

WEEK SEVEN - DELIVERED

Devotion:

"Tomb, thou shalt not hold Him longer; Death is strong, but Life is stronger; Stronger than the dark, the light; Stronger than the wrong, the right. Faith and Hope triumphant say Christ will rise on Easter-Day." ~ Phillips Brooks "*An Easter Carol*"

"Lord Jesus, You are my righteousness, I am your sin. You took on you what was mine; yet set on me what was yours. You became what you were not, that I might become what I was not...I admit that I deserve death and hell, what of it? For I know One who suffered and made satisfaction on my behalf. His name is Jesus Christ, Son of God, and where He is there I shall be also!" ~ Martin Luther

Our sins were carried on Christ's shoulders. Our punishment weighed on Him in death. He was laid in a tomb. Dead. Cold. Wrapped in the linens that should have been ours. His head placed on stone. No breath to be found. No heartbeat. Our supposed savior, who had just entered into Jerusalem a week before fulfilling prophecies of the prophets of old, dead. How can this be? How can a man so humble, so mighty, so perfect, who claimed to be I AM be dead? The disciples hid. The women who followed Jesus of Nazareth wept. The world was in tumult. The Pharisees laughed and applauded each other for their victory over this blasphemous renegade. Yet they knew not what they did. Christ knew what they were doing. He even forgave them while dying. He knew the cost and the price of His mission on this earth. He knew the suffering He would endure. He knew the work that lies ahead. Nevertheless, there was His body...lifeless on a stone table. Saturday, a day of waiting with anxious anticipation to see if He would rise again. Even the Pharisees in the back of their mind were insecure and terrified that it may not be over. In public they celebrated but in private they asked for soldiers to guard the tomb, "Just make sure he stays in the tomb and all our problems are over." Or so they thought.

The third day came. A non-beating heart ignited again with life. Just like the first Adam had the breath of life breathed into him, so too the life-giving Savior was breathing again. The body that once was cold and dead was beginning to stir. The linens that covered His body fell off. The cold muscles were beginning to twitch again. Strength and life were returning into this lifeless body. Something miraculous was happening. The resurrection of Jesus. The promise of a life to come for all who believe. The Savior who was long promised was alive again. The earth quaked this time in ecstasy. The stone rolled away. Not stone, nor a grave could stop Him. Not even death could contain Him. The Victor of Death stood and strolled out of the tomb. A tomb could not contain His glory, His majesty, or His love for His creation. With these actions He was saying, "I have rescued you all from yourselves. Your punishment I have taken. Your victory I have won. You are mine and I am yours."

On that Easter morning, love triumphed over hate. Good triumphed over evil. A Savior, Jesus Christ DELIVERED us. Delivered us from ourselves. Delivered us from sin and death. We are Delivered!

ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!



Discussion:

Read Matthew 28:1-10

The death and resurrection of Jesus is a fulfillment of God's promise to deliver His people. In the Old Testament God continuously delivers the Israelites. He also through multiple prophets and people reveals the coming of Christ. In Isaiah 53, specifically, the death and resurrection of Jesus are referenced in every verse. Deliverance given to us by the sacrifice of a servant.

What are some of the prophecies that are referenced in Isaiah 53 which are fulfilled in Jesus death and resurrection?

Also in Psalm 22 and Psalm 16 references are made to Jesus death and resurrection.

What are some of these references?

In what ways is the resurrection of Jesus the lynchpin of Christianity?

If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that he said; if he didn't rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what he said? The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like his teaching but whether or not he rose from the dead. ~ Tim Keller

Prayer:

Beautiful Savior, We praise and worship your name. We magnify your glory and seek to make you known amongst all people. We thank you, Jesus, for the hope that you have given us. We thank you for the life that we have in your name. We ask that you remove all sin from our lives. That our actions may be holy and worthy in your eyes. Thank you for delivering us and for bringing us to life in you. Amen.

