



Portion:

## SCRIPTURES

- Matthew 28
- I Corinthians 2, 15:1-19
- Deuteronomy 16:19

Title:

## THE GREAT CONSPIRACY

- Pick a Side
- Two Legitimate Gospels
- To Rise or NOT to Rise

*It's the Great Commission. It's your main focus when you open the last chapter of this epic Gospel, but there's so much more. "Go therefore..." ends our journey that began at His birth. In between, we witnessed His baptism in the Jordan and heard the delighted voice of His Father from heaven. We watched His release into the wilderness to be tempered by fire, and had a front row seat at the launch of His ministry—the kingdom of heaven was indeed at hand.*

*It wasn't long before His ragtag collection of students were assembled, His would-be disciples, some of whom we come to know quite intimately on their travels. And Matthew's Gospel is stippled throughout by prophetic moments, each seemingly marked by a grand sermon, mysterious parable, deep lesson, supernatural encounter, or stiff admonishment. Along the way, we realize we are all kingdom scribes getting a kingdom education, but some don't like it! It's undeniable, yet somehow people in certain positions do deny it. Extraordinary miracles occur, so outrageous that they can only be explained one way. Y'shua is the Son of God, the Christ!*

*We learn that He has a plan; He is going to pass His ministry onto others! But why? Is He going somewhere? He tells them over and over again that He is; but they don't like it, so they avoid it, even deny it. But, it's inevitable! He makes many enemies as He moves about, but really there is one most relevant; a power-hungry class of religious hypocrites. They still exist today and they're not who you think. You can spot them because they build their own kingdoms. Then and now there is one satanic antichrist spirit at work. It hates what He is doing and that His reputation is growing. You'd think religious leaders would be thrilled; He's the Messiah. But they're not! He's stealing the spotlight; attracting their donors; exposing the induration of their dark hearts; calling them hypocrites; and the majority of these religious elite are not ready to relinquish power, to surrender their man-made religious system.*

*As time goes on, He further clarifies who He is and what He will be, and what we will be in Him. And the clearer it becomes, the more resistant are those who have the most to lose—power, fame, fortune and control. And Y'shua meets their escalating denial and aggression with a move of His own—He becomes more brazen, more pointed, more intolerant. Gentle Jesus gives way to a full exposé on hypocrisy. Then, He seals the deal with His final two lessons. One is about the end-of-the-age, who to be and how to prepare—from the Mount of Olives. The other is about the age-to-come, what it will be like and how to get there—at His last meal.*

*Finally, the powers that be have had enough and they conspire to murder Him, to do whatever it takes to eliminate Him. Nothing is off limits; lies, false witnesses, unproven accusations, even the willingness to partner with a pagan Roman system to get what they want; it's all on the table. Then they kill Him. They capture Him, and indict Him, and convict Him, and torture Him, and they murder Him. But it does not end there! The truth cannot be denied. Or can*

it? Even after He resurrects from the grave, even after the stone is rolled away and He is not there—He is risen; they conspire to tell yet another lie. “He has not risen; He’s been stolen.”

I take a deep breath and try to imagine the level of hatred; the level of self-righteous, self-serving narcissism; the vile incessant vitriol; the acid tongues and acid hearts that would not only deny the final obvious fact—He has risen; He is the Christ, but that they would instead master-mind the greatest coverup in human history. Humans can deny the obvious; that itself is obvious! Just tell more lies, spread more deceit, offer more bribes—hatch one more conspiracy. To this very day some people still believe it was all just a conspiracy. That is why we must go make disciples; preach that He has risen, and preach that we must become different because of it. We are meant to become just like Him!

#### PROPHETIC SEED:

“Tell them, ‘**His disciples came at night and stole Him away** while we slept.’” Matthew 28:13 NKJV

“So they **took the money and did as they were instructed**; and **this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.**” Matthew 28:15 NKJV

“**You shall not pervert justice**; you shall not show partiality, **nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes** of the wise and **twists the words** of the righteous.” Deuteronomy 16:19 NKJV

#### PROPHETIC FRUIT:

“**Go therefore and make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them** to observe all things that I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:19-20 NKJV

“Now **if Christ is preached that He has been raised** from the dead, **how do some among you say that there is no resurrection** of the dead? But **if there is no resurrection** of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then **our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.**” I Corinthians 15:12-14 NKJV

#### PICK A SIDE

##### 1. Why is the tomb empty?

###### A. He is Risen (Matthew 28:1-8)

(1) They came to bring spices and oils...

(a) But who will roll back the stone?

1. “Now **after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn**, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.” Matthew 28:1NKJV

(2) An angel from heaven will roll back the stone...

(a) Important to notice: The Guards are watching!

1. “And behold, **there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone** from the door, and sat on it. **His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.** And **the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.**” Matthew 28:2-4 NKJV

(3) The women are witnessing the tomb opening as well...

(a) He is not here; for He is risen—Go tell the others!

1. "But the angel answered and said to the women, **"Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen,** as He said. **Come, see** the place where the Lord lay. **And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him.** Behold, I have told you.'" Matthew 28:5-7 NKJV
2. "Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' **But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.**" Matthew 26:31-32 NKJV

(4) Y'shua had risen from the grave the previous day just before sundown!

(a) He was buried in a tomb in a garden in close proximity to the place of crucifixion...

1. **He died around 3:00pm:** "Now it was about the sixth hour [**Noon**], and there was darkness over all the earth **until the ninth hour [3:00pm]**. Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.' " Having said this, **He breathed His last.**" Luke 23:44-46 NKJV
2. **They want to take Him off the cross before sundown:** "Therefore, because **it was the Preparation Day**, that the bodies should not remain on the cross **on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a \*high day)**, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away." John 19:31 NKJV
3. *"You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God."* Matthew 22:29 NKJV
4. **He is buried before sundown:** "Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. **So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews' Preparation Day, for the tomb was nearby.**" John 19:41-42 NKJV
5. **He would be in the Grave Three Days and Three Nights:** "But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. **For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.**" Matthew 12:39-40 NKJV
6. *"Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment."* Luke 23:56 NKJV

(5) Other Samples of third day prophesies:

(a) I will raise on the third day!

1. "From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be **raised the third day.**" Matthew 16:21 NKJV

(b) Comparing His body Temple of God

1. "Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and **in three days I will raise it up.**" John 2:19 NKJV

(c) The threat of Y'shua resurrecting in three days is precisely why they set guards over the tomb for three days...

1. "On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, "Sir, **we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.'** Therefore command that the tomb be **made secure until the third day, lest His**

**disciples come by night and steal Him away**, and say to the people, **'He has risen from the dead.'** So the last deception will be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, **"You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure** as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard." Matthew 27:62-66 NKJV

(6) How do the women react to their instructions?

(a) Quickly!

1. "So they went out quickly from the tomb **with fear and great joy**, and ran to bring His disciples word." Matthew 28:8 NKJV

### **B. Encounter the Risen Lord (Matthew 28:9-10)**

(1) Behold, it's the risen Lord!

(a) And they worshiped Him...

1. "And as they went to tell His disciples, **behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!"** So **they came and held Him by the feet** and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me." Matthew 28:9-10 NKJV

(b) John, the prophetic Gospel adds to the story...

1. "Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher). Jesus said to her, **"Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father;** but go to My brethren and say to them, **'I am ascending to My Father** and your Father, and to My God and your God.' "" John 20:16-17 NKJV
2. *[When you], reap its harvest, **then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.*** Leviticus 23:10-11 NKJV
3. *"and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; **and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.**"* Matthew 27:52-53 NKJV
4. *"But now **Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits** of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in **Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.**"* I Corinthians 15:20-23 NKJV

### **C. The Great Conspiracy (Matthew 28:11-15)**

(1) Meanwhile from a pagan perspective...

(a) While all those interactions between Christ and His followers are transpiring.

1. "Now while they were going, behold, some of **the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened.**" Matthew 28:11 NKJV

(2) The truth won't work for the agenda of the religious elite, so the Soldiers are bribed!

(a) The men receiving the report were the very same men who conducted the trial cloaked in darkness, those who paid for Judas and who invited false witnesses to testify.

1. "When they had **assembled with the elders and consulted together**, they **gave a large sum of money** to the soldiers, saying, "**Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.'** And if this comes to the governor's ears, **we will appease him and make you secure.**" Matthew 28:12-14 NKJV

(b) Stories of Guards: conversion, execution, and protection

1. **The Centurion who witnessed the crucifixion was converted!** "So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "**Truly this was the Son of God!**"" Matthew 27:54 NKJV
2. **Peter is supernaturally released from prison by an angel and Herod executes the guards on watch!** "Then, as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers about what had become of Peter. But when Herod [*Agrippa*] had searched for him and not found him, **he examined the guards and commanded that they should be put to death.** And he went down from Judea to Caesarea, and stayed there." Acts 12:18-19 NKJV (See Acts 12:5-18)
3. **Paul and Silas (and a prison full of prisoners) are supernaturally freed from prison and Paul prevents the guard from committing suicide (the guard and his whole family get saved!)** "Suddenly a great earthquake occurred, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. Immediately all the doors flew open, and the bonds of all the prisoners came loose. When the jailer woke up and saw the doors of the prison standing open, **he drew his sword and was about to kill himself**, because he assumed the prisoners had escaped. But **Paul called out loudly, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!"** Calling for lights, the jailer rushed in and fell down trembling at the feet of Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and asked, "**Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**" They replied, "**Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and your household.**"" (Acts 16:26-31 NET) "**The jailer brought them into his house and set food before them, and he rejoiced greatly that he had come to believe in God, together with his entire household.**" Acts 16:34 NET (Read Acts 16:16-40)

(c) The backbone of their new conspiracy: their original request of Pilate and their prediction...

1. "Therefore **command that the tomb be made secure until the third day**, lest His disciples **come by night and steal Him away**, and say to the people, '**He has risen from the dead.**' So **the last deception will be worse than the first.**" Matthew 27:64 NKJV

(3) The Greatest Conspiracy of all time!

(a) Instead of Jewish leadership relenting, repenting and believing, they conspire to cover up the most important event in human history with a large bribe.

1. "**So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.**" Matthew 28:15 NKJV

(4) Taking bribes and offering bribes!

(a) Taking a bribe: blinds the eyes, perverts words, condemns the innocent, inspires schemes, takes away justice, defines the wicked, is associated with thieves, and WILL BE punished by Yahweh!

1. "You shall not pervert justice; **you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes** of the wise and twists the words of the righteous." Deuteronomy 16:19 NKJV

2. **“And you shall take no bribe,** for a bribe blinds the discerning and perverts the words of the righteous.” Exodus 23:8 NKJV
  3. “Lord, **who may** abide in Your tabernacle? **Who may** dwell in Your holy hill? **He who** walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart; **He who** does not backbite with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, **Nor does he** take up a reproach against his friend; In whose eyes a vile person is despised, But he honors **those who** fear the Lord; **He who** swears to his own hurt and does not change; **He who** does not put out his money at usury, **Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.** He who does these things shall never be moved.” Psalms 15:1-5 NKJV
  4. “Lord, I have loved the habitation of Your house, And the place where Your glory dwells. Do not gather my soul with sinners, Nor my life with bloodthirsty men, **In whose hands is a sinister scheme, And whose right hand is full of bribes.**” Psalms 26:8-10 NKJV
  5. “Woe to men mighty at drinking wine, Woe to men valiant for mixing intoxicating drink, **Who justify the wicked for a bribe, And take away justice from the righteous man!**” Isaiah 5:22-23 NKJV
  6. **“A wicked man accepts a bribe** behind the back To pervert the ways of justice.” Proverbs 17:23 NKJV
  7. **“Your officials are rebels, they associate with thieves. All of them love bribery, and look for payoffs.** They do not take up the cause of the orphan, or defend the rights of the widow. Therefore, the sovereign Lord who commands armies, the powerful ruler of Israel, says this: “Ah, **I will seek vengeance against my adversaries, I will take revenge against my enemies.**” Isaiah 1:23-24 NET
  8. “Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that **he made his sons judges** over Israel. The name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. **But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice.**” I Samuel 8:1-3 NKJV
- (b) Offering bribes and payoffs...
1. “Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, “There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from all other people’s, and **they do not keep the king’s laws.** Therefore it is not fitting for the king to let them remain. **If it pleases the king, let a decree be written that they be destroyed, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who do the work, to bring it into the king’s treasuries.”**” Esther 3:8-9 NKJV
  2. “And the Lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, **“Entice him, and find out where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him,** that we may bind him to afflict him; and every one of us will give you eleven hundred pieces of silver.”” Judges 16:5 NKJV (Read Judges 16)

## TWO LEGITIMATE GOSPELS

### 2. Entry Level & Advanced

#### A. The Great Commision (Matthew 28:16-20)

##### (1) The Meetup

- (a) Meet in Galilee on the mountain...

1. "Then the eleven disciples **went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them.** When they saw Him, **they worshiped Him; but some doubted.**" Matthew 28:16-17 NKJV
2. "and that he **appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.** Then he **appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters** at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep." 1 Corinthians 15:5-6 NET

(2) Now onto the Commission

(a) Make Disciples: Baptize & Teach!

1. "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **Go therefore and make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them** to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, **I am with you always**, even to the end of the age." Amen." Matthew 28:18-20 NKJV

**B. Two Commissions**

(1) Commission: authority to perform a task or certain duties.

(a) The "Great Commission" here in Matthew 28:19-20 is **one** commission with **two** parts!

1. "**And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached** in all the world as a witness to all the nations, **and then the end will come.**" Matthew 24:14 NKJV
2. "Assuredly, I say to you, **this generation will by no means pass** away till all these things take place." Matthew 24:34 NKJV
3. "**Who then is a faithful and wise servant**, whom his master **made ruler** over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that **he will make him ruler over all his goods.**" Matthew 24:45-47 NKJV

(b) Food for Thought...

1. "Paul lived there two whole years in his own rented quarters and welcomed all who came to him, **proclaiming the kingdom of God** [the Gospel of the Kingdom] and **teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ** [the Gospel of Salvation] with complete boldness and without restriction." Acts 28:30-31 NET
2. "So the dragon became enraged at the woman and went away to make war on the rest of her children, **those who keep God's commandments** [the Gospel of the Kingdom] **and hold to the testimony about Jesus** [the Gospel of Salvation]." Revelation 12:17 NET

**C. Two Gospels**

(1) The Gospel of Salvation

(a) *Make disciples of all the nations... baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit... This message is simple... CHRIST CRUCIFIED*

1. "And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For **I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.** I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were **not with persuasive words of human wisdom**, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God." I Corinthians 2:1-5 NKJV

(b) Other ways to say, *"I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified—baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."*

1. "But to all who have received him – **those who believe in his name – he has given the right to become God's children** – children not born by human parents or by human desire or a husband's decision, but by God." *John 1:12-13 NET*
2. "For this is the way God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that **everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.**" *John 3:16 NET*
3. "For **while we were still helpless**, at the right time **Christ died for the ungodly.**" *Romans 5:6 NET*
4. "But God demonstrates his own love for us, **in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**" *Romans 5:8 NET*
5. "For **everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**" *Romans 10:13 NET*
6. "For **by grace you are saved through faith**, and this is not from yourselves, **it is the gift of God;**" *Ephesians 2:8 NET*
7. "For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**" (*Ephesians 2:10*)

(2) The Gospel of the Kingdom

(a) *Make disciples of all the nations... **teaching them** to observe all things that I have commanded you! **This message is mysterious and complex... THE MIND OF CHRIST***

1. "However, **we speak wisdom among those who are mature**, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak **the wisdom of God in a mystery**, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages **for our glory**, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man **The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.**" But **God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.** For **what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man** which is in him? Even so **no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.** Now **we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God**, that we might know the things that have been **freely given to us by God.** These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. **But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him;** nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. [*"For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."* *1 Cor. 1:18*] But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For "**who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.**" *1 Corinthians 2:6-16 NKJV*

(b) Other ways to say... *"teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you—we have the mind of Christ!"*

1. "Therefore, since we have been **declared righteous by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **through whom we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand**, and we rejoice in the hope of God's glory." Romans 5:1-2 NET
2. "**For by grace you are saved through faith**, and this is not from yourselves, **it is the gift of God**; it is not from works, so that no one can boast. For **we are his workmanship, having been created in Christ Jesus for good works that God prepared beforehand so we may do them.**" Ephesians 2:8-10 NET

(3) Note on Disciples....

- (a) By grace you are saved through faith, **it is the gift...** But, becoming a disciple is **far from a free gift**. It has an "if", comes with a cost, and there MUST be evidence!
  1. "**If anyone** comes to me and **does not hate** his own father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters, and **even his own life**, he **cannot be my disciple**. **Whoever does not carry his own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple**. {33} In the same way **therefore not one of you can be my disciple if he does not renounce all his own possessions.**" Luke 14:26-27, 33 NET
  2. Then Jesus said to those Judeans who had believed him, "**If you continue to follow my teaching, you are really my disciples** and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32 NET
  3. "Everyone will know by this that **you are my disciples – if you have love for one another.**" John 13:35 NET
  4. "Then he said to them all, "**If anyone wants** to become my follower, **he must deny himself**, take up his cross daily, and follow me." Luke 9:23 NET
- (b) Propagating Disciples—make disciples who can make disciples who make disciples, and so on...
  1. "And **entrust what you heard** me say in the presence of many others as witnesses **to faithful people who will be competent to teach others as well.**" 2 Timothy 2:2 NET

#### D. The ONE Gospel Conspiracy

(1) The gospel is the good news that God sent His only son to die for you...

- (a) The Sinner's Prayer
  1. "because **if you confess with your mouth** that Jesus is Lord and **believe in your heart** that God raised him from the dead, **you will be saved.**" Romans 10:9 NET
- (b) Or any derivative of such idea...
  1. "Therefore, since we have been **declared righteous by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ," Romans 5:1 NET
  2. "For **while we were still helpless**, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly." Romans 5:6 NET
  3. "But God demonstrates his own love for us, in that **while we were still sinners**, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8 NET
  4. "For by grace you are saved through faith, and this **is not from yourselves**, it is the gift of God;" Ephesians 2:8 NET

(2) Who is the Lord trying to teach this mature message?

- (a) Is this all gibberish to you?

1. **“Who is the Lord trying to teach? To whom is he explaining a message? Those just weaned from milk! Those just taken from their mother’s breast! Indeed, they will hear meaningless gibberish, senseless babbling,** a syllable here, a syllable there. For with mocking lips and a foreign tongue he will speak to these people. In the past he said to them, “This is where security can be found. Provide security for the one who is exhausted! This is where rest can be found.” **But they refused to listen. So the Lord’s word to them will sound like meaningless gibberish, senseless babbling, a syllable here, a syllable there. As a result, they will fall on their backsides when they try to walk,** and be injured, ensnared, and captured.”  
Isaiah 28:9-13 NET

(3) Must you be spoken to as if you I am speaking to an infant?

(a) Are you spiritual people?

1. **“So, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people,** but instead as people of the flesh, **as infants in Christ. I fed you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready. In fact, you are still not ready, for you are still influenced by the flesh.** For since there is still jealousy and dissension among you, are you not influenced by the flesh and behaving like unregenerate people?” 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 NET

(4) You should grow up already!

(a) In fact you should be a teacher by now!

1. **“On this topic we have much to say and it is difficult to explain, since you have become sluggish in hearing. For though you should in fact be teachers by this time, you need someone to teach you the beginning elements of God’s utterances. You have gone back to needing milk, not solid food.** For everyone who lives on milk is inexperienced in the message of righteousness, **because he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature,** whose perceptions are trained by practice to discern both good and evil.” Hebrews 5:11-14 NET

(b) Move on to maturity!

1. **“Therefore we must progress beyond the elementary instructions about Christ and move on to maturity,** not laying this foundation again: repentance from dead works and faith in God, teaching about baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And this is what we intend to do, if God permits.” Hebrews 6:1-3 NET

TO RISE OR NOT TO RISE!

### 3. The Scandal

#### A. How do some among you say that there is no resurrection?

(1) Lies about the resurrection from the start!

(a) His body was stolen...

1. **“When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, saying, “Tell them, ‘His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.’”**  
Matthew 28:12-13 NKJV

(2) If Christ is not risen, your faith is futile!

(a) The Gospel of Salvation Basics

1. “Moreover, brethren, I declare to you **the gospel which I preached to you**, which also you **received** and in which you **stand**, by which also you are **saved**, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you— unless you believed in vain. **For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once**, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.” I Corinthians 15:1-8 NKJV
- (b) The resurrection is a non-negotiable!
  1. “Now **if Christ is preached** that **He has been raised** from the dead, **how do some among you say that there is no resurrection** of the dead? But **if there is no resurrection** of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then **our preaching is empty** and **your faith is also empty.**” I Corinthians 15:12-14 NKJV
- (c) The REAL problem if there is no resurrection...
  1. “Yes, and **we are found false witnesses** of God, because **we have testified of God that He raised up Christ**, whom **He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise**. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And **if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile**; you are still in your sins!” I Corinthians 15:15-17 NKJV
  2. “*For Sadducees say that there is no resurrection—and no angel or spirit; but the Pharisees confess both.*” Acts 23:8 NKJV
- (d) Think about everything we base our faith on as Christians...
  1. “Then also **those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished**. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, **we are of all men the most pitiable.**” I Corinthians 15:18-19 NKJV