into the sun being above the horizon. With this in mind, John’s account can now be compared,

On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, *while it was* (SGD 5607; thing/s that have no influence, or of no account; cf. 1Cor. 1:28) *still* (SGD 2089; of a thing/s which went on formerly; whereas now a different state of things exists, or has begun to exist; therefore no longer, no more) dark ... (Jn. 1:20; Ed. notes in parentheses).

To translate this same text using some of the original Greek words, it would be like saying:

On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, when there was no longer an influence of darkness because the former was now in a different state, or transition, and it was no longer at its darkest.

In other words, the darkest part of the night had just come to an end, and twilight was just about to commence when Mary arrived at Christ's tomb. So both Mark and John described the same period of time, but Bible translators varied in how they interpreted the original Greek words and phrases in Mark's and John's accounts. What is of greater importance is the fact that Christ had risen from the dead well before the women arrived at his tomb (see study: *There Were Two Women Who Came To The Sepulcher*) which makes a Sunday morning resurrection a false doctrine practiced by many Christians. In fact, he had risen toward the end of the weekly Sabbath (Saturday night on most secular calendars), which was three days and three nights after his death on a wooden stake, which occurred late on a Wednesday.

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor.11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

To protect the integrity of this document and prevent alteration and misapplication of its contents in whole or in part, this document is protected under copyright law.

Copyright: This document may be freely copied and distributed provided it is copied without alteration, addition, deletion, or charges, and includes the name of the publisher and this copyright. Quotations may be taken from this document provided the name of the publisher is cited.

All Rights Reserved

(Copyright ©1truth1law.com 2013)