

apr 9

the resurrection

"Whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it." acts 2:24

there was no one there to view the resurrection of our Lord. i would suppose no human eye could behold it and live. the power that must have emanated from that now lifeless corpse must have been unimaginable. the body that corruption had not been allowed to touch - to administer it's decay remained intact, awaiting the return of it's previous inhabitant. yes, there would be a return. in this too, the scripture must be fulfilled. after all, this was the promise made from the beginning. just as abraham had offered up his son, now God would offer up His son - a worthy sacrifice, one enough to cover the sins of the whole world.

it's so strange and foreign to my mind and understanding. i think of the parable told by Jesus about the rich man and His son. "then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'they will respect my son.'" matt 21:37 He had sent them leaders, kings and prophets but they still had not heeded His calling and warnings. He had told them of the blessings to be had in obedience and the cursing to be had in rebellion.

now, this was the ultimate rebellion - it was a usurping of the very Godhead itself. the "satan" in all of us thought we could kill the Son and gain His inheritance. (a futile thought - especially since His

desire all along was to share His inheritance with us.) even today, men seek to earn the inheritance of eternal life - but one without God.

the light that had been momentarily snuffed out had again entered into the world, and with it came renewed assurance that all of scripture is given by God and is true; all the blessings and all the cursing. the Spirit of grace and truth had overcome the law of sin and death. a new age had been triggered by a timely event. a new revelation had been exposed. and with it, a new understanding and a new promise. not only shall we be with Him - we shall be like Him.

law was not to be the end all. the law was given that we might know how fall we have fallen and were continuing to fall. grace and truth has now birthed new life. we had now moved from "o wretched man that i am! who will deliver me from this body of death?." rom 7:24 - into romans eight - "there is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit." rom 8:1

the very first person He addressed upon His resurrection was a woman; perhaps among the chiefest sinners of all. His presence was made known by the calling of her name. "Jesus said to her, "mary!" john 20:16 He is still calling a name today - YOURS. will you answer Him? to all who will, He has promised to give a stone and a new name on it - and with it - a new life, a new likeness and so much more.

"you shall also be a crown of glory in the hand of the

Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. you shall no longer be termed forsaken, nor shall your land any more be termed desolate;; but you shall be called hephzibah, and your land beulah; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. for as a young man marries a virgin, so shall your sons marry you; and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you." isa 62:3-5

yes, these promises are for jerusalem and the jews, but we have now been grated into their inheritance - "not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit." titus 3:5

can you just imagine in your mind what a glorious day it will be when the veil is finally removed from the heart of israel; the veil placed there by satan and not by God? "and I will pour on the house of david and on the inhabitants of jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn." zech 12:10 as the apostle paul so eloquently put it, "for if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?" rom 11:15

there remains only one statement to make; only one question to ask. "how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him?" heb 2:3 our Lord and Savior is calling

still. is He calling your name? if so, what will be your answer? Jesus is coming again; coming to retrieve those that are His own.

it won't be long now and soon the whole world will be forced to bend knee and call Him Lord. will yours be a forced submission or a willing one? right now the decision is left up to each of us, but not for much longer. we will all come out of our graves as He did; some to joy unspeakable and some to darkness unimaginable. be sure. be very sure!