
The Greatest Historical Event in the World

Selected Scriptures

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00:01

All of us have attended funerals and never at any time in a funeral did we see the person rise up in the casket. It's never happened. I have performed many, many funerals and have never experienced that. But you know what? There is one person who did rise and his name is Jesus. He rose from the grave on the third

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day, just as he said. In fact, the resurrection is the greatest historical event in the world. We've had a lot of historical events. We've had a lot of monumental events in our country, and we're still having them. And there are still many that are yet to come, as we have been reading through the book of Revelation and seeing that there is a future that awaits, a glorious future for the redeemed, but not so glorious at all for the unredeemed.

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But you know, there are skeptics. I don't know if you caught this on the news this weekend, but today is National Transgender Visible Day that Biden had signed into law for our Easter holiday. And then he told all the people that were doing egg hunts at the White House that you can't have any religious themes whatsoever. This administration has been.

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not the first, and it won't be the last, but it has been one of the most outspoken vocal administrations against Christians. And some are feeling it, some are not feeling it yet, but in different contexts it's there, and I was a school teacher for three years and then a principal for another three years, and the wonderful thing about the job that I had there, it was a ministry and it was a Christian school. And

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It was welcome that we talk about the Bible, we talk about Jesus, and in fact we encouraged it so much. We prayed with the teachers, we prayed with the students, we had chapel every day. But that's not going on in a public school. In fact, I would even say in some Christian schools that doesn't go on. Because the world doesn't want you to know that in Jesus you can be forgiven of all your sin. They

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their sins. They want to wallow in their sins. And your morality as a Christian is a threat to them. And this is why people persecute Christians. This is why this administration persecute Christians. Because a true Christian who is living the Word of God cannot in any way embrace the kinds of things that they're promoting. The Bible does speak against those things.

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And we love people, don't we? We love people. But to love them and to truly love them is to give them the truth. If you remember some months back, we talked about biblical sexuality and we learned that there in Canada, they had produced a hate crime law that if you spoke against any kind of

regeneration therapy for a homosexual, you could go to jail. And you could go for a long time.

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And there are a few states here in America that have adopted that same kind of view.

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The world does not want Jesus. The world does not want what you have and what I have. As I said, many are very skeptic about it. But the Bible says that He did rise from the grave. The Bible says that He died on a cross. The Bible said that He rose on the third day. Over in Acts chapter two and verse 23, we hear this statement.

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This man delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God. Peter says to the Jews that day at Pentecost, you nailed to a cross by the hands of lawless men and put him to death.

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The statement about Jesus and his death is that he did die. He died a horrible death. He didn't die like some people die that maybe die in their sleep and they have no pain whatsoever and they just wake up either in glory or in hell, one or the other. But no, he endured the hostility of wicked and evil people.

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who nailed him to the cross. And it started with his own people. Ever since Jesus began his ministry, and he was very popular because they enjoyed hearing him teach, because they'd never heard anybody teach like him before. He taught with authority. He didn't teach like some of the scribes did, where they would quote one another. He didn't quote any of the scribes, any of the rabbis. No, he quoted scripture, and he spoke it with authority, and he gave the understanding of scripture.

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But that's not all. They enjoyed the miracles. They enjoyed seeing him drive out demons out of people. As we've been studying Mark chapter 1, we've seen different healings take place, the healing of Simon's mother-in-law from a fever. We saw the healing of a leper. We saw a man with a withered hand that was in the synagogue, and they were ready to kill him.

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ready to kill Jesus because he had healed in the past on the Sabbath and they were wondering was he going to heal today because today was the Sabbath and he calls the man with the withered hand to come forward and he tells him to stretch out his hand. He didn't do anything but that and the moment he stretched out his hand, his hand was completely restored as the other one.

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And instead of marveling at that and seeing that this is an incredible thing that we've just witnessed, that no man can do anything like this, they instead went out and plotted with the Herodians how they might kill him.

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Well, that day finally came.

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they did. In fact, in the beating that he endured, the flogging, I've only seen one video online of anybody getting close to it and that was from the movie The Passion, came out many years ago. Most people did not survive the flogging. The flogging would be what killed him. But Jesus not only survived that,

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He also had to carry the cross beam that they were going to nail him to. He had to carry that down the Villa Dolorosa to the place of the skull, which is where he would be crucified. And they nailed him to that cross, to that tree, and he hung there for six hours. Normally, it would take days for someone who was crucified to finally die.

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He gave up His Spirit in six hours. He gave His life. The Bible says that He was in the grave for three days, and He resurrected on Sunday morning. This is why the church meets on Sunday, in commemoration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. So He died on a cross, and the reason why He did this was

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to die in our place as a substitution. What do I mean by that? Well, we were the ones that deserve death because the Bible says the wages of sin is death.

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We were all on death row. We have all been sentenced to die.

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But Jesus stepped in and died for us. He died in our place. That's what is meant by a substitutionary death. Here's how it reads in Romans 5, verse 8. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. He died for us sinners.

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He came to seek and to save the lost. He didn't come to call the self-righteous, but he came to call sinners to repentance. He died for us. He died in our place. Acts 2 24 says that death could not hold him. It says God raised him up again, putting an end to the agony of death since it was impossible for him to be held in its power. Death had no power.

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over the Son of God.

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death does have power doesn't it? It says in John 10 and this is him speaking, for this reason the Father loves me because I lay down my life so

that I might take it again. No one takes it away from me but from myself. And you remember over and over throughout his ministry when the conflict would pick up

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and he would disappear in the midst of that conflict. They couldn't take him and he would say over and over, my time has not been fulfilled, my time has not come. They could not do anything until that time, that rightful time for them to do it. And that's why it says here in John 10 and verse 18 that no one takes it from me, yet we see him being nailed to a cross. And you would think they took his life from him. No, it says that he laid it down.

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He says, I have authority to lay it down and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I receive from my father. He laid it down willingly. And we sing that wonderful hymn, that wonderful chorus that says, up from the grave he arose, what a mighty triumph over his foes, he rose a victor from the dark domain.

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and he lives forever with his saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Christ Jesus arose! That's our song, isn't it?

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That's the heart of the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. If He didn't rise, our faith would be in vain. If He didn't rise, we would still be in our sins. If He didn't rise, then God never accepted His sacrificial death. If He

didn't rise, everyone that dies perishes. If He didn't rise, then all of this is a lie.

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But the Bible says, 1 Corinthians 15-20, that He did rise. But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. So on this Easter morning, there are actually three elements of Jesus' resurrection I want to talk to you about this morning as the greatest historical event in the world. Let's begin first with His burial and the empty tomb.

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What does the Bible say about this? Well, after his death, we hear Joseph of Arimathea in Matthew chapter 27. He was a rich man. He had hewn out his own tomb. He pre-planned that we would say today. And he went to Pilate, according to verse 58. He asked for the body of Jesus, and Pilate ordered it to be given to him.

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And it says, And Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock, and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away.

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Jesus was put in a brand new tomb. He was put in an empty tomb. Nobody was in there until he was placed in there. He was buried in an empty tomb. Matthew 27 tells us that there were guards placed at the tomb.

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It says in verse 62, now on the next day, the day after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate and they said, sir, we remember that when he was still alive, that deceiver said that after three days I am to rise again. Therefore, order for the grave to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples come and steal him away and say to the people he has risen from the dead and the last deception be worse than the first. And Pilate said to them,

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You have a guard, go make it as secure as you know how. And they went and made the grave secure along with the guard, and they set a seal on the stone.

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seal had the signet of the king and nobody could open that tomb unless they were the king or greater than the king. Guess what? Jesus is the king of kings and the Lord of lords. And by the way, he didn't need a stone rolled away to let him out. You understand that, right? Anymore did that stone keep him in there?

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he arose.

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So they were placed there at the tomb. Both of the passages show that Jesus was in the tomb after his death, but all that changed. And it changed when it began to be reported that he was seen. He was seen by Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joanna. These were the women that came to the tomb that we read about just a moment ago. And they were contemplating as they came to the tomb how they were gonna roll the stone away.

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but they saw the stone was already rolled away. Now, I believe the eyewitness accounts a very important part. In fact, in our court of law, we rely on witnesses. They're valid. And in Scripture, it was always two or more, not just one, but it was two or more witnesses. And again, we do the same thing in the court of law. We'll take...

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the word of one witness, but we know how weak that is, but if you've got two or three that are telling the same story. And even though their stories may be different, but the content matches.

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But his appearances were monumental. Because if he didn't rise from the grave and all these people that he appeared to, then not only would he be lying, but they would be lying too. And you know, there are 11 accounts in the New Testament of him appearing to people.

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I mentioned that he appeared to Mary Magdalene in John 20 and verse 11 it says that Mary was standing outside the tomb crying and so as she was crying she stooped to look into the tomb. It says she saw two angels in white sitting one at the head and one at the feet where the body of Jesus had been lying. And they said to her, woman why are you crying? And she said to them, because they have taken away my Lord.

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and I do not know where they have laid him. And when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there and did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, woman, why are you crying? Whom are you seeking? Thinking him to be the gardener, she said to him, sir, if you've carried him away, tell me where you've laid him and I will take him away. And Jesus said to her, Mary. And she turned and said to him in Hebrew,

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Jesus said to her, Stop clinging to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, I ascend to my Father and your Father, and my God and your God. And Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, I have seen the Lord, and he has said these things to her." Could you imagine the welcoming news that that would be, because they were all gathered in a room in hiding for fear of the Jews. They thought, well, they killed Jesus and we're next.

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And that's really the whole reason why Peter denied him. He didn't want to be executed too.

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So Jesus appears first to Mary Magdalene and the other women.

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and Jesus appears to Peter. And I believe the reason why Jesus appeared to Peter is because of his denial. Because when he had denied Jesus that third time in that rooster crowed, he was right in the sight of Jesus and Jesus turned and looked at him when that happened. Could you imagine?

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I mean, just enough that you had denied the Lord, even after you had said you wouldn't, and even all the other disciples said that they wouldn't deny him, but the very moment they came in the garden to take Jesus, what happened everybody? They all left. He was scattered, right? They were scattered from him. But Peter and John followed in a distance.

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That's not the only people that he appeared to though. But when he appeared to Peter, they were saying, the Lord has really risen and appeared to Simon.

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Simon, remember, was Peter. Simon Peter. 1st Corinthians 15 verse 5 says, and that he appeared to Cephas. Cephas is Peter. He also appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus. And let me just read this story to us, but let me have you follow along. It's in Luke 24. Turn with me to Luke 24, beginning at verse 13.

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It says, And behold, two of them were going that same day to a village named Emmaus, which was 60 stadia from Jerusalem. And they were conversing with each other about all these things which had happened. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus Himself approached and was going with them, that their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. And He said to them, What are these words that you are discussing with one another as you are walking?

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and they stood still looking sad.

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And one of them named Cleopas answered and said to him, Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days? And he said to them, What things? And they said to him, The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a mighty prophet in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to the sentence of death and crucified him.

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But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it's the third day since these things happened. But also some women among us astounded us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning and not finding His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also said.

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but him they did not see. And he said to them, O foolish ones, and slow to heart to believe in all that the prophets had spoken, was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into his glory? Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things concerning himself and all the scriptures.

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And they approached the village as they were going, and he acted as though he was going farther, but they urged him strongly, saying, Stay with us for this toward evening, and the day is now nearly over. So he went in and stayed with them. And it happened that when he had reclined at the table with them, he took the bread and blessed it. And after breaking it, he was giving it to them. And then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight.

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And they said to one another, we're not our hearts burning within us while we were speaking, or while he was speaking to us on the road, while he was opening the scripture to us.

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Jesus appeared to these two on that road to Emmaus, and they finally recognized him. So he appears to Mary Magdalene, he appears to the women, he appears to Peter, he appears to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. He had two appearances to the disciples. One was when Thomas was absent, and the other one was when Thomas was present.

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says in John chapter 20 that while it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and while the doors were shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst. He said to them, Peace be with you. And again, you could probably understand why he would say peace, because to see Jesus who they knew had been crucified and died and put in a tomb, they would have been shocked.

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have him standing right there saying that he was Jesus. But you know this wouldn't have been the first time he shocked them. You remember when he walked on the water when they were out in the boat two miles out into the Sea of Galilee and they were in the middle of a storm and they see Jesus coming. They think they see a ghost and he said it is I and you remember Peter he wanted to go to be where Jesus was. If this is you permit me to come out on the water and Jesus led him and he walked on water.

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So this wasn't the first time.

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It says, When he had said this, he showed them both his hands and his side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. And Jesus said to them again, Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I also send you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them. If you retain the sins of any, they have been retained.

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But Thomas, one of the twelve called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. And so the other disciples were saying to him, we've seen the Lord, but he wants evidence. And so he says, unless I see in his hands the imprint of the nails and put my finger in the place of the nails and put my hand in his side, I will not believe.

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So he stayed in that state of unbelief and many call him doubting Thomas. But I'll tell you what, Thomas, I don't think he was any different than anybody else. He wanted evidence. He wanted to see the Lord Jesus Christ. Wouldn't you want to see Jesus? If everybody's running around saying that he has resurrected, wouldn't you want to see him? Wouldn't you want to solidify that with your faith? Sure.

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Jesus makes him wait eight days before he appears with him. It says, after eight days the disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them and Jesus came, the doors having been shut and stood in their midst and said, again, peace be with you. And he says to Thomas, bring your finger here, see my hands, bring your hand here and put it into my side and do not be unbelieving. But.

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believing.

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Thomas's response, my Lord and my God. He wasn't doubting anymore, was he?

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And Jesus said to him, blessed are you.

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you've seen me have you believed blessed are those who did not see and yet believed we were listening to this last night with our family and we got to that part and I said that's us that's us we haven't seen him but we believe right

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So he appears now with Thomas present. Again, this was not the only time. Over in John chapter 21, he appears to the disciples by the sea. And he's over there on the shore making breakfast.

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and they come and he begins to break bread with them. They didn't even ask him, who are you? They knew who he was.

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We read this morning in Matthew 28, that's where he appeared to them at the mountain in Galilee, but here's one that's really a clincher. It says in 1st

Corinthians 15 and verse 6 that he appeared to more than 500 brothers at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep. Some have already died.

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but he appeared to over 500.

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Next verse he appears to James. Verse after that he appears to Paul.

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Now, if he didn't rise from the grave and he said he appeared to all these people and all these people were saying that they saw him, then it would be a lie, wouldn't it?

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But that's kind of pretty hard to get that kind of narrative going that quick. To say it really didn't happen. Now we know how the world controls narratives, don't we? They just, they use the media to do that and they put enough people on there on the media and they all say the same thing, they all have the same agenda, the same notes, the same.

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platform of what they're trying to proclaim at that moment and they get all the networks to say the same thing and their lie becomes the truth. And they feed us lies. Not every time, but most of the time. But this is no lie. He

appeared. And when he appeared, he appeared to all these people. And it just strengthened, of course, their faith.

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Now let me tell you the significance of this. Because we all know the Easter story. We all know about Jesus dying on a cross. We all know about Him being in the grave for three days. We know about Him rising on the third day. We even know about prophecy speaking of these events, hundreds of years before they even happened. I mean, if you're in the book of Isaiah and you're reading like in chapter 53, we're about 800 years out.

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talking about the Messiah and when he came, what he would do. And it's really a shame to the people of God who were ignorant of the prophecies. But you also have to understand that there was like 400 years of silence between the Testaments. And then when the silence is broken, it's broken through John the Baptist. As John the Baptist comes on the scene as the forerunner of Christ, and he is proclaiming the Gospel, and he is calling people to repent.

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He's preparing the way.

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God's no longer silent, is He?

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But what's the significance of it? Well, first would be fulfilled prophecy. Psalm 16 10, for you will not forsake my soul to Sheol. You will not give your Holy One over to see corruption. That was a prophecy in the book of Psalms that spoke of his death. And then of course, 1 Corinthians 15 would be victory.

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over sin and death because the very moment he died on the cross he conquered sin and death. He bore the sins of his people in his own body. He took our punishment. And we hear Paul say in 1 Corinthians 15 55, Oh death, where is your victory? Oh death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory.

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Through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Thirded, I would say, as a significance would be assurance of eternal life for believers. It says in Romans 6-4, Therefore we were buried with him through baptism into death, that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in the likeness of his death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of his death.

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of his resurrection because he rose and he was the first fruits of all that will rise, we will rise too. In fact, John 5 tells us that everyone will rise. Some will rise to life, some will rise to damnation.

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Jesus rose from the dead. Death couldn't keep him. God raised him up. And this resurrection was foretold in the scriptures and it was fulfilled by Jesus Himself. And it's just really amazing when you take 333 prophecies about Jesus. And just the probability of one of those prophecies coming true is incredible.

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I've told you this before, but it would be like taking a silver dollar, putting an X on it, covering the entire state of Texas with silver dollars, taking a person and blindfolding them, chunking that silver dollar with an X on it and telling them to go find it while they're blindfolded. What's the probability of finding it?

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The odds go up, or really they go down more than anything. But this is the central key to the gospel. You know, when we're talking about Jesus's death on the cross, we can't stop right there. That was one of the problems with Mel Gibson's movie on the passion. Is that they spent the whole time on the crucifixion and about 30 seconds on the resurrection.

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and the resurrection is just as important as the crucifixion. No resurrection, then the lie that they were telling, that the disciples came and stole away the body.

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would have been a possibility, right?

32:03

But he didn't remain there. He rose. And we give him praise that he rose, right? And even as we think about this today, as I said a few moments ago, that this is the greatest historical event in all of human history. There'll never be another event like this, with the exception of Revelation 19, when Jesus comes back.

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And when he comes back, he's not coming back like he came the first time. First time he came like a baby in a manger. Second time he comes back, he's coming back as judge and executioner.

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You know, people are banking on the world getting better, and they're trusting in governments and administrations and presidents and people to make it all better. And they're even trying to prop everything up so that you and I can have a miserable life while they try to deal with their climate change. But I'll tell you right now, Revelation is a very attack on their climate change as Jesus destroys the climate.

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See, that's what they worship. That's why they don't want to hear anything about Jesus, anything about the cross, anything about the resurrection. They would rather have their Easter bunnies, their Santa Clauses, and all of that.

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And what that stuff does is it distracts away from what really matters.

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Because what really matters is the resurrection of Christ. What really matters around Christmas is the birth of Christ, right?

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But again, that's not what the world wants. They want all their horror stories at Halloween, all so the kids can get their candy and they feel like if the kids don't get to do all that, they're being left out. You know, I have seven kids, raised every one of them, and we didn't celebrate Halloween. Didn't celebrate Santa Claus, didn't celebrate the Easter bunny, or any of that stuff. We celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We celebrated the birth of Christ.

34:20

We celebrated Jesus.

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And so if you're going to be out today later hiding eggs for your grandkids or your kids or whatever, tell them about Jesus.

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Tell them about Jesus. This whole day is all about Him. I'm not saying they can't have fun. I'm not a party pooper. I got grandkids too. But tell them about Jesus because that's what matters. The Easter Bunny's not going to get them into heaven. Jesus. Only Jesus.

34:56

The same is true for all of us.

35:00

you're here today and you have never surrendered your life to Jesus, you can do it right now. The Bible says you have to confess Him as Lord, and the Bible says you have to believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, and the Bible says that you have to call upon Him. You never call upon Him confessing your sin and turning to Him. You'll never be saved.

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But you have to call upon him. It says in Romans 10 13 that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But you have to confess him as Lord. You have to believe that he resurrected. You don't believe in the resurrection. You can't be saved.

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there are a lot of Christian quote Christian leaders out there trying to tell you how to get to heaven but many of them don't even believe the gospel. You have some out there that don't even believe in the Trinity and they're trying to tell you how to get to heaven they're not going to heaven.

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They're the false prophets that Jesus warned us all about in Matthew chapter 7.

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But as we pray this morning and as we remember Jesus in the Lord's Supper.

36:23

Take a few moments as we pray. Search your heart.

36:29

Do you really know Him? If you were to die right now, would you be in heaven? And if you answer yes, the question then is why? Why would you be there? Why would He let you in? Why would He let me in?

36:43

Heavenly Father, we thank you for this morning and I pray for each person here as we've been reminded about your death burial and resurrection and the significance of that. And I pray for those that may be with us this morning that have never repented, never turned their life over to Jesus, never truly

believed because they're still living the way that they've always lived. There's never been a transformation of their heart.

37:13

All these people that believed in Christ that we read in the New Testament, all these people that witnessed Him resurrecting and saw Him, they truly believed and it transformed their life. It changed them. They were not the same any longer.

37:37

Lord I pray that you would do that work in the hearts of those that are in here this morning that are in that same situation. Help them to see that only in Jesus that they can be forgiven of all their sin and I pray that they would put their faith in you right now. Lord thank you for the table that we're about to remember as we focus on your death, burial, and resurrection.

38:06

And as we proclaim your death until you come, thank you, Lord Jesus. And all God's people said, Amen.