

THE EDIFIER

VOLUME 28

CHURCH OF GOD (SEVENTH DAY)

MARCH 2022

The Terrifying Truth

Bloodied, bruised, beaten, nailed and speared. It was hard to believe that Jesus, the Son of God, the Word (Logos) was dead. After all, he was the Messiah – the promised, long-awaited Anointed Saviour! Ancient prophecies told of his rulership, might and power. During his ministry, he healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, raised the dead and forgave their sins, and if you knew those ancient scriptures, then only God can lay claim to that. And now the lifeless body of the Son of God hung, bloodied, pierced and expired.

The brutality of Roman rule seemed to triumph once again. The King of the Jews was dead. Those who had hoped for a different outcome now cowered in a mixture of fear, contempt and brewing anger.

The turn of events, unpredictable at best, was not what any of Jesus' disciples anticipated. Earlier in the ordeal, when the soldiers came with clubs, swords and lanterns to arrest Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, they fell over when Jesus asked them who they were looking for. "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.

The power of "I am," conveyed in Jesus' response caused even battle-hardened warriors to collapse in helplessness. But, then, Jesus let them arrest him. That's when Peter, seeing "events seemingly go so wrong" clumsily wielded his sword, failing to decapitate the high priest's servant.

Now, hours later, Jesus was dead. Darkness and terror lay in the hearts of the living, most of all his

followers. It just wasn't meant to happen that way! Or was it?

The gospel narratives clearly show that on several occasions Jesus predicted his death to be followed by his resurrection three days and three nights later. But it didn't really register even to his closest disciples. Jesus' detractors, however, the Jewish religious rulers, namely the Pharisees, did remember Jesus' prophetic assurances, and so added security was enforced around the tomb, ensuring no unpredicted outcome.

The belief in the literal resurrection of Jesus, the Son of God and the Son of Man, is at the heart of the Christian message, hope and doctrine. There is no other central teaching, no other matching doctrine. Jesus died on a Wednesday afternoon,



was buried before sunset prior to the high day of Unleavened Bread, and rose from the dead sometime after sunset that following Saturday night. When Mary arrived at the tomb early on Sunday morning, Jesus was gone.

The angelic messenger questioned her, "*Why are you looking for the living among the dead? He's not here. He is risen!*"

Today, we stand on the testimonies of those first century eye witnesses. We see their despair, and feel their darkness. And then, just as Jesus predicted, we too exult in their exceedingly great joy at seeing their Lord and Saviour again. Such joy and gladness continues to echo across the millennia in the endearing and enduring faith of those who would follow.

Many years later, one of Jesus' closest disciples

Continued on page three



Genesis 49:8-12 is amazing. Its surprising prediction of part of the gospel story may not be so familiar to you. It contains one of the earliest predictions of Jesus' life-giving work at the cross. It says:

Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's children shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's whelp [cub]; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh [Messiah] comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people. Binding his donkey to the vine, And his donkey's colt to the choice vine, He washed his garments in wine, And his clothes in the blood of grapes. His eyes are darker than wine, And his teeth whiter than milk.

In Genesis 49, we see Jacob blessing his sons before he dies. Judah, will be highly praised and take the prominent place among the tribes of Israel (v8). Judah is likened to a lion (v9). Judah will be the ruling tribe until Shiloh comes and when Shiloh comes (v10). Shiloh is believed by both Jewish and Christian theologians to be the Messiah, and indeed, a ruling Messiah who people obey. The Messiah will have a donkey and a donkey's colt just before He washes His clothes in wine and the blood of grapes (v11).

Now it is very interesting what we read about Jesus in Matthew 21:1-2. He mysteriously arranges two donkeys for His entry into Jerusalem just before the crowds welcomed Him as a king and just before His clothes were covered in blood at the cross. Jesus was from the tribe of Judah and was referred to as *The Lion of the tribe of Judah* in Revelation 5:5.

Further, just as the prophecy predicted, Judah was

indeed the prominent tribe in Israel up until the time in history Jesus lived and also at that time. Could it be Genesis 49:11's mention of washing his clothes in wine and the blood of grapes is a poetic way of prophesying the Messiah would die a bloody death? I am certain it is.

This very early prophecy, made impressively even before Judah and his brothers were established as tribes in Israel, is perhaps not as well-known as the prophecy of the two donkeys in Zechariah 9:9, quoted in Matthew 21:5, which says:

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.

Critics may well try and downplay the splendour of this prophecy by suggesting anyone could have arranged two donkeys and claimed to be Messiah. However, only someone very special could have generated the type of response Jesus did whilst riding a donkey into Jerusalem.

Chapter 21 of Matthew describes what has become known as this *Triumphal Entry* of Jesus. Everything in this chapter cries out *King Jesus*, the one who shall have the obedience of the people. The *red carpet* so to speak was rolled out before Jesus as the multitudes spread their clothes and palm branches along the road in front of Him riding the donkey. This is reminiscent of King Solomon, the son of King David, riding on David's mule as he was being enthroned king of Israel. The crowds then cried out *Long live King Solomon!* (1 Kings 1:38-40). Now the crowds cried out to King Jesus, *Hosanna to the Son of David* (Son of David being perhaps Jesus' favourite title for Himself). In the parallel account in Luke's gospel, Luke records them crying out, *Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord* (Luke 19:38).

Next, in Matthew 21:12-14, Jesus by His actions also shows His royal authority by driving out the unrighteous dealers from *His* Father's house. He then demonstrates His Messianic power by healing the blind and the lame there. Even the children are recorded in Matthew 21 as declaring Him to be the Son of David. Everything cried out *King!* By the way of the cross to His death, Jesus was on His way to being raised up (resurrected)

to sit on David's throne being exalted to the right hand of God (Acts 2:30-33).

This gospel prophecy is also extraordinarily special because it tells us of a great ruler who humbles Himself because of His great love for us. Not only does He sit lowly on a donkey, but much more than that – He humbles Himself to die a bloody death on our behalf. This was a death He didn't deserve because He was so pure – as white as snow (perhaps a fulfillment of Genesis 49:12 – *his teeth [being] whiter than milk*).



This kind of humble and committed Messiah who walked among us and died for us is one who we can love and fully trust in because He understands our weaknesses and pain and all the hard things we experience. Hebrews 4:15 puts it well:

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

It is because He understands what we go through that I believe He inspired the apostle John to write the following beautiful prophecy:

*And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. **Revelation 21:4***

I hope you know you can trust this prophecy which was divinely inspired by the Father. I pray it gives you true hope for the future and something great always to live for.

All scriptures taken from the NKJV.

Continued from page one

again saw the now glorified Son of God in a powerful and terrifying vision. Jesus said to John,

“Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive for evermore...”

If it is true that Jesus, the Son of God, died and rose again, then this narrative needs our serious attention. It's otherwise foolish to relegate such compelling evidence as fables to be discarded to the realm of fantasy. As a verifiable, factual recording of events, Jesus' resurrection must be the most terrifying truth we could ever encounter. It suddenly condemns our society's atheistic suppositions as deceptively and dangerously wrong, just as it also opens up the realms of possibility and hope.

Without “resurrection” there is no hope; human life is otherwise just a random accident, neither good nor bad, with no meaning or purpose. But, if the Logos who spoke everything into existence, then entered our reality of time, matter and space to demonstrate complete redemption and forgiveness by his own sacrifice, and he is in fact who he says he is, then you and I have a responsibility to dare to ask: “What does it mean for me, and everyone else who has ever lived?”



Are we willing to explore the compelling reasons to believe and hope in the power and promise of glorious resurrection life?

***Written by Pastor John Klassek, (Pastoral Care)
Western Australia .***

Written by Pastor David Kidd, New Zealand.

Bible Quiz Answers: Malta, Priest, Benjamin, Caiaphas, Luke and Herod Antipas



You know it's time to take your health in your own hands (shouldn't that already be the case?) when a Government leader tells us that exercising for one hour within a three week period was neither essential or necessary.

In our present situation all the advice has focused on what not to do. On the flip side, here are some things you can do to improve your health. Search the Bible and you will find many scriptures on these topics – written by our maker.

SLEEP

Research confirms that ideally, we should get approximately eight hours of sleep each night. During sleep the body detoxifies and repairs itself. Don't eat anything during the two hours leading up to sleep – the body's resources should be devoted to maintenance, not digestion. The hour in which you go to sleep is also very important (around 10-11pm). Miss this period and the body won't activate the trigger that starts its maintenance programme.

*I will both lie down in peace, and sleep;
For You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.
Psalm 4:8 NKJV*

WATER

Drink plenty of fresh, clean, chemical free water throughout the day. Being thirsty means you are already dehydrated. Water is an essential element in the detoxification and elimination process, and likewise for the optimal functioning of every cell in your body.

Water is mentioned a total of 722 times in the Bible.

FOOD

Food is intended to be both the body's fuel and medicine. God perfected and made available all necessary things before creating man on the sixth day. Avoid manmade engineered foods as much as possible. Your body can't recognise or use the foreign materials and chemicals. You wouldn't use different fuel to that recommended by the manufacturer of your car so why treat your bodies differently? Here's one thing to think about, if plant based foods were truly plants they would be called vegetables. Eat untainted whole foods as much as possible. If your grandparents never ate it then it's probably reason enough as to why you shouldn't either. Proverbs 23:1-3 warns us in the strongest terms possible (hold a knife to your throat) as to what you choose to eat.

When you sit down to eat with a ruler, Consider carefully what is before you; 2 And put a knife to your throat If you are a man given to appetite. 3 Do not desire his delicacies, For they are deceptive food. NKJV

FASTING

Fasting is one of the quickest ways to promote self-healing and regeneration. It promotes the renewal of blood cells, the immune system and the selective elimination of fat and diseased cells. When you are sick the body turns off the brain signal that induces eating, making sure that all resources are utilised in fighting the illness. Fasting has too many benefits to list here, both physical and spiritual.

*When I wept and humbled my soul with fasting
Psalm 69:10a ESV*

EXERCISE

Moving the body is essential for good health. The required exercise doesn't need to be complicated, challenging or expensive. It turns out that walking is one of the best exercises you can do bar none. Combine this with the natural environment that God has given us and you will automatically feel uplifted and refreshed. In Jesus' time the majority of society walked everywhere and had no need of gyms. Exercise improves circulation, flexibility and mobility. You can't leave your car sitting unused in the garage then expect it to start two years later.

BREATHING

Everyone takes this for granted but how many of us do this properly? We tell our children to sit up straight and don't slouch. To get the maximum amount of air into your lungs you can't have any internal organs pressing against your diaphragm. This is where your breathing should come from, not the stomach. Properly done it ensures that all cells receive the maximum amount of oxygen possible. Leukemia is the poisoning of the blood, and common to all such sufferers is their very low blood oxygen levels.

SUNSHINE

Sunshine energises us, elevates our mood and provides us with the means to produce vitamin D. Lack of vitamin D is a contributing factor in the onset of Multiple Sclerosis. Many lack this vitamin as a consequence of avoiding the sun, especially during the time ultra violet C light is present. The problem is compounded when we use chemical laden sun block, many of which have been shown to be carcinogenic. Why not try moderation? As little as 15 minutes a week will help.

Truly the light is sweet, And it is pleasant for the eyes to behold the sun; Ecclesiastes 11:7

SPIRITUAL MEDITATION

Saving the best for last, this is not new age meditation. This is the type Jesus demonstrated and lived, teaching us to do the same. Reading God's word, praying, observing God's creation, thinking of others and listening to the Holy Spirit. As Jesus Himself said, when you put God first, all other things will be added unto you. There is power, refreshing and the opportunity for healing when we submit ourselves to God. Jesus Himself said that the peace he leaves us is nothing like, and cannot be compared with, the peace that can be obtained from the world.

The above eight protocols are simple to do and can be done by all. I can think of no other greater building blocks such as for improving and maintaining great health. And then there is also the peace, security, assurance, calmness, hope and strength that also accompanies, or results from, the reliance on God's word. God is a God of action.

Written by Richard Todd, Adelaide.

Maintaining Spiritual Health



"You are what you eat," many declare. The statement is too broad, of course, but it makes the valid observation that our health is impacted by what we consume.

Spiritual enhancement comes from good discipline, wholesome sources of enjoyment, forgoing corrupting allurements, and carefully regulating ourselves. We develop spiritually through what we experience, whether religious or secular.

A superior source of spiritual nourishment is the Bible. It offers the purest revelation of the being and will of God.

**Please send for the free
Five-Part Devotional Booklet**



**Thursday evening,
April 14th, 2022**

You're Always There for Me

When the world comes crashing in
And chaos rules my mind,
I turn my heart to you, Lord,
And pure, sweet peace I find.

You lift me out of trouble
You comfort me in pain;
You nourish, heal and cleanse me,
Like cool, refreshing rain.

In times of joy and bliss,
When things are going right,
You lift me even higher,
And fill me with delight.

You listen to my prayers;
You hear my every plea;
I'm safe because I know
You're always there for me.

By Joanna Fuchs

Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper .

1 Corinthians 11:20

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper , saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

1 Corinthians 11: 23-25



**Please send for the free booklet on
the Lord's Supper**

Youth Corner



BIBLE WORD SEARCH : THE BIBLE

All the words listed below are in the puzzle—left, right, up, down or diagonally.

A	M	A	T	T	H	E	W	F	I	S	H	E	R	S
M	B	K	S	U	T	S	U	G	U	A	G	L	L	H
S	S	R	L	N	I	S	L	M	V	S	E	P	A	E
A	H	A	A	P	A	U	L	O	I	U	N	M	M	A
C	O	M	M	H	F	I	H	E	V	S	E	E	B	V
R	L	E	I	D	A	E	S	J	D	E	S	T	Y	E
E	Y	A	N	R	J	M	R	E	E	J	I	I	R	N
D	S	N	A	I	T	S	I	R	H	C	S	S	O	S
S	P	C	D	B	W	A	G	E	S	P	S	R	T	N
N	I	I	A	L	I	B	H	M	D	S	E	A	S	E
A	R	E	V	E	L	A	T	I	O	N	R	E	I	D
K	I	N	I	S	J	N	E	A	O	A	T	L	H	R
E	T	T	D	S	O	R	O	H	L	M	R	I	G	A
W	E	R	B	E	H	A	U	A	B	O	O	F	O	G
H	T	A	E	D	N	B	S	H	H	R	F	E	D	A

Abraham, Ancient, Animals, Augustus, Barnabas, Bird, Blessed, Bloodshed, Christians, David, Death, Ephesians, Faith, Fishers, Fortress, Gardens, Genesis, God, Heaven, Hebrew, History, Holy Spirit, Israel, Jehovah, Jeremiah, Jesus, John, Lamb, Life, Love, Mark, Matthew, Mission, Noah, Paul, Revelation, Righteous, Romans, Sacred, Snake, Temple, Wine

Bible Word Search Puzzle



Easter Reconsidered

Paul was shipwrecked on what island?

.....

Who was the first person to come upon the injured man in the parable of the Good Samaritan?

.....

What tribe is Paul from?

.....

Who is the high priest of Jerusalem who put Jesus on trial?

.....

Which Gospel is written by a doctor?

.....

Who murders John the Baptist?

.....

We believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. His death, burial and resurrection are central to the message of the apostles and the first century church. Today, the sacrifice and Resurrection remain as the central themes of our faith.



If the Easter festival exists as an authentic memorial of this central biblical event, why wouldn't every Christian celebrate it with enthusiasm?

Please send for the free booklet

'Easter Reconsidered'

Produced and Distributed by **CHURCH OF GOD 7TH DAY (Australia)**

Postal Address: P.O. Box 29, Tanunda SA 5352

Web Address: www.cog7aus.com

Editor **Phil Kordahi**

Assistant Editor **David Kidd**