



His Ransom, Our Redemption!

Isaiah 53:5: (NKJV) *"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."*



"Almost a Whisper," Yanni

Sometimes, one life makes all the difference. Sometimes, all it takes is a mission, a lofty mission and a calling - a calling to do that which has never been done before and in so doing the mission is accomplished and the world is changed. Such a life was lived some 2,000 years ago. The mission and the calling compelled that life to change the course of humanity forever. It is this life, this mission and this calling that we honor today - Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior who gave his life so we might have life and is now raised to power on high!

"ENCOURAGEMENT"



We drop in on Jesus and his trusted followers on the night preceding his crucifixion.

The first order of business for Jesus was yet another lesson in Humility:

Luke 22:24-26: (NKJV) *"²⁴Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest. ²⁵And He said to them, **"The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them...²⁶But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves."***

Mark 10:44-45: (NKJV) *"⁴⁴And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*

John 13:3-9: (NKJV) *"³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, ⁴rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. ⁵After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. ⁶Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, **"Lord, are You washing my feet?"** ⁷Jesus answered and said to him, **"What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."** ⁸Peter said to Him, **"You shall never wash my feet!"** Jesus answered him, **"If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."** ⁹Simon Peter said to Him, **"Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!"***

After humbly washing their feet to focus the lesson of humility, Jesus reveals his Betrayer:

Matthew 26:20-22: (NKJV) *"²⁰When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve. ²¹Now as they were eating, He said, **"Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me."** ²²And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, **"Lord, is it I?"***



John 13:26-31: (NKJV) *"²⁶Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it." And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. ²⁷Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly." ... ³⁰Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night. ³¹So, when he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him."*



Piano, Jim Brickman

Jesus, now seeing the final stages of his life unfolding gives strength to his disciples:

John 13:33-38: (NKJV) *"³³Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot come,' so now I say to you. ³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." ³⁶Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow Me afterward." ³⁷Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for Your sake." ³⁸Jesus answered him, "Will you lay down your life for My sake? Most assuredly, I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times."*

Luke 22:31-32: (NKJV) *"³¹And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. ³²But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."*

Jesus continues His encouragement:

John 14:1-6: NRSV *"¹Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going." 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."*

Jesus now gives the tender lesson of the vine and the branches:

John 15:1-8: (NRSV) *"¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He (lifts up) every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."*

John 16:32-33: (NRSV) *"³²The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. ³³I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!"*

So in the midst of the uncertainty that the disciples were experiencing and with the weight of the world that Jesus was carrying upon his shoulders, Jesus takes this precious time to encourage and strengthen his brethren. He speaks plainly to them of the coming tempest and tells them to stand unafraid, for whatever it is that they will be faced with - he has already overcome it! He



reminds them of the necessity for humility and faith - essentially, Jesus shows them the way.

Now Jesus prays - he prays not for himself but for his followers to abide in the grace of the almighty hand of the Almighty God.



"Waterfall" Jim Brickman

John 17:1-26: (NRSV) *"¹After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him....⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had... before the world existed. ⁶"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ...and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours...¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name..., so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name...I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled....¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one...¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth. ²⁰"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me...(and) loved me. ²⁴Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵"Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."*

John 18:1-2: (NRSV) *"¹After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ²Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples."*



"Wall of Breath," Peter Gabriel

Matthew 26:36-42: (NKJV) *"³⁶Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there." ³⁷And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. ³⁸Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch*



with Me." ³⁹He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." ⁴⁰Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? ⁴¹Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ⁴²Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done."

Luke 22:43-44: (NRSV) ⁴³Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. ⁴⁴In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. ⁴³Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. ⁴⁵Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."



"The Promise of Shadows," Peter Gabriel

The Betrayal:

Luke 22:47-48: (NRSV) ⁴⁷While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; ⁴⁸but Jesus said to him, "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?"

John 18:3-11: (NRSV) ³So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" ⁵They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. ⁷Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." ⁸Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go." ⁹This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." ¹⁰Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. ¹¹Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

Luke 22:51-53: (NRSV) ⁵¹But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him. ⁵²Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, "Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? ⁵³When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!"

John 18:12: (NRSV) "So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him."



"Isengard Unleashed," Howard Shore

The night of trial begins:

John 18:13-26: (NRSV) and **Luke 22:55-65:** (ASV) **John 18:13-16:** ¹³First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year...¹⁵Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, ¹⁶but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. **Luke 22:55-57:** ⁵⁵And when they had kindled a fire in the



midst of the court, and had sat down together, Peter sat in the midst of them. ⁵⁶And a certain maid seeing him as he sat in the light of the fire, and looking steadfastly upon him, said, This man also was with him. ⁵⁷But he denied, saying, Woman, I know him not. John 18:19-25: ¹⁹Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. ²⁰And Jesus answered him... ²⁴Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. ²⁵Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." Luke 22:59: ⁵⁹And after the space of about one hour John 18:26: ²⁶One of the slaves of the high priest, confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this man also was with him; for he is a Galilaean. Luke 22:60-65: ⁶⁰But Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. ⁶¹And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how that he said unto him, Before the cock crow this day thou shalt deny me thrice. ⁶²And he went out, and wept bitterly. ⁶³And the men that held Jesus mocked him, and beat him. ⁶⁴And they blindfolded him, and asked him, saying, Prophecy: who is he that struck thee? ⁶⁵And many other things spake they against him, reviling him."

John 18:28-40: (NRSV) ²⁸Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement...²⁹So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." ³¹Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death."...³³Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this cause came I into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸Pilate asked him, "What is truth?" ³⁹But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a (thief)."

John 19:1-16: (NRSV) ¹Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ²And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. ³They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. ⁴Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" ⁶When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." ⁷The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God." ⁸Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" ¹¹Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." ¹²From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor." ¹³When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" ¹⁵They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." ¹⁶Then he handed him over to them to be crucified."



"CRUCIFIXION"



"Via Dolorosa," Sandi Patti

John 19:17: (KJV) "And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:"



"Nearer My God to Thee," Titanic Violins

Luke 23:26-28: (KJV) "²⁶And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus. ²⁷And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him. ²⁸But Jesus turning unto them said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children.""

John 19:19-22: (KJV) "And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. ²⁰This title then read many of the Jews: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin. ²¹Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews. ²²Pilate answered, What I have written I have written."



Mark 15:27-28: (KJV) "²⁷And with him they crucify two thieves; the one on his right hand, and the other on his left. ²⁸And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors."

Matthew 27:39-44: (KJV) "³⁹And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, ⁴⁰And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross. ⁴¹Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, ⁴²He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. ⁴³He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God. ⁴⁴The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth."

Luke 23:36-37: (KJV) "³⁶And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar, ³⁷And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself."

John 19:25-27: (KJV) "²⁵Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, **Woman, behold thy son!** ²⁷Then saith he to the disciple, **Behold thy mother!** And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home."

Luke 23:39-43: (KJV) "³⁹And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. ⁴⁰But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. ⁴²And he said



unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. ⁴³And Jesus said unto him, *Verily I say unto thee today, shalt thou be with me in paradise.*"



"The Passage of the Marshes," Howard Shore

So Jesus hung on the cross for hours. As he hung there, the people continually came by and reviled him.

Mark 15:33-36: (KJV) John 19:28 and 30: (KJV) Luke 23:46: (KJV)

Mark 15:33-34: ³³And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, *Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?* which is, being interpreted, *My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?* John 19:28: ²⁸After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, *I thirst.* Mark 15:35-36: ³⁵And some of them that stood by, when they heard it, said, Behold, he calleth Elias. ³⁶And one ran and filled a sponge full of vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink, saying, Let alone; let us see whether Elias will come to take him down. John 19:30: ³⁰When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, *It is finished,* Luke 23:46: *Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit:* and having said thus, he bowed his head, and gave up the (spirit)."

Matthew 27:51 and 54: (KJV) ⁵¹And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; ⁵⁴Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earth-quake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God."

Mark 15:40-41: (NRSV) ⁴⁰There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem."

It was in this manner that Jesus the Christ was crucified and it was in this manner that Jesus the Christ did die...



"Behold the Lamb of God," Handel's Messiah

During these experiences that led to this moment of crucifixion, it is hard to imagine what was going through the minds of his followers. They would have been scared and confused. How could this have happened? Did they begin to question everything?

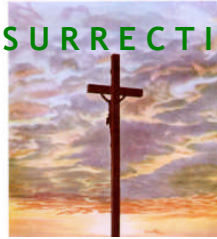
We will close this segment of "CRUCIFIXION" by "beholding the Lamb of God" and reading selected verses from Isaiah 53:

Isaiah 53 selected verses: (NKJV) ³He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. ⁴Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵But He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. ⁷He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth...⁹And they made His grave with the wicked— But with the rich at His death, because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth. ¹⁰Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief...By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities. ¹²Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the



spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."

"RESURRECTION!"



"Amazing Grace," Celtic Bagpipes

As we resume our story, we look at the events that preceded Jesus' burial and some of the posturing that the Pharisees continued to do to try and crush the influence of Jesus.

John 19:31-34: (NRSV) *"³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the Sabbath, especially because that Sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. ³²Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out."*

John 19:38-42: (NRSV) *"³⁸After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. ³⁹Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus... **Matthew 27:60:** (NRSV) *in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away."**

Matthew 27:62-66: (NRSV) *"⁶²The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³and said, "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' ⁶⁴Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first." ⁶⁵Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." ⁶⁶So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone."*



"Resurrection," John Debney

Mark 16:1-8: (KJV) and **Luke 24:6-8:** (KJV)

Mark 16:1-6: *"¹And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. ²And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. ³And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? ⁴And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very*



great. ⁵And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were afraid. ⁶And he saith unto them, Be not afraid: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: Why seek ye the living among the dead? **he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him...**

Luke 24:6-8: The angel continued: ...remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, ⁷Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. ⁸And they remembered his words, **Mark 16:7,8:** ⁷But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you. ⁸And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid."

Here was to begin a new frenzy of activity; for the resurrection of Jesus would not only energize the fragile followers he left behind, it would send a shock wave through all the nation. Mary would be the first to actually speak to the risen Lord. Peter and John would soon race to the sepulchre, only to find it empty. Now the realization of what Jesus had said all along would begin to sink in: He IS the son of God - He IS risen - He IS the long awaited Messiah...



"With this Love," Peter Gabriel

The Carpenter's Cloth

During Jesus' time, there was one way a carpenter let the contractor know a job was finished. A signature, so to speak.

Imagine a hot afternoon in Galilee. Jesus has completed the final pieces of a job he has worked on for several days. The hair of his strong forearms is matted with sawdust and sweat. His face is shiny with heat. He takes a final—and welcome—drink of cool water from a leather bag.

Then standing to the side of his work, he pours water over his face and chest, splashing it over his arms to clean himself before his journey home. With a nearby towel, he pats his face and arms dry.

Finally, Jesus folds the towel neatly in half, and then folds it in half again. He sets it on the finished work and walks away. Later, whoever arrives to inspect the work will see the towel and understand its simple message. The work is finished.

Christ's disciples, of course, knew this carpenter's tradition. On a Sunday of sorrow, three years after Jesus had set aside his carpenter tools, Peter will crouch to look into an empty tomb and see only the linens that the risen Lord has left behind.

A smile will cross Peter's face as his sorrow is replaced by hope, for he will see the wrap that had covered Jesus' face. It has been folded in half, then folded in half again and left neatly on the floor of the tomb.

Peter understands.

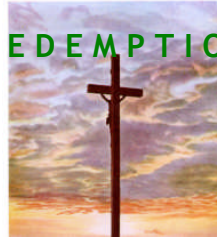
The carpenter has left behind a simple message.

It is finished.



It was finished, that part of his work anyway. Now he would go about the next phase - to truly enlighten and instruct his followers through their coming trials and challenges, for the Gospel was destined to grow through turmoil, persecution and patience. So, his next task would be to reveal himself to those left behind, especially Simon Peter, who would have to be courageous enough to face his past so he could learn to face the future.

“REDEMPTION”



“Gollum’s Song,” Howard Shore

What about Simon Peter? He had done the unthinkable - he denied knowing his Lord at Jesus’ most pressing hour of need. And he didn’t just deny him once - no, he did it three times...three times!! He knew better, he wanted to stand up for Jesus, but he was just too afraid, just too weak. Imagine what he must have been thinking those few days between Jesus death and resurrection - as we listen to this piece of music, let us hear it as if inside of Peter’s own mind, listening to his own voice accusing himself of cowardice and finding only lonely despair as a companion...perhaps much like we would when we deny our Lord.



“He’s Alive,” Don Francisco

When we see only despair, Jesus sees forgiveness...

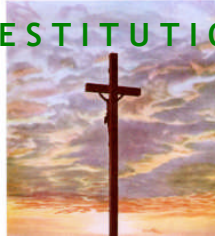
Redemption comes through forgiveness and forgiveness comes through grace. These things are the gifts that Peter was given by Jesus; for Jesus knew his heart, Jesus knew his potential, and Jesus knew that deep within Peter lived a fearless and abiding courage. So Peter is given a glorious redemption. Now it would be Peter’s turn to rise to the challenges of leadership - a challenge that could only be accomplished by standing upon the shoulders of his Lord.



“You Raise Me Up,” Selah



"RESTITUTION"



Isaiah 53:5: (KJV) *"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."*



"With His Stripes," Handel's Messiah

What did the life death and resurrection of Jesus really bring? We say restitution, but what does that really mean? Let's look at a number of prophecies that describe it to us.



"Hero's Dream," Jim Brickman

Micah 4:1-5: (KJV) *"¹But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. ²And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ³And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁴But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it. ⁵For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever."*

Isaiah 35:5-10: (NRSV) *"⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."*

Isaiah 51:3: (NRSV) *"For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song."*



"Rejoice," Jim Brickman



Salvation is for every man woman and child who has ever walked this earth:

Colossians 1:18-20: (NRSV) *"¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross."*

Luke 2:10: (KJV) *"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."*

1 Corinthians 15:20-22: (NRSV) *"²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. ²¹For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²²for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ."*

1 Timothy 2:3-4: (KJV) *"³For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; ⁴Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."*

Daniel 2:44: (ASV) *"And in the days of those kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall the sovereignty thereof be left to another people; but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever."*

"One Solitary Life"

an adaptation from a James Allen Francis sermon circa 1926

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant. He grew up in another village, where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was 30. Then, for three years, he was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a home. He didn't go to college. He never lived in a big city. He never traveled 200 miles from the place where he was born. He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but himself.

He was only 33 when the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied him. He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his garments, the only property he had on earth. When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave, through the pity of a friend.

Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race. I am well within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned--put together--have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that one, solitary life.

Revelation 21:3-4: (KJV) *"³And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. ⁴And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."*



As you celebrate this Resurrection Sunday, look carefully upon the events that happened with the greatest of thankfulness so that we can focus on doing what we should do to honor the Father and His son Jesus.



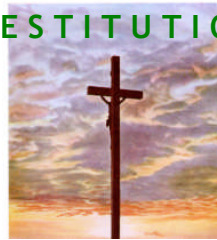
"Hallelujah," Handel's Messiah

*His Ransom, Our Redemption.
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*



For Your Continued Study...

"RESTITUTION"



Zephaniah 3:8-9: (NRSV) *"⁸Therefore wait for me, says the LORD, for the day when I arise as a witness. For my decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out upon them my indignation, all the heat of my anger; for in the fire of my passion all the earth shall be consumed. ⁹At that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call on the name of the LORD and serve him with one accord."*

Isaiah 65:21-25: (NRSV) *"²¹They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²²They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD-- and their descendants as well. ²⁴Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. ²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent--its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD."*

Revelation 11:15: (NRSV) *"Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign forever and ever."*