

## THE BIG DIFFERENCE

The Resurrection of Jesus  
Changes Everything in a Really Big Way

### The Big Hope

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.” **I PETER 1:3-5**

“What strength do I have, that I should still hope? What prospects, that I should be patient?” **JOB 6:11**

When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.” As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”

**LUKE 19:37-44**

“There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.” **PROVERBS 23:18**

Everybody has a “big hope” in life. It is a hope defined by dreams and desires, sometimes even by dreads and disasters. The life, ministry and person of Jesus were the source and object of so much hope in first century Israel. His final coming into Jerusalem on the Passover week was met by an explosion of hope heralded in the praise, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord” (Lk 19:38). The big hope of these people, for their own lives and for their nation, was focused on Him. But the events of that week would not fulfill the hopes of those who heralded Him as King. His arrest, trial and crucifixion would dash those hopes, and crush those dreams. But His resurrection from the dead would vindicate and transform the hope people had placed in Jesus. In the new reality of His resurrection, crushed hopes and dashed dreams can become something more, something bigger:

1. for peace

2. for praise

3. for every person