

AN EASTER REFLECTION

³⁰ Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all *people* everywhere should repent,

³¹ because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, *having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.*"

(Acts 17:30-31)

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE RESURRECTION?

Acts 2:22-36

²² "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know—

²³ this *Man*, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death.

²⁴ But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

²⁵ For David says of Him,

'I SAW THE LORD ALWAYS IN MY PRESENCE;
FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, SO THAT I WILL NOT
BE SHAKEN.

²⁶ 'THEREFORE MY HEART WAS GLAD AND MY
TONGUE EXULTED;
MOREOVER MY FLESH ALSO WILL ABIDE IN HOPE;
²⁷ BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO
HADES,
NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO
DECAY.

²⁸ 'YOU HAVE MADE KNOWN TO ME THE WAYS OF
LIFE;
YOU WILL MAKE ME FULL OF GLADNESS WITH
YOUR PRESENCE.'

²⁹ "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

³⁰ And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT *one* OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE,

³¹ he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY.

³² This Jesus God raised up again, to which we all witnesses.

³³ Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

³⁴ For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says:

“THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD,

“SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,

³⁵ UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.”

³⁶ Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.”

(Acts 2:22-36)

Meaning of the Resurrection

1. It means Jesus is Lord and Messiah

- the resurrection was God's vindication of Jesus in opposition to man's rejection of Him
- the resurrection was God's designation of Jesus as the exalted, glorified Son who reigns forever

Meaning of the Resurrection

2. It means salvation is available today

- Jesus is *now* pouring forth the Holy Spirit for new life and the forgiveness of our sins
- Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved

³⁷ Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?”

³⁸ Peter *said* to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

(Acts 2:36-37)