

Let us now turn to the Gospel of Matthew and examine his account of the resurrection of Jesus narrated in the twenty-eighth chapter. This account in the early portion of the chapter is parallel to the passage in Mark which we have just considered. As it began to dawn toward the first day of the week Mary Magdalene and the other Mary come to the sepulchre. In the meantime there had been a great earthquake. The angel of the Lord had descended from heaven, rolled back the stone from the door of the sepulchre and sat upon it. Upon seeing the angel the guards at the tomb trembled and became as dead. At the tomb the angel whose countenance was like lightning and whose raiment white as snow spoke to the women, "Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." Thereupon, the angelic command is given to the women, instructing them to tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead. The promise that He would go before them into Galilee is also given. Jesus Himself had told His disciples on the night of His betrayal that after His resurrection He would go before them into Galilee. (Matthew 26:32) After the women had received this message from the angel, they departed quickly from the tomb in the spirit of fear and great joy, so that they might bring this word to the disciples.

As the women were on the way to tell the disciples, Jesus met them, saying, "All hail." Here is the record of the first appearance of Jesus to a group according to Matthew's testimony. When the women saw Jesus, they held Him by the feet, and worshipped Him with loving adoration. Then Jesus said, "Be not afraid: go tell My brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see Me." Here again we have the stress laid upon this promise of our Lord's meeting His disciples in Galilee.