

Up From His Grave, The Church Arose

This Easter special comes from the first Passover of Jesus' ministry as recorded in John 2:13-22. It is interesting that His ministry began and ended with the Jewish Passover.

In His first Passover, Jesus became identified as the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29; 1 Cor.5:7).

In His last Passover, Jesus became identified with the Savior and head of His body, the church (Eph.5:23; Acts 5:30-31).

Today's Easter special will study four aspects of "Up from His grace, the Church arose."

1. We will begin by examining our lesson text by five homiletical points.

Passover	(Jn.2:13)	First Passover of His ministry
Pilfering	(Jn.2:14-16)	First cleansing of temple (Matt21/ second)
Prophecy	(Jn.2:17)	First messianic prophecy associated with temple (Ps.69:9; Mal.3:1)
Paradox	(Jn.2:18-21)	First teaching on His death, burial, and resurrection
Point	(Jn.2:22)	First transformational belief thinking of His disciples (Rom.12:2); (Eph.4:22-24)

The title of our lesson is taken from the paradox section of the text. A paradox statement is a statement that seems to be contradictory; but as a figure of speech may be true.

(Jn.2:19) "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

(Jn.2:21) "But He was speaking of the temple of His body."

2. When we put together the three things underlined in (Jn.2:19 and 21), we discover the doctrinal point of our lesson entitled, Up from His grave, the Church arose.

Destroy refers to His substitutional death (2 Cor.5:21).

Raised up refers to His burial and resurrection (Rom.4:25).

His temple, His resurrected body will become the church, the mystical body of Christ on earth and heaven (2 Cor.6:16)

This was part of the first Easter sermon preached by angels as recorded in:

(Lk. 24:5-8) "He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, Saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered His words."

3. Rome was not the first to destroy Herod's temple.

In fact, when Jesus' body temple was destroyed, the Jewish temple was also destroyed and replaced with the Church of Jesus Christ (Jn.2:21)

(Matt.27:51-52a) “And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yield up His spirit. And behold, the veil of the **temple (tou naos)** [Holy of Holies] was torn in two from top to bottom.”

(1 Cor.6:19-20) “Or **do you not know** that your body is a **temple (naos)** of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.”

(1 Cor.3:16) “**Do you not know** that you are a **temple (naos)** of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” (2 Cor.6:16; Gal.3:2-3).

The Church of Jesus Christ is the mystical body of Christ on earth and heaven (Eph.1:20-23; 2 Cor.5:6-7) and (1 Thess.4:13-18)

(Eph.5:23) “For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is **the head of the Church He Himself** being the **Savior of the body.**” (Acts 5:30-31)

(1 Cor.12:12) “For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.” (1 Cor. 12:14, 20, 27)

4. **After three days of burial, Jesus was raised from Hades in His resurrection body ready to be seated at the right hand of God with all authority (Col.1:16-18; Matt.12:40; Eph.4:9; 1 Pet.3:18-19; Luke 23:43; 16:22-23).**

Because of His session, the **gates of Hell** cannot prevail against the Church, the body of Christ

(Matt.16:16-18) “Simon Peter answered, ‘**You are the Son of the living God.**’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon **this rock** I will build My church; **and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.**” (Col.2:10; 1 John 4:4; 2 Thess.2:6-7).

Jesus conquered sin, death, Satan, and is seated at the right hand of God in heaven as the Savior and head of the body of Christ, The Church (Col. 1:13-18; 2:10, 13-15; 1 Cor.15:24-28; Rom.8:37).

(1 John 3:5) “You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin.”

(1 John 3:8b) “The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.”

UP FROM HIS GRAVE, THE CHURCH AROSE – HAPPY EASTER!