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# THE BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR

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I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.  
Revelation 22:16

## RAISING LAZARUS:

### *The resurrection and the life*

John 11

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)

We have just learned in John 10:40 that Jesus had recently escaped the hands of the Jews “and went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode.” This was all cumulating during the period conflict.

As the news of Lazarus’ death reached Jesus, He was about eighteen miles from Jerusalem. The next thing we read is somewhat puzzling to our human nature. Once Jesus had heard the news, He chose to do nothing. He almost certainly did not take immediate action in order to

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It hardly seems possible, but another year is about to pass by, and as it does the attention of everyone turns to the festive activities. The main attraction, of course, is Christmas. As we enter the stores, we see just about everything a person could possibly need for Christmas. The music of Christmas fills the air. Those holiday plans that have been in the making will soon be realized. Boys and girls, and yes, men and women are beginning to get excited! The closer Christmas comes, the more the excitement mounts! Christmas Day is fast approaching and we are frantically engaged in last minute details - last minute shopping, gifts to wrap, baking to be done, tree to be put up - will we ever be ready for Christmas? But somehow we make it and that eventful morning dawns. The children are up early and tearing open their gifts as Mom and Dad watch and take pictures. The day is filled with fun and games, visiting friends and relatives, Christmas dinner, etc. But just a moment! Didn't we forget something? Could it be, that in spite of our carefully made plans, something obvious was overlooked?

Each year countless numbers of people go through

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allow the circumstances to progress to the point of hopelessness. At the point of absolute despair, the full and complete glory of God would be revealed.

When Jesus had finally decided that it was time to “go into Judea again”, although “reminded” by the disciples of why he left that place (*John 11:8*), His knowledge and understanding once again showed through. And with this, Jesus brought out a very important principle of being in God’s will, or “the light of the world” as stated in v.9. No matter where we are, if we are in God’s will, we’re in the right place and under His protection.

In verse 15, Jesus makes the statement, “I am glad for your sakes that I was not there”. This brings out the point that in the presence of the Prince of Life no one is ever said to have died. Jesus reminds us of the importance and the criticality that we understand that the whole power to impart, maintain, and restore life, resides in Him. This also verifies that this miracle was not one of a public display, but one by which the disciples would see clearly the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Riddled throughout this chapter and climaxing in v.35 (Jesus Wept) we see the unmatched and vivid example of real humanity, compassion and mercy of our Lord Jesus.

It has been said that if Jesus, in verse 43, had not specified that “Lazarus, come forth”, He would have raised all the dead. Nevertheless, Lazarus did come forth and the wonderful and glorious power of our Lord Jesus Christ is once again revealed, as He is the resurrection, and the life of the believer.

Merrill C. Tenney, in his book, *New Testament Survey*, stated that “this act was regarded by Jesus, as a supreme test of faith and as the climactic proof of his power.”

The truth of the matter is simple. Hope is not found in a program or a religion or even within ourselves, as many will teach in today’s society, and as I am sure they have throughout the generations. Hope is only found within the person of our Lord Jesus Christ.

What a wonderful Savior!

*Remember that, when our love has reached its climax, it can only be like a solitary dewdrop trembling on a leaf compared with the copious showers of love that pour continually from the heart of our dear Lord and Master.*

- Charles H. Spurgeon †

### INTERNET LINKS:

Publications of Pastor James L. Melton:  
<http://www.sureword.com/melton/>

Way of Life Literature  
<http://wayoflife.org/~dcloud/index.html>

the Bible For Today  
<http://www.biblefortoday.org/>

### RADIO:

WOEL  
89.9 FM – Maryland  
Southwest New Jersey  
Northern Delaware

### Basic Bible Principles

1. Be sure to keep a regular appointment with God.
2. Cultivate a habit of daily commitment.
3. Clean house thoroughly.
4. Prepare to guard your personal weak spots.
5. Get some spiritual and personal goals.

- Taken from unknown sermon

## QUESTIONS?

### **Who is Good ?**

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:  
*Romans 3:10*

### **Who has Sinned ?**

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;  
*Romans 3:23*

### **Where did Sin come From?**

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:  
*Romans 5:12*

### **God's Price on Sin:**

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*Romans 6:23*

## **Our Way Out** (This is the Good News)

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.  
*Romans 5:8*

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.  
*Romans 10:9*

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.  
*Romans 10:10*

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.  
*Romans 10:13*

the Christmas season without knowing, or giving so much as a thought, to the reason why we celebrate Christmas. The true meaning of Christmas has been lost or relegated to all of the commercialism and parties surrounding Christmas. We are long overdue in returning to the place where we know why we have Christmas.

Christmas, in its true perspective, is that time of year when the world celebrates (or at least it should) the birth of Jesus Christ. The birth of Christ nearly two thousand years ago happened just the way the Bible said it would. The Old Testament Scriptures are replete with the prophecy of the coming Messiah, the signs surrounding His birth, the location and condition. The New Testament Scriptures record the fulfillment of this prophecy. Hear then, what a few of the Scriptures say.

The Old Testament prophet Isaiah wrote: "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." (Isa. 7:14) Over seven hundred years later, Matthew wrote in the New Testament, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS." (Mt. 1:21-25)

In taking on the form of a man, the Son of God did so in order that He might "...seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10) It was not His purpose "to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." (Jn. 3:16-17) And so we read, "...but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself." (Heb. 9:26b) Having fulfilled His one and only purpose for coming to earth, the Son of God now sits at the right hand of God the Father (Heb. 10:12) where He is our great High Priest (Heb. 4:14-15).



And she shall bring forth a son,  
and thou shalt call his name  
**JESUS**: for he shall save his  
people from their sins.

*Matthew 1:21*

And we have seen and do testify  
that the Father sent the Son to be  
the Saviour of the world.  
Whosoever shall confess that  
Jesus is the Son of God, God  
dwelleth in him, and he in God. *1*  
*John 4:14-15*

...The kingdoms of this world are  
become the kingdoms of our  
Lord, and of his Christ; and he  
shall reign forever and ever.  
*Revelation 11:15b*

*From His humble beginnings, to  
His sacrifice on the cross ...*

The crown of thorns will become  
a Crown of Glory.

*Celebrate the blessings of Jesus  
this season.*

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My friend, will this Christmas be just another holiday for you, or will it be one of remembering Christ's birthday? As you give gifts to others, will you receive the gift of eternal life that Jesus Christ so freely offers to all who will believe? He came for you (Luke 19- 10), He died for your sins (I Peter 2:24) by shedding His precious blood (Heb. 9:14), He is resurrected and lives for you (Acts 2:23-24; Ro. 6:9; 1 Cor. 15:4), He loves you (Ro. 5:8), He wants to save you (Jn. 6:37).

Christmas is the Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God who Himself is God (Jn. 1.1). Receive Christ as your personal Saviour and make this Christmas the celebration of your spiritual birthday.

"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." (Jn. 20:31) †

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