

Psalm 24

Isaiah 26:6-9

Revelation 21:1-6

John 11:32-44

Psalm 24 opens with this declaration.

The earth is the LORD'S and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.

The Revelation reading tells us, **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. Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts."**

When we read the account of the raising of Lazarus there is so much going on between the lines. (or behind the scenes). I wondered why *four* days? The Jews believed that after four days the spirit was gone so there was no chance of life. Also, by the fourth day, because of the climate, advanced decay would be destroying the body, and the stench would be overwhelming. Jesus knew what He was at!

Then when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." Mary, through her grief falls at the feet of Jesus in worship still believing though not understanding.

The following verse tells us that when He (Jesus), saw her weeping and, the other Jews as well, that this caused Him to ***groan in the spirit and that He was troubled.***

He then asks, ***"Where have you laid him?"*** And He weeps. The Jews around make comments to one another. Could this have been the first time that they had seen Him weep openly?

I read a book once, a Christian novel, a very beautifully written book by Brock and Bodie Thoene entitled, *Jesus Wept*. An account of what could have been, based on the scripture surrounding Lazarus's life and death. It mentioned some reasons for Jesus' tears. One being that Lazarus would have to come back to life, only to die again, and another that He loved him. Maybe, it was a bit of both or maybe, it was His Righteous anger towards Death! For me, it doesn't matter, all I know is that my Saviour was moved to tears because of what was going on. As He approaches the tomb, a cave with a stone laying against it, He groans in Himself. I have a sense there's a battle within, life and death fighting!

“Take away the stone.” By this time there is a stench.

“Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?”

It almost feels like Jesus is frustrated with Martha. But He's not, He loves her so much! He's her family friend as well as being her Saviour. These siblings had a unique relationship that went beyond Rabbi and student. Jesus is about to conquer death!

“Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent me.”
Jesus, always gave the Father glory,

“Lazarus come forth!” I once heard it said that the reason Jesus spoke Lazarus's name was because if He had not, all the dead would have come forth. Who knows? I think this was meant to be just for Lazarus of Bethany and just for this time. I have an idea that this was a family plot, and I am sure there were others named Lazarus. After all there are two mentioned in scripture.

“Loose him and let him go.” Jesus had placed the responsibility upon those around to remove the grave clothes and free him.

All the characters in this event were bound by something. Unbelief, grief, fear of the unknown, and even physical death. They were all set free that day.

The earth is the LORD'S and ALL that dwells within. The enemy's time is growing short, and we see an increase of his ravings in the earth through, natural disasters, wars, weather, suicide, MAID, and the internet.

Friend's our GOD stands outside of time, in full control of His creation. Nothing surprises Him.

The Word tells us in this week's readings; **“I am the Alpha and the Omega the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.”**

Father, thank You for giving us Jesus and leaving Your Spirit until the work on earth is done!