



JOHN 20:1-10 | THE RESURRECTION: PETER AND THE OTHER DISCIPLE

- Verses 1-4 – see session 72
- Verse 5 –
 - The typical first century tomb had a small opening, one in which you must be **stooping down** to see inside. This **other disciple** (v. 4) halted for just a moment, not entering, but surely recognizing the implications.
- Verses 6-7 –
 - Simon Peter was the first to enter the empty tomb. He saw not only the **linen clothes** but also the **napkin** which was **wrapped together in a place by itself**.
 - There are countless spiritualized applications made from this observation. We should be careful not to apply more than the text reveals. The **napkin** was simply a broader piece of cloth, likely hemmed (unlike the **linen clothes**), which wrapped around the head as a single piece of cloth. The word translated **wrapped together** is ἐντυλίσσω [entulisso], which means to *twist*, not to fold. The napkin was *rolled together in a place by itself* which is literally, *but separately*.
 - Bullinger gives a plausible scenario: “Here it implies that the cloth had been folded round the head as a turban is folded, and that it lay still in the form of a turban. The linen clothes also lay exactly as they were when swathed round the body. The Lord had passed out of them, not needing, as Lazarus ([11:44](#)), to be loosed.” (*The Companion Bible*)
- Verse 8 –
 - This Gospel does not tell what specifically **that other disciple...believed**.
 - Most assume that he believed that Jesus had been raised from the dead, though the immediate context doesn’t fully support the conclusion.
 - Luke 24:12 says that Peter **departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass**. While the Luke passage does not mention the **other disciple**, we could likely assume that both departed with the same **wondering**.
 - More likely, Peter and the other disciple believed Mary Magdalene, who had simply told them that **They have taken away the Lord...and we know not where they have laid him** (Jn. 20:2).
- Verse 9 –
 - Here, as many times previously, the author gives commentary to the reader, providing narrative information to interpret the events.
 - As of this time, Peter and the other disciple did not even know that Jesus would **rise again from the dead** (and thus certainly had not placed any faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ).
 - It is interesting that the verse speaks to **the scripture**, in the singular.
 - Interestingly, the only direct passage that speaks to the resurrection of the Messiah is Psalm 16:10-11.
 - Many passages speak of the resurrection in general.
 - It would be easy to fail to see Psalm 16 in a Messianic form, and thus easy to fail to see the prophecy of the resurrection.
 - Note again that the “standard evangelical answer” to Old Testament salvation is that, prior to the cross, people simply “looked forward” in faith rather than “looking back.”

