



Tragedy and Triumph

Part 3

April 4, 2021

Resurrection Sunday

One year ago today, I was standing in the living room of my home preparing to preach my first Resurrection Sunday sermon as the Pastor of The Assembly to a camera right in the middle of the Covid-19 Pandemic. I can remember thinking to myself that day how thankful I was to have the technology necessary to broadcast my message in so that everyone could still be a part of a Resurrection Sunday service; even though it was a virtual avenue of doing so. And here we sit one year later, and I get the awesome opportunity to stand behind this sacred desk and preach on this Resurrection Sunday, one year removed from all of us being asked to quarantine to stop the spread.

May today's gathering of the Saints and the Message of the Cross that I will preach cause us to never again take for granted the blessing of gathering together in the Lord's House to celebrate His Resurrection. I pray that today is a solemn reminder of just how much we need one another and how much we need the Church that Christ Jesus died to build.

If you will please stand for the reading of the Word this morning...

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. ³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Let us Pray...

Over the past few weeks, Pastor Beck and I have preached through a series entitled, Tragedy and Triumph, during which we have dove deep within the Biblical text to discover the depth of the Prophetic Declarations and Predictions provided all throughout the Bible regarding the Messiah and the specific prophetic details provided. The Messiah's life was the ultimate tragedy filled with betrayal of friends, accusations of foes, lies of his enemies and corruption within his own ranks. Jesus went through some major events in His life and the amazing thing is that the Bible itself records so many of the details of His life in prophetic prediction 100s and even 1,000s of years before He was ever born. The Tragedy of the Messiah may have been prophesied but so was His Triumph! Therefore, point #1...

1. The Triumph of the Messiah is found in His Resurrection

- a. His Tragedy set the stage for His Triumph; what was meant for Evil, the Father turned it for good! Notice the prophetic words of King David found in Psalm 16:9-10
- b. Psalm 16:9-10 - ⁹Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. ¹⁰For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption."
- c. Notice the prophetic tethering of King David's prophetic declaration and the Words of Christ found in the Gospel of Saint Matthew 12:40
- d. Gospel of Saint Matthew 12:40 - ⁴⁰For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.
- e. Psalm 16 and Matthew 12:40 may seem, at face value, to not have any correlation to one another until you realize that both are speaking to the same thing; The Holy One of God not seeing corruption in His death. Jesus would resurrect before His body began to decompose and see corruption.

- f. While the body of Christ was in the Tomb, the Spirit of Christ had descended into the lower parts of the earth, to Abraham's Bosom to preach to those who died in the Faith before Messiah came. I will preach more on this topic next Sunday.
- g. Notice the words of the Apostle Peter found in **1 Peter 1:3-5** -
³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's Power are being guarded through Faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
- h. Ladies and Gentlemen, the totality of our Faith is predicated upon the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead! Without His Resurrection, there is no redemption from our sins and we are doomed to die in our sins! Death was proof that Christ was a Man. But His Resurrection was proof that He is God!
- i. Oh and there was a Resurrection and the same Power that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you and I today by His Holy Consubstantial Spirit! Notice the words of the Apostle Paul found in Romans 8:11!
- j. Romans 8:11 - ¹¹"If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you."
- k. There is a Triumph in His Resurrection because He is the Resurrection and the Life and the same Spirit that raised Christ Jesus from the dead dwells in us by Faith! Note the very words of Christ found in Gospel of Saint John 11:25...

- l. Gospel of Saint John 11:25 - ²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the Resurrection and the life.^l Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”
- m. Church, there is a Triumph in His Resurrection because His Triumphs have become our own by Faith!!! Hear the words of the Apostle Paul found in Romans 14:7-9...
- n. Romans 14:7-9 - “⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.”
- o. The Triumph of the Messiah is Found in His Resurrection!!!!
- p. But His Triumph is not merely found in His Resurrection alone...
Point #2...

2. The Triumph of the Messiah is found in His Ascension

- a. Notice with me the Words of the Apostle Paul in Ephesians chapter 4:7-14!
- b. Ephesians 4:7-10 - ⁷But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.” ⁹(In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth?^l ¹⁰He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

- c. With this text in mind, let us not forget what Christ declared in the Gospel of Saint Matthew 12:40!
- d. Gospel of Saint Matthew 12:40 - ⁴⁰For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.
- e. He who descended into the heart of the Earth is the same one who ascended and this is why the Apostle Paul stated the following in 1 Corinthians 15:20...
- f. 1 Corinthians 15:20 - ²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
- g. Those who had fallen asleep, as referenced in this verse, are those who died in covenant with God the Father via the Old Covenant and it was the very reason that Jesus had to descend into the lower parts of the earth. Before Christ arose to ascend to the right hand of the Father and lead captivity captive and gave gifts to men as noted in Ephesians 4:7-10, He had to descend into the lower regions of the earth into Abraham's Bosom to preach to the saints in paradise the message of redemption before He Himself rose from the dead. And we must not forget that when Christ arose that there were other dead people who had been resurrected as well and were roaming the streets of Jerusalem! Notice the Gospel of Saint Matthew 27:50-54
- h. Gospel of Saint Matthew 27:50-54, ⁵⁰And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. ⁵¹And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁵³and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took

place, they were filled with awe and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!”

- i. I want to draw our attention to verses 52-53, “⁵²The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁵³and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.”
- j. This verse gives us insight into the fact that the earthquakes at the point of Christ’s death open their tombs but they came out of their tombs after his resurrection and were seen in the holy city by many people. Who are these people who were resurrected? The righteous dead who died in covenant under the Old Covenant who were in Abraham’s Bosom which is where Christ went to when He descended into the lower parts of the earth; When he ascended on high, he led a host of captives which are referenced in Ephesians 4 and these people are those who were resurrected after Christ’s resurrection and were seen walking in Jerusalem!
- k. After Christ’s Resurrection, the Gospel of Saint John 20:17-18 records the following...
 - l. Gospel of Saint John 20:17-18 - “¹⁷Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.”
- m. And it was at Christ’s ascension to the Father that He ascended on high and led a host of captives, cleansed the Heavenly temple according to Hebrews chapter 9, and began to prepare a place for His Church to dwell at the Rapture of the Church! Notice the very words of Christ found in the Gospel of Saint John 14:1-7.

n. Gospel of Saint John 14:1-7 - “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God;¹ believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?³ ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.”⁴ ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also.¹ From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

- o. The Triumph of the Messiah is Found in His Ascension and Church one day soon He’s coming back!!!!
- p. But His Triumph is not merely found in His Resurrection and His Ascension ... Point #3...

3. The Triumph of the Messiah is found in His Authority

a. His Triumph is found in His Authority to forgive Sin

- i. Gospel of Saint Matthew 9:1-6 - “And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city. ²And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their Faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.” ³And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” ⁴But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? ⁵For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? ⁶But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” – he then said to the paralytic– “Rise, pick up your bed and go home.”

ii. But not only does He have Authority to forgive Sin...

b. His Triumph is found in His Authority to Intercede

i. Romans 8:34 - “³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”

ii. But not only does He have Authority to Intercede

c. His Triumph is found in His Authority to Empower His Disciples

i. Matthew 28:16-20 - ¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^[b] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

ii. But His Triumph is not merely found in His Resurrection, His Ascension, and His Intercession ... Point #4...

4. The Triumph of the Messiah is that He is Going to Come Again!

a. And it is His Triumphal Return that is ever drawing nigh!

b. It is the Imminent Return of Christ that the Church stands in earnest expectation awaiting the voice of the archangel and the trumpet call of God... The Rapture, the Catching Away of the Church is at the Door!

c. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, “¹⁶For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and

so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

- d. My dear friends, the Tomb is Empty today so we don't have to be! If the Holy Spirit entered that borrowed Tomb, the place of Death, and resurrected the now immortal body of Christ Jesus, then the same Spirit can enter the tomb of your life, a place of death in sin and shame, and resurrect your life to the Glory of Christ and God the Father! Bondage does not intimidate our God! Sickness and Disease do not intimidate our God! Brokenness and Addiction do not intimidate our God! The Sin and Shame of your life does not intimidate our God! Tombs do not intimidate our God because the Cross could not Hold Him! The Grave could not Stop Him! And Death was not enough! I'm talking about Jesus Today! Let me take a moment and tell you about Him!
- e. He turns Mourning into Dancing! He gives Beauty for Ashes! He turns Shame into Glory! He Turns Graves into Gardens! He turns Bones into Armies! He turns Seas into Highways! He turns Messes into Miracles! He turns Tests into Testimonies! He turns Bad Reports into Praise Reports! He turns Shipwrecked Marriages into Sea-Worthy Unions! He turns the Bound into Burden Breakers! He turns the Sinner into a Saint! And He can turn your life around today because He's the only one; He's the Only One who can!
- f. We find Christ in every page of the New Testament Cannon of Scripture!
 - i. In Matthew, He is our Messiah!
 - ii. In Mark, He is our Servant King!
 - iii. In Luke, He is the Great Physician!
 - iv. In John, He is the Son of God!
 - v. In Acts, He is the Risen Lord!

- vi. In Romans, He is our Righteousness!
- vii. In Corinthians, He is our Holiness!
- viii. In Galatians, He is our Justification!
- ix. In Ephesians, He is our Perfection!
- x. In Philippians, He is our Provider!
- xi. In Colossians, He is our Hope!
- xii. In Thessalonians, He is our soon Coming King!
- xiii. In Timothy, He is our Shepherd!
- xiv. In Titus, He is our Rewarder!
- xv. In Philemon, He is our Encourager!
- xvi. In Hebrews, He is our Great High Priest!
- xvii. In James, He is our Wisdom!
- xviii. In Peter, He is our Inheritance!
- xix. In John, He is our Lover!
- xx. In Jude, He is our Warrior!
- xxi. And in the Book of the Revelation, He is The Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, He is the beginning and the End, He is the Lamb of God slain before the very foundations of the World, and He is our Soon Coming King! Jesus is Coming!

g. “But Pastor, I don’t know Christ! I am not born again!” Well today is the day of Salvation! The Bible records the following regarding the Born Again Experience...

h. Romans 10:8-13 - ⁸“But what does it say? ⁹“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of Faith that we proclaim); ⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹For the Scripture says,

“Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

- Call to Repentance
- Pray with Them
- Text Number on the Screen - Need info on the texting / app