

RESURRECTION SUNDAY CELEBRATION

John 2:18-21

INTRODUCTION: What do we have to celebrate at Easter? Who do we praise and worship at Easter? We have the risen Lord and soon coming King. We will have a great celebration.

I. CLAIM OF JESUS

A. HIS PREDICTION.

In John 2:19, Jesus made this claim. "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." Jesus made it clear that His upcoming crucifixion was imminent. He spoke of His own body on the cross. This included His death and His glorious resurrection in the future.

B. HIS PROMISE. (JOHN 11:25)

Jesus made a precious promise to Martha in John 11:24-26. "Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"

His promise rested on the truth that He is God, the Resurrection and the Life. While His Word is true, it must be received and believed by all who will be saved.

II. CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS

A. DECLARED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT IN PSALMS 22.

David stated in Psalms 22:14-17: "I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me."

This Psalm gives a graphic picture of Jesus' crucifixion.

B. DECLARED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT IN ISAIAH 53.

The prophetic Isaiah said this in Isaiah 53:4-7: "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth."

Jesus prophesied of His own death, crucifixion, and resurrection.

We read in Matthew 17:22-23 that "Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men: And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again."

Jesus said in Mark 10:33-34, "Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles: And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again."

III. CONVERTED BY JESUS

A. SINNERS' CONDITION WITHOUT SALVATION.

Unsaved sinners are spiritually dead in their sins. They have no hope or help without Christ in their lives. A person is converted (saved) when they turn away from sin and put their faith in Jesus Christ alone.

B. SINNERS' CHANGE AT SALVATION.

The outward evidence is a change in their lifestyle. They will follow Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The converted sinner has a new life and can have joy and peace while experiencing His love with other believers.

IV. CELEBRATION OF JESUS

A. FAITH IN THE RISEN LORD.

Christians celebrate the risen Lord by faith. We believe His Word. Our faith embraces His death and resurrection. We believe Jesus has ascended to Heaven, where He prays for us. We are in Christ and Christ is in us. He is our hope of glory. In the future, we believe we will see Him as He is and shall be with him forever.

B. FOCUS ON THE RISEN LORD.

There are so many distractions to take us away from the lovely Christ. We wait for the day when Jesus comes for us. We keep our focus on the risen Lord who promised us that He would return. The Bible declares in Colossians 3:1, Christians are to "seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God."

Jesus gave us His Word, "Surely I come quickly."

LESSONS FOR LIFE:

1. In heaven, all the redeemed will celebrate and worship Jesus.
2. We will worship and praise the risen and glorified Lord.
3. Death and sorrow will never be found in heaven.