

20220417 Resurrection Sunday: Christ died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

Over the last few weeks we have seen that the Bible is filled with prophecy. When we see the number of prophecies that have been fulfilled it tells us that we can depend on scripture. The Bible is truth. Many prophecies have already come to pass, and some are yet to happen. Last Sunday we read from Daniel chapter 9 and we discovered that the exact day of Palm Sunday was revealed by God to the Jewish people through the prophet Daniel some 500 years before Jesus was born. The angel Gabriel, in Daniel Chapter 9, revealed the day that Yeshua Ha Messiaich, Jesus the Messiah, would enter the streets of Jerusalem riding on a donkey. It happened just as predicted.

The prophet Zechariah had even given specifics about how Jesus would enter on a donkey. He declared, *"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey. (Zechariah 9:9, NKJV).* And again, that is exactly what happened. The crowd was ecstatic as Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem. They cried "Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest" (Matthew 21:9). Many do not know that Hosanna means "LORD SAVE US!" Their cry to the "Son of David" was acknowledgement that He WAS the "Son of David." He WAS their Messiah. The problem was that they were looking for an earthly deliverer who would free them from Roman bondage, but Jesus had instead come to save people from their sins. We get into all kinds of trouble when we decide Who Jesus is going to be. His mission was not earthly but spiritual in nature.

The Bible tells us that on the night before He was crucified He gathered His disciples in an upper room of a large home and celebrated a Passover feast with them. Jesus knew what was coming later that night, but they did not know. As they ate the feast, there was a great reset happening in heaven. God was providing a way for ALL peoples in all the world to have a relationship with Him. The writer Luke tells us what went on in that room, *"And He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19, KJV).* Jesus was telling them that His body would be broken for them. After they had eaten, Jesus took the cup and He said, ²⁰ ... *"This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you. (Luke 22:20, NKJV).* Jesus was telling them that there was a new covenant, a new promise, a new deal being made between man and God. In the same way they had put an innocent lamb's blood on the doorposts of their homes on the night that they left Egypt, they now must apply the blood of THE LAMB on the doorposts of their heart.

The death of Jesus should not have been a surprise to them. The death of this Messiah was threaded throughout the Bible. No doubt they had all heard Isaiah 53 read to them in the synagogue. They knew that in a divine transaction, sin would be dealt with by a sin-bearing Messiah. Seven hundred years before the event, another prophet, the prophet

Isaiah, described this Messiah in detail. Not knowing of whom he wrote, Isaiah took out his pen and wrote these words on sheets of vellum (animal skins prepared for writing).

The Sin-Bearing Messiah

*53 Who has believed our report?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?*

*² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant,
And as a root out of dry ground.
He has no form or comeliness;
And when we see Him,
There is no beauty that we should desire Him.*

*³ He is despised and rejected by men,
A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him;
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.*

*⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs
And carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.*

*⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.*

*⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, every one, to his own way;
And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

*⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted,
Yet He opened not His mouth;
He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,
And as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
So He opened not His mouth.*

*⁸ He was taken from prison and from judgment,
And who will declare His generation?
For He was cut off from the land of the living;
For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.*

*⁹ And they made His grave with the wicked—
But with the rich at His death,
Because He had done no violence,
Nor was any deceit in His mouth.*

¹⁰ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him;

He has put Him to grief.

When You make His soul an offering for sin, (Isaiah 53:1-10b, NKJV).

And it happened. The arrival of the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, happened just like the prophets had foretold. Daniel told of the timing of His coming. Zechariah described the vehicle of his coming (the donkey). Isaiah revealed details about the purpose of His coming. And as we will see in a minute, the shepherd King David prophetically described the awful particulars of His death which was this “offering for sin” as described by Isaiah.

The morning after that Passover meal, Jesus was led down the streets of Jerusalem. The crowds who had screamed “Hosanna in the highest” had later demanded His crucifixion. They thought he had let them down. His beaten bloody body was led through the streets of Jerusalem with the jeering crowds looking on. It was horrible. It was a pitiful sight. But the worst was yet to come. The gospel accounts tell us that He was laid on the ground while nails were driven into His hands and feet. And then it happened. The God who had made the universe and Who had come in human form in the manner of Jesus allowed Himself to be despised of men. The Apostle Paul would later explain in one sentence what went on as Jesus hung on the cross, *“He that knew no sin was made sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”* (2 Corinthians 5:21, pastor’s paraphrase).

Many have wondered what went on in Jesus’ mind as He hung on that old rugged cross. Sometimes when a service starts in a Jewish synagogue the congregation will often recite the first verse of a piece of scripture, and then they will sit and read in silence until the end of the scripture. At that time, they will read the end together. Jesus began His eternal work by reciting Psalm 22:1, *“My God my God, why have you forsaken me.”* No doubt as He then bore the sins of the whole world on the cross, His human mind was recalling the entirety of Psalm 22. I quote:

⁷ All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying,⁸ He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him. ¹⁴ I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. ¹⁵ My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. ¹⁶ For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. ¹⁸ They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture (clothing). ³⁰ A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation. ³¹ They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done this. (Psalm 22:7-8, 14-16, 18, 30-31, KJV). (That last phrase “he hath done this” can also be rendered, “It is finished.”)

So that was that. God had come as Messiah. This God-man in the flesh had died at the hands of sinful men on the cross for the sins of the whole world. His followers fled like a

flock of scared sheep. They ran for the exit doors. Peter had denied Him three times just like Jesus said that he would. His followers came and got His broken body and laid him in a rich man's tomb just like the prophets had said. **Yes, it was finished, BUT it was not over.** Why was it not over? Because the Bible says:

24 Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. ² But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. ³ Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. (Luke 24:1-4, NKJV).

Well, we all know how the story goes. He appeared and asked them what they were looking for. He had told them all that "The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again (see Luke 24:7)." It was the women that found Him first and they ran back to report the news. Then men thought it was just "crazy talk" of emotional women. Peter listened. Peter thought that maybe, just maybe, it had all happened. Maybe Jesus really HAD risen as He said that He would. The Bible tells us,

¹² But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened. (Luke 24:12, NKJV).

The Apostle Paul wrote some of the most beautiful words in scripture in his letter to the Corinthian Church. He told them that without a resurrection, the Christian faith cannot stand. It is meaningless. That is why this morning, I cannot talk about Christ's death without talking about His resurrection. Paul writes:

The Risen Christ, Our Hope

¹² 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? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. ¹⁴ And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. ¹⁷ And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! (1 Corinthians 15:12-17, NKJV).

But my dear brothers and sisters, my message this morning is that our faith IS NOT FUTILE. Because the scriptures tell us He did rise: "...on the first day of the week, very early in the morning!" That's when it happened. The work was finished on the cross, but the whole story was not over. Why have I read all of this to you this morning? Because: *"³ ¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." (John 20:31, NKJV).*

We are given these accounts so that we might believe in His name and have life. Not even the disciples all believed at first. Jesus caught up with some of his disciples on the road to Emmaus. They did not recognize Him and they awkwardly tried to tell Him the events that were going on in Jerusalem.

The Scriptures Opened

⁴⁴ Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." ⁴⁵ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ And you are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

The Ascension

⁵⁰ And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen. (Luke 24:44-53, NKJV).

You know, He is still revealing Himself to men and women today. We have spent weeks looking at scripture that tells us Who He is and what He did for us. The Gospel is not complex. All people have sinned and fallen short of God's glory (Romans 3:23). This sin problem has separated us from God and that separation is permanent without receiving the gift that He poured out on Calvary (Romans 6:23). God loved the world so much that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever (anybody) believes in Him will not perish (be eternally separated) but instead will have eternal life (John 3:16). Jesus has died, He was buried, and He rose from the dead. ¹ *but these [things] are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*" (John 20:31, NKJV). In Paul's letter to the Roman church he tells us how we can participate and be saved. Paul explained, ⁹ *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9, NKJV).* And that's it. I proclaim with all believers throughout the ages. **Christ died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!** Will you proclaim it with me?

Happy Resurrection Day!

Let us pray.

Union Grove is one of the oldest Baptist communities of faith in the State of Texas dating back to 1844. Pastor Faber McMullen may be reached by email at uniongrove362@gmail.com or by snail mail at: 15301 FM 362, Navasota, Texas 77868. Tel: 936-825-1227 (Edited and proofed by Amanda Neese- Webster, Texas.) All financial gifts to this ministry are tax-deductible as a 501 (c) (3) Corporation.