

**Sermon Notes of  
Senior Pastor Glen Weber's Sermon on March 27, 2016  
"The New World Order"**

**[In today's sermon on Easter Sunday, "The New World Order", Senior Pastor Glen Weber shows that the greatest powers of that time in Jerusalem had been overthrown by the death and resurrection of Jesus and that the Kingdom of God was now launched into the world.]**

Notes:

Introduction:

- What does the world you live in look like?
- Are you worried about different secret power groups taking over the world?
- What about the Kingdom of God?
  
- Let's get in our time machine and go back 2,000 years to this weekend in Jerusalem.
- We know Jesus was arrested, then died and was buried in a tomb.
- Let's look at what happened through the eyes of the disciples, the Romans and then the priests and Jewish leaders.

Jesus' Disciples' Reaction:

- The disciples knew that Jesus was the Messiah and thought they had it all figured out what was going to happen.
- But Jesus was crucified and thus they were very discouraged.
- They all betrayed Him and then basically went into hiding, fearing they might be next.
- None of them had understood Jesus' statements about "rising on the third day."
- The lesson of Lazarus had not really impacted their understanding of Jesus.
  
- On Sunday morning, some of the women in Jesus' life, went to the tomb – not to wait for Him to be raised – but to put spices around the grave so that it wouldn't stink!!
- After Mary tells Peter and John that Jesus' body is missing, they come to the tomb and then John records something really interesting.

**John 20:10, Then the disciples went back to where they were staying!**

**19) On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"**

- John records they were together "with the doors locked for fear of the Jews."
- It is only after that Jesus had appeared to Mary and then the commotion begins about Jesus being alive!

### The Roman Leaders' Reaction:

- The Romans had crucified thousands of young Jewish men before.
- They crucified three that Friday morning.
- They knew how to make sure a crucifixion had been successful and that they had successfully completed their orders.
- However, because of the rumors about Jesus "rising the third day," the Romans put an official guard of soldiers at Jesus' tomb at the request of the high priest.

### The Jewish leaders reaction:

- For well over a year, they had been looking for opportunities to kill Jesus.
- They had tried to trip Him up with their never-ending questions on legal issues from the Torah, etc.
- Finally, they had found a way (with false witnesses) to bring Jesus illegally to trial in the Sanhedrin at night, find Him guilty and then hand Him off to Herod/Pilate to have Him put to death.
- They likely had also been the ones who inflamed the crowds to shout, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!"
- So. on that Sabbath day at the synagogue or at the Temple, as Jesus was lying in the tomb, what do you suppose the Jews were thinking?
- How joyful do you think the high priest and his minions were that morning?
- How contented – even smug – were they feeling in their removal of this interloper who was claiming to be King of the Jews/Israel?
- I'm sure it was a day of celebration and rejoicing!
- Jesus was gone and they were safe again.
- That "false Messiah", whom they had shown to be a fake, was now dead!

### After Jesus is Raised:

**Matt. 28:11, While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened.**

- The guards report to their superiors.

**12) When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money,**

- The Jewish leaders pay-off the soldiers.

**13) telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.'**

- The great lie – "His disciples stole the body!"
- The religious leaders couldn't accept that Jesus was the Messiah.

**14) If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble."**

- The priests and Jewish leaders will cover for the soldiers.

**15) So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.**

- The false story spreads even to our day!

The Disciples Reaction to Jesus' resurrection:

**Matt. 28:1, After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. 2) There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.**

- The earthquake occurred as the stone is moved.

**3) His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.**

- The appearance of the angel of the Lord.

**4) The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.**

- The guards are very frightened.

**5) The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.**

- The angel tells the women not to be afraid.

**6) He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.**

- "He is not here; He is risen just as He said!"

**7) Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."**

- They are sent to tell the other disciples.
- Jesus ultimately saw His disciples in Galilee (John 21) after He saw them that evening in the upper room.

**8) So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.**

- The women hurried to tell the story to the disciples.

**9) Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him.**

- Jesus meets them as they are running to go to the disciples – and they worship Him.

**10) Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”**

- He also tells them “not to be afraid” and to go tell the disciples to go to Galilee.

Concluding comments:

- Truly a “new world order” was taking shape!
- The greatest powers of that time in Jerusalem had been overthrown and humiliated by the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- Now the power of God and His kingdom was launched into the world.
- Jesus’ influence is evident in our world today – we just need to know how to recognize it

Communion:

**Phil. 3:10, I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,**

- Paul wanted to know Christ and the power of His resurrection.
- The Greek verb “to know” means more than just knowing intellectually about Christ, but knowing Him personally.
- The resurrection shows that Jesus wins, He’s victorious.
- The resurrection was more than just a past event about Jesus.
- The resurrection is a dynamic power in the life of all Christians,
- Paul tells us that when we suffer, we are sharing in the very suffering of Jesus.
- When a Christian suffers, he/she shares in the very work of Christ

**11) and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.**

- Paul wanted to experience Christ’s new world order – His new life given to humanity through His resurrection.
- As we will see, in the next few sermons, the Kingdom of God begins at the cross.
- As we come to the communion table, we “remember Him until He comes” – we remember the fact that He has been resurrected and has entered into our lives through the Holy Spirit!
- We remember His kingdom in which we are now active participants, ambassadors, – to show others that Jesus is alive and reigning.
- Through the elements of the bread and cup we are renewed and refreshed.

**Blessing**