



# Living with Jesus' resurrection in view

CALNE FREE CHURCH

Charlie Fadipe | Easter Devotionals | During the Covid19 lockdown

## Welcome

Dear Friends

Well Easter is over! A great celebration of our Lord's resurrection that not even Coronavirus could stop. Indeed, the message of Easter is that Jesus has defeated death! But is that it? Are we supposed to just go back to our routine, now that Easter is passed? Or should the reminder of Easter, of Jesus' resurrection, cause us to think (maybe even act) differently? These 5 devotional studies are here to help us live in the light of Jesus' magnificent resurrection. I pray they we will be blessed as we read them.

In this devotional, there will be a passage to read, a simple message for you to explain to children in your house and a section where you can go deeper, if you wish to further study this subject. The idea is that the study is supposed to take about 10 mins and can be done with all your household. Continue to ask yourself the question, at the end of each study: "What does this show me about God?"

I pray this will be a blessing to you and all in your house during this time.

## Prayer:

You may like to use this prayer (or your own variation of it) at the start of this study:

*Heavenly Father,*

*I praise You that You sent the Lord Jesus to come and die for all my sin. Halleluyah! I praise You that He rose from the dead and is alive for ever and ever, showing that He is so much more powerful than death. Please help me live in the light of what He promises and set my mind on things that will last forever. Help me follow Jesus, the way He calls me to. Amen.*

## Reading 1

## Luke 24:44-49 □

Kids questions/activities: Did you know that God has a mega-plan for the world? Can you guess what it is? Take a look at verses 46-48. Get a large piece of paper and some felt-tip pens and draw God's mega plan as 3 symbols/drawings. (Hint: God's plan involved Jesus dying on the cross, rising from the dead (empty tomb) and getting His followers to explain the forgiveness that Jesus gives)

Imagine again, the wonder and excitement of the disciples when Jesus enters the room that Easter Sunday. How were they feeling? What does Jesus say in v44 to explain to them why the resurrection happens?

Read verse 45 again. What do you think Jesus is doing when it says 'Jesus opened their minds so they could understand the scriptures'?

In verses 46-48, Jesus says there are 3 parts to God's overall plan that the King (Christ) must do for the world. Can you identify those parts?

*Think this through: It can seem as if Jesus left us the hardest part of His plan to complete. But verse 49 tells us that Jesus is about send the secret weapon to make it possible. Think how the Holy Spirit empowers you to tell others about Jesus and what He does in the heart of hearers. Think also about the other parts of God's plan: Jesus' death means you're forgiven and part of His family; Jesus resurrection means He is ruling and gives us hope for heaven.*

Prayer ideas: Praise the Lord Jesus for the parts of God's plan that He has completed. Pray that Jesus will involve you in the part of God's plan that He gives to His disciples. Pray for help of the Holy Spirit.

Going Deeper: "Clothed with power from on high" - verse 49. Meditate on that. Did being clothed with or empowered by the Holy Spirit make the life of the Apostles easy? Or make them super-human or free from suffering? But they did accomplish all that was earmarked for them to do. Every Christian, without exception, has been clothed with the power of the Spirit (Romans 8 vv 9-11). If we haven't, then we're not Christian. If we're Christian, then we have. It's a promise. What a blessing it is that the Spirit is helping us understand scripture, helping us pray, giving us joy as we realise what Jesus promises us is true and is ours! To be a Christian is to be a new creation, to be sealed with the down-payment of heaven. To be a Christian is to be safe. Thank your Lord Jesus, if you are clothed with power from on high.

## Reading 2

## Matthew 28:16-20 □

Kids questions/activities: We learnt yesterday about God's mega-plan for the world through Jesus. Let's look at the last part of that plan some more. Have you ever been asked by a grown up to do something you were scared to do (maybe go down a zip-wire or climbing a high wall)? What did they say to you to convince you to do it? Here Jesus is calling His disciples to do something that is much greater than they could do on their own. So He reminds them of something very important, something that will give them the confidence to do what He says. What does Jesus remind His disciples?

What is the reaction of the disciples to the risen Lord Jesus on the mountain as He is about to leave them? Since it's unlikely the disciples were doubting that they were seeing the risen Lord Jesus (this wasn't the first time they had seen Jesus resurrected, even though it's the first time Matthew records it), what do you think they were doubting?

What does Jesus say to calm their doubts (and possibly their fears)? Is Jesus exaggerating? How does that calm our doubts and fears when we are told to tell others about Jesus?

Only after the Lord Jesus gets His disciples to see His utter authority over all things in Heaven and Earth, does He delegate to His disciples a task. What is that task? (hint: it's more than to teach). Does Jesus expect you to do that task?

So what does this show you about Jesus?

*Think this through: Take out your telescope and look to the furthest region of our Solar System or any galaxy – Jesus has total authority there. Take out your microscope and look at the smallest bacterial or virus organism – Jesus has total authority there. If All authority in Heaven and Earth has been given to Jesus, it is the human right of every individual on Earth to hear about of the authority of King Jesus.*

Prayer ideas: Ask the Lord Jesus to make you aware of His total authority over all things and all people. So that you would be willing to go wherever He wants, to tell of His Good News to whomever He wants and to see Him change lives (culminating in their baptism). Pray also that you will then disciple others to obey Jesus just as you obey Jesus.

Going Deeper? There were 3 actions that Jesus gives to His disciples in v 19 "Therefore [go] and make disciples of all nations, [baptizing] them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and [teaching] them to obey everything I have commanded you. They were to go outside their community, their comfort zone, to tell people who didn't know Jesus about Jesus. They were to baptize those that believed, i.e to accept them into the church, as they declared their trust in Jesus. And they were to disciple these new disciples to reflect Jesus by them doing what Jesus commanded, out of love for their saviour. How much are you doing these 3 actions?

## Reading 3

## Daniel 7:13-14 □

Kids questions/activities: Watch a bit of the Queen's coronation [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=inKSvLk7kil) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=inKSvLk7kil>). What's happening here? Was Elizabeth the Queen before they put the crown on her head? What then is the point of the Queen being given the crown? In the passage that you read today, a different person is being "crowned". Who is that person? What does the crown mean? When does Daniel see this happening?

In Luke 24:26, on the road to Emmaus, Jesus says that "the Christ has to suffer ... then enter his glory". What do you think Jesus meant?

What phrase does Daniel use to describe the person in his vision? What name does Jesus use about Himself in Luke 23:69 when He is questioned by the Sanhedrin (the Jewish ruling body) ?

Make a list of what God give the 'Son of Man' in Daniel's dream.

Yesterday in Matthew 28, we saw Jesus confirming that Daniel's vision has happened. It's history, it's real. There will never be a day, ever, when Jesus is not ruling. What does Jesus say we should do in light of all this power that He has?

*Think this through: Remember that Daniel is a book all about who really reigns and has Sovereign authority. God gives Daniel a dream, where he sees Jesus coronated, 550 years before Jesus is walking around on Earth for 33 years! It can be hard to believe sometimes, looking round our world, that Jesus has totally authority. For a King who is ruling over every person in every country, very few people seem to be talking about Him. Yet God wanted His people in exile to know who was in Sovereign control. How much more us, living this side of the King who defeated death! What then should we do?*

Prayer ideas: Praise the Lord Jesus that He rose to enjoy His power as King for ever. Pray we will know, even before He returns, how powerful He is and trust Him that He is in charge.

## Reading 4

## 1 Corinthians 15:50-58 □

Kids activities: What colour can a rose be? Red? White? What about rainbow-coloured? Look it up on the web and look [here](#)

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WiX3zdXmuOY>) how to make one yourself!

There are loads of things that we think are impossible, but God can do. One of those things is to raise people from the dead, so that they don't die! Jesus showed that He could do this by raising Lazarus, Jarius' daughter and a widow's son. Then He, Himself rose from the dead. So can Jesus raise us from the dead so that we never die again? Can is one thing; will He? (that's what this chapter in the Bible says).

From the question in verse 12, what seems to be the thinking of people in the Church at Corinth? Trace the logic of Paul's answer to this question from v13 to v19

According to this passage, what will be the Christian's final reflection on death?

How should this influence the way that we live, according to v58?

*Think through: You will be raised from the dead. Jesus says He will do it, the church believed it and Jesus' resurrection shows you that it will happen (that's why He is called the first-born from among the dead in Colossians 1:18). If Jesus can do anything, promises to raise you to everlasting life (John 5:28) and cannot lie, then this is your future. The real question we should ask is 'Why will Jesus do it?'. Jesus says, we should let our future shape our present (He says build treasure for yourself in Heaven). This day, how will you do that?*

Prayer ideas: Praise Jesus for just how deep and incomparable His love is. Pray that we surrender to Him and obey Him in every way out of love for Him. Pray that you remember all day, that you are an exile on the road to glory!.

Going Deeper? When Jesus will raise those who have trusted in Him from the dead, what will they be like? Will they be raised to life exactly the way they died? Read the answer Paul gives in 15:35-45. What, therefore, is our hope for our loved ones in Christ? What comfort does this bring to those believers whose children died in miscarriage or infancy?

## Reading 5

## Revelation 1:17-20 □

Kids questions/activities: Why do you get scared at 'scary' films or things in the dark? Is it because we imagine that those things seem so much more powerful than we are that they could gobble us up (or do us harm)? When one of Jesus' disciples, John – who had lived with Jesus for 3 years, seen all Jesus' miracles and seen Jesus risen on Easter Sunday - saw the Lord Jesus in all His glory, he was so frightened he couldn't stand and fell down as a dead man (verse 17). But Jesus touched Him and strengthen Him and told Him something important. What did Jesus say to John?

What is Jesus saying when He says He is 'the First And the Last'? Who else uses that title in Revelation?

Why do you think the Lord Jesus wants His disciples (i.e us) to know that He holds the keys to death and Hades (the place of the dead)? How should this calm our fear of death? Can you think of examples of where Jesus showed that He holds the keys of death and Hades?

What is Jesus walking through the lampstands (v12) supposed to tell us?

*Think this through: When John wrote Revelation, The churches were going through a time of deadly persecution. A Church with its back to the wall, fighting for survival, needs more than moral exhortation; it must see Christ! They (and we) must see Jesus as He is:- the Lord of all, reigning, even as evil appears to do it's worst. For one day Jesus will do away with all evil and death; He will 'unlock' those who are dead and waiting to be judged. And those who trust Him will live, physically live, with Him for ever and ever. Jesus is in control of all life.*

Prayer ideas: Praise the Lord Jesus who is God and Lord of Lords; who saves you and will deliver you from death; who would utterly humble Himself to die on a cross for you, just so that you could enjoy life with Him forever.