

## HE IS NOT HERE, HE IS RISEN!

***Exodus 12:51*** And it came to pass the selfsame day, that the LORD did bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their armies.

***Luke 24:6*** He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,

The same day the children of Israel ate the lamb and applied the blood to the doorposts of their houses, they left Egypt. It was as if a nation that had been dead for 430 years, suddenly came to life. This is the power of the lamb which points to the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The promise of Abraham, which also appeared to dead in Egypt, suddenly came back to life. After a few hours, one could say, “The children of Israel are not here in Egypt, they have risen up and left this land”. Praise God! The resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the death makes all things possible. Welcome eternal life, putting on the body of Christ, a home in heaven; goodbye death, tears, hunger, thirst ... “Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children” (Isaiah 66:8).

***Firstly, let us understand that the Lord was destroying the destroyer death which opened the door for our resurrection.***

***Exodus 12:23*** For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.

***Hosea 13:14*** I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes.

The lambs in Egypt were dead, but their death was not in vain: when God saw the death of the lamb in each house, and the blood on the two side posts, he passed over. Jesus died in the flesh, but the Spirit of God in him was active during his physical death fighting the destroyer on our behalf. “Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)” (Ephesians 4:8-10). Death is a captor: it has captured billions of souls since Adam. As soon as Jesus died physically, the Spirit of God went straight for the captor, death, and bound him. Pharaoh was the destroyer, but he did not understand that he could not touch a people who had been resurrected from the dead so to

speak. No wonder the apostle Paul rejoices in the profound understanding of the beautiful meaning of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus:

*1Cor 15:55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*

*1Cor 15:56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.*

*1Cor 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Let it be crystal clear that the Lord died physically: the Spirit left his body. It was a real death, not a fake death. Listen to what the apostle Peter states: “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit” (I Peter 3:18). If the body of Jesus is “spirit-flesh”, and his body is everywhere, it would not make sense for the angel to say, “He is not here, he is risen” (Luke 24:6). “He is not here...” means his body is not in that particular tomb – a concrete location which all of Jerusalem were aware of. Only physical, material bodies can rise from the dead – and the physical, real and tangible body of Jesus rose from the dead. “I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting” (Isaiah 50:6). ***Next, we need to understand that the Lord stayed for 40 days on the earth after his resurrection for one purpose: to convince his followers that he had indeed risen from the dead.***

*1Cor 15:12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?*

*1Cor 15:13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:*

*1Cor 15:14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.*

Indeed, our faith will be vain if we believe not that Christ rose from the dead. His death was a physical death, and his resurrection was also a physical resurrection. “But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead” (I Cor 15: 20,21). Jesus had one ministry during the 40 days after his resurrection – to convince all his disciples that he had indeed risen from the dead. “After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep” (I Cor 15:6). One person’s testimony about the resurrected Christ can be doubted, but 500 saw Jesus at the same time. They cannot all be hallucinating. Not only did the Lord Jesus appear to these disciples, he challenged them to physically touch and examine him. “Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing” (John 20:27).

Sadly, there were two people who did not believe in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus in the days of the apostle Paul. This was a very serious issue because they were destroying the faith of some people. What did the apostle Paul do? He named them in his letter to the church. “And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some” (2 Tim 2:17,18). We cannot fellowship with anyone who would deny a physical death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the only hope we have for receive eternal life.

God gave birth to a body, his own Son, to redeem us from the grave. Only God could live a sinful life through his own flesh and blood. “Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?” (John 8:46). God had to beget a physical body because only a physical body can carry the sins of the world – the Spirit of God cannot be touched by sin. For three days in the grave the Lord destroyed the power of sin, Satan and the grave. He redeemed us from with his own flesh and blood. “And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation” (Revelation 5:9). ,

Let me conclude by reminding you that Jesus demonstrated his power to raise the dead even before his death and resurrection. “Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live” (John 11:25). Notice that he said “*I am* the resurrection...” Everyone can kill, but only God has the power to raise from the dead. This power is exclusive to God alone. There was one problem, however: the Lazarus whom Jesus raised from dead would die again because of the power of sin working in the body of Adam. This is why God had to beget a physical body and destroy our collective sin in that body. This is what he meant by “Destroy this Temple...(John 2:19)”. But now, “He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee (Luke 24:6). Jesus’ flesh could not see corruption (notice flesh and corruption mean that this was a real body. “He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.” (Acts 2: 31,32). The Devil attacked and destroyed the faith of some Christians in regard to the resurrection of Jesus in the Corinthian church. Let us resolve to never allow this to happen to us. For us, we rest assured in 100% faith in the witness of the apostle Peter and others. Peter said, “This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses”.