

DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

"HE IS RISEN!"

SELECTED SCRIPTURE

APRIL 17 - APRIL 23, 2011

THE LORD'S DAY –As we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection, the day we remember the physical rising from the dead of Jesus Christ, I pray we would not get caught in the trap of being "too familiar" with the story. As Christians, we can easily find routine what needs to be kept fresh and new everyday. The resurrection of Christ is more than significant to those of us who are saved. It is the seal of affirmation that God was pleased with the sacrifice of His Son for sin. He proved it by "raising Him from the dead". My prayer for us is that of Paul's in **Philippians 3:10**, "That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection..." Read **1 Corinthians 15:1-4**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: Lord, help us to remember the significance of Your resurrection both this week and every day.

MONDAY – Jesus was ministering to His disciples and those who loved Him right up to the end, despite the fact that there were plans and conspiracies going on to plot His death everywhere He went. **John 11** tells a story that took place while Jesus was standing in the shadow of the cross as it was quickly approaching. The story is of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. In **John 11:1-16** we see the disciples were starting to get worried as the hostility against Jesus was increasing (**vs. 8**). Jesus continued despite any possible problems, knowing He was safe in completing God's purposes (**vs. 9-10**). Then Jesus spoke some of the most beautiful words one could ever hear in **John 11:25-26** -- "I am the Resurrection and the Life..." My friends, NO power of resurrection or eternal life exists outside the Son of God. I pray that you know Him personally and have trusted in Him alone. Read **John 11:34-44**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: Thank the Lord that He is the Resurrection and the Life, and that it is only through Him we may also have life.

TUESDAY – In **John 12:1-8**, Jesus came to Bethany "six days before the Passover" and visited with Simon the Leper, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus (who Jesus raised from the dead). They ate

supper and then Mary anointed Jesus with a very expensive ointment. This caused some of the disciples to complain, especially Judas Iscariot -- (**Mark 14:3-9, Matthew 26:6-12**) In **verses 9-10 of John 12** we see that many people came to see Jesus when they found out He was in town. The next day, Jesus came to Bethpage and prepared to enter Jerusalem through the East Gate. This is the event we call "The Triumphal Entry" or "Palm Sunday" which we celebrated last week. One important thing I want you to take note of this week is that Jesus was not a victim of men's schemes or circumstance. The entire plan of redemption was predetermined and fulfilled by God's sovereign provision. The events of Christ's life, including this His final week before death, were totally in divine control. Thank God right now that we can serve the One who is in control of all things.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Thank the Lord that His death and resurrection were ultimately His predetermined, ordained plan.*

WEDNESDAY - The mosaic requirements tell us that sacrificial lambs for Passover be selected on the tenth day of the first month (originally called "Abib", but after the exile called "Nisan"). The lamb would be taken into the home and kept until the 14th day when it was sacrificed. Jesus, like the Passover lamb, was received by the people and then crucified on Friday the 14th of Nisan as the true Passover lamb, sacrificed for sin. Read **Exodus 12:1-6**. You see the lamb was killed at "twilight" of the 14th (**vs 6**). Moses identified "twilight" as the time of the "going down of the sun" (**Deuteronomy 16:6**). Josephus, the Jewish Historian, says it was the custom of the day to slay the lamb at about 3pm. This is the exact time of day when the true Passover Lamb, Jesus Christ, died. Read **Luke 23:44-46**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Thank the Lord Jesus that He willingly laid down His life as the greatest sacrifice of all time.*

THURSDAY – On Thursday evening when "the hour had come" (**Luke 22:14**), Jesus sat with His disciples and ate the Passover meal. The very meal itself symbolized their deliverance from Egypt and the future sacrifice of Christ on the cross the next day. This is where Jesus instituted the "Lord's Supper" or what we now call the "Lord's Table" or "Communion" (**Luke 22:19-20**). The Passover looked forward to the sacrifice of Messiah Christ, but the Lord's Table is a worship ceremony, a time to look back and remember His atoning death. Today's passage ends with Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane where He was finally betrayed and arrested. He referred to this time of betrayal as, "this your hour, and the power of darkness" (**vs 53**). Read the story for

yourself in **Luke 22:39-53** and thank God for such an obedient, courageous Savior, The Man--Christ Jesus.

What principles in these verses are applicable to my life today?

Suggestion for prayer: Thank the Lord for both His courage and example, that we as His children need not fear death for He has overcome.

FRIDAY – Today, my beloved brothers and sisters, is the day we can look back to and shout Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! If you are a child of God, born again through faith in Christ alone, not of your will, but of God's (**John 1:12-13**) your debt of sin has been paid to Almighty God! Christ paid it in full! **2 Corinthians 5:21** says God made Him to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. I pray we will be faithful to preach the message of the Cross, for it is the power of God unto Salvation (**1 Corinthians 1:18**). And beloved, we have peace with God through the blood of His Cross (**Colossians 1:20**). Close today's study by reading **Luke 23:26-46**. Notice how Luke explains that even in death, the Great Physician ministered to those most aware of their need, like the penitent thief.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: Praise God for the ultimate healing (forgiveness) that is available to us through the Lord Jesus' substitutionary, atoning death on the Cross.

SATURDAY – "Lo, in the grave He lay, Jesus my Savior; waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!" "Vainly they watch His bed, Jesus my Savior; vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord!" "Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior; He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!" "Up from the grave He arose, with a mighty triumph o'er His foes. He arose a victor from the dark domain, and He lives forever with His saints to reign!" "He arose! He arose! Hallelujah, Christ arose!" Read and thank God for **Acts 2:23-24**, Amen!

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: Thank You Lord that you are alive forevermore and that we as your children, have eternal life as well.

