

Matthew 28 -- I am with you to the end

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. What a great picture. On Friday there was this midnight monkey trial, convicting Jesus, then 9am he is flogged. That is highly unusual, but the authorities were trying to placate the mob. Then this mob of protesters and counter protesters, the Jews screaming for his crucifixion and the disciples all march through the streets to Golgotha where He is crucified, pierced, and buried. This is completed just in time for the Sabbath and for 24 hours everyone has to go settle down. This was done in Jerusalem during the Passover so everyone in Israel saw this happen. But at dawn on the first day of the week there is a stunning contrast. Instead of the chaos of the mob you have Mary at a tomb at dawn. It is quiet, it is peaceful. **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. There is a reason for this earthquake. An angel rolls away the stone in front of Jesus' tomb. The city may have felt an earthquake, but if you weren't Mary you had no idea what that meant. **3** His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. **4** The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. It is hysterical, they put guards in front of his tomb to make sure He wouldn't rise from the dead. We have an election in the US Nov 3. People think their puny little guards are going to ensure that this election is free and fair. The beginning of this age began with Jesus coming to set us free, being crucified and rising from the dead. The end of the age is going to be the last stand of those trying to keep us in slavery. Do you really think they care about the election being free and fair? They wanted the illusion of freedom, but if that is no longer possible so be it. **5** The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. **6** He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. **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." This was a "private resurrection". Jesus and his closest disciples took part in this. The end of the age is public. At this time the whole world sees that Jesus is risen from the dead. And they will see that He is not alone. He will come on the clouds with his disciples. **8** So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. **9**

Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped 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." You have Jerusalem which is in Judea, that is where Jesus was crucified. To the north you have Samaria, representing a "mixture". Then to the north of that you have Galilee. Well clear of the toxic influence of the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem. It is the home base of the apostles. **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. **12** When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, **13** telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' **14** If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." **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. Think about this. They saw Jesus rise from the dead but were willing to be paid off to keep quiet about it. The priests heard the report that He rose from the dead but rather than repent, rather than seek God out, they pay these guys to lie about it. This story has been repeated thousands of times. People paid off to lie about some event so that those who are in power can keep their power. This has often been done secretly, but I suspect at the end of this age this coming election the shame of this double dealing will be clear for all to see. The end of this age exposes the sins, the lies, the corruption of those who are in power. **16** Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. **17** When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. **18** Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." This is how the age began. The end of the age will see all the disciples, the fruit of this ministry. Not all believers will be full of faith, even at the end of the age there will be some who doubt. But those who are full of faith will be teaching the believers to obey everything the Lord commanded. One thing we can be sure of, regardless of how crazy it gets, Jesus is with us to the end.