

EASTER 2024

March 31, 2024

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Last Easter during Sunday School we discussed three monumental historic days, which happened in a two-month time span nearly two thousand years ago. These three days again in chronologic order are: day 1, the Passover Thursday when Jesus Christ was crucified, and *...gave Himself for our sins... ..GALATIANS 1:4. He ... gave himself for me... according to GALATIANS 2:20. He ...gave Himself for... for His Bride according to EPHESIANS 5:25 if you study it closely, for she was ...the joy that was set before Him... as He ...endured the cross... as HEBREWS 12:2 tells us! Yes our loving Lord and Saviour Christ Jesus ...gave himself a ransom for all... upon the cross of Calvary as is noted in 1 TIMOTHY 2:6. And TITUS 2:14 informs us the He ...gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These are the five “gave Himself” verses found in scripture, all pointing to ...the GRACE of God which is given you by Jesus Christ... according to 1 CORINTHIANS 1:4. Note that all of these verses were written by our Apostle Paul.*

Monumental historic day 2 was that first Sunday Easter morning three days later when early in the morning Christ arose in victory from the dead. And monumental historic day 3 was the day of Pentecost fifty days after the resurrection of Christ, when the Holy Ghost was sent and the disciples were endued with power from on high! These three monumental historic days are foundationally important to all believers!

Concerning our day 1, the day Jesus was crucified, was there ever a more important day in the history of man? As you ponder this question in your heart consider in your thoughts this statement found in REVELATION 13:8 concerning Jesus *...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.* The day Christ died for our sins was carefully planned from the foundation of the world, so the importance of this day that Christ died for our sins can not be over emphasized, or under pondered. Concerning this day 1 our Apostle Paul also wrote in 1 CORINTHIANS 5:7 *...For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.* While Jesus was suspended between heaven and earth upon the cross of Calvary, after He had said “it is finished,” and gave up the ghost in JOHN 19:30, then we read in JOHN 19:34 *But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.* REVELATION 1:5 tells us that Jesus Christ *...washed us from our sins in his own blood.* Jesus purchased our redemption with His own blood there upon the cross of Calvary. ACTS 20:28 also informs us that Jesus Christ has purchased the church of God with his own blood. We read in HEBREWS 9:22 *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.* Then Peter tells us in 1 PETER 1:18 & 19 -- *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.* The blood that flowed from Jesus pierced side on Calvary purchased our redemption. This all happened on monumental historic day 1 of our lesson. Furthermore in JEREMIAH 2:13 and 17:13 we find that the Lord is the fountain of living waters. PSALMS 36:9 states: *For with thee is the fountain of life;... .* Finally we read in REVELATION 21:6 That Jesus also is the water of life. REVELATION 21:6 *And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.*

Monumental historic day 2 was that first Sunday Easter morning three days after day 1 when early in the morning Christ arose in victory from the dead. Yes Jesus overcame death, hell, and the grave, and is now sitting on the right hand of God. 1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-23 briefly explains the importance of this overcoming day, stating: *But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Yes indeed Jesus*

Christ is coming again! And according to 1 THESSALONIANS 4:14 He will bring with Him a cloud of saints: *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.* It was the mighty power of God that raised Jesus from the dead! The agency of the Godhead that brought again from the dead our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was the Holy Ghost! HEBREWS 13:20 tells us this. In HEBREWS 13:20 we read one of five times where the Holy Ghost is called the God of peace. In HEBREWS 13:20 & 21 we also are given instruction on how we too can be a full overcomer! HEBREWS 13:20 *Now the God of peace, (the Holy Ghost) that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.* If you want to become a full overcomer like Jesus was, you too will need the power of the Holy Ghost to bring you to bridal perfection. Christ Jesus sent the Holy Ghost to be with us forever on the day of Pentecost, which is our day 3 in this lesson, which we will get to in a minute.

Concerning our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ here on monumental historic day 2 we read in EPHESIANS 4:8 *...When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.* The Apostle Paul summarized day 1 and day 2 this way in 1 CORINTHIANS 15. 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1 *Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.* HEBREWS 1:14 informs us that angels are ministering spirits. The Gospel records tell of two angels at the empty tomb of Jesus on this monumental historic day 2 of Jesus resurrection. In MATTHEW 28:6 we read that one of the two angels told Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James this concerning Jesus: *...He is not here: for He is risen.* In MARK 16:6 we again read that one of the angels said unto them *...Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here.* In LUKE 24:5 & 6 we find these two angels saying: *Why seek ye the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but is risen.* Later that day our risen Saviour Jesus Christ Himself appeared unto the two disciples of Emmaus, and after He had revealed Himself unto them, they immediately went to Jerusalem, and told the eleven remaining Apostles in LUKE 24:34 *...The Lord is risen indeed!* Truly *...Christ died for our sins... and ...rose again the third day according to the scriptures.* One more important scripture concerning the events of day 1, and day 2 that is paramount to our salvation is what the Apostle Paul wrote in ROMANS 10, a scripture we often reference: ROMANS 10:9 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Monumental historic day 3 was the day of Pentecost fifty days after the resurrection of Christ! The day of Pentecost was the day the promised Holy Ghost was sent! Day 2 was dependent on day 1, and day 3 was dependent on day 1, and 2. Each event of these three days is monumental historic, and important to you, and me!

In the past year during Sunday School we spent several weeks discussing the time between the resurrection of Christ, our day 2 in this lesson, and monumental historic day 3, the day of Pentecost fifty days later. We find in ACTS 1:3 that after His resurrection Jesus *...shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.* The word “infallible” means: that from which something is surely and plainly known, or something that is impossible to dispute, or doubt as evidence, or proof. Thus we find here in ACTS 1:3 that during the next forty days after His resurrection that Jesus more than once, after His own passion, made several appearances proving beyond a shadow of a doubt that **He is indeed risen from the dead**, giving His disciples further impossible to doubt evidence that **He is alive**, and further instructions on the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. So what Luke is revealing to us here in ACTS 1:3 is that Jesus didn’t just appear unto His disciples two or three times

during these next seven weeks, but probably didn't miss a day during these forty days when He didn't show Himself to someone, or a group of His disciples. How many times do you have to be shown something before you finally get it? By the day of Pentecost they all had seen our risen Lord and Saviour at least once since His resurrection! The Apostle Paul even wrote some years later how that during these forty days after Jesus resurrection that our resurrected Saviour *...was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.* The Apostle Paul wasn't yet on the scene so how did Paul know this? Obviously over the next few years the Apostle Paul talked to many who were there, who witnessed our resurrected Saviour appearing unto them! Perhaps some of these witnesses were the very ones Saul of Tarsus had himself persecuted! Obviously these above five hundred brethren were not in a room, but somewhere else. So how was it that Jesus had above five hundred brethren gather together at one place? Again we reference JOHN 20:30 & 31, which the Apostle John wrote after fifty-five years of thinking about it: JOHN 20:30 *And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.* The fact that our risen Saviour Jesus Christ appeared unto more than five hundred brethren at once after His resurrection is another of these "many infallible proofs" Luke wrote about in ACTS 1:3.

A quick summary of these three monumental days is found in the following verses of LUKE 24. LUKE 24:44 *And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. 45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, 46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And ye are witnesses of these things. 49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.* Forty days after His resurrection Jesus ascended back into heaven with these parting words found in ACTS 1:8 *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.* Jesus was informing His disciples, and His chosen Apostles of the fact that it would take the power of the Holy Ghost in their lives to be enable them to be the powerful witnesses chosen before the foundation of the world by God to testify of the fact that **Jesus Christ is indeed risen from the dead**, and has sent his Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost to not only dwell with you, but to live in you, and abide with you forever! Furthermore The Holy Ghost, who is the Comforter, He shall teach you all things, and bring whatsoever things Jesus has told you to your remembrance. Additionally the Holy Ghost will enable you to testify of Jesus, and will guide you, and teach you, and reveal unto you all truth, and the truth is in Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life. {Study JOHN 14:6; 16-18; 26; JOHN 15:26 & 27; and JOHN 16:12-15.}

On monumental historic day 3, the day of Pentecost, the 120 in the upper room were *...endued with power from on high...* and they were not quiet about it as they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance. The languages these Galilaeans spoke of the wonderful works of God were in the native tongues of at lease sixteen different countries, and those in Jerusalem from these countries were confounded, amazed and marveled as to the witness they gave. Their noisy Holy Ghost inspired worship attracted a crowd in Jerusalem, and we began to see that day the power of the Holy Ghost unleashed. It was Peter, now full of the Holy Ghost, who lifted up his voice under the power of the Holy Ghost in ACTS 2, and gave the following witness in ACTS 2. ACTS 2:22 *Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: 23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: 24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he*

should be holden of it. Peter continues witnessing and tells them about David, whom all Israel respected, stating in ACTS 2:31 *He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. 32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. 33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. 34 For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, 35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool. 36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.* ACTS 2 ends with about three thousand souls getting saved on the day of Pentecost, and more getting saved every day there after. This was just the beginning of what it meant to *...be endued with power from on high...* as was stated in LUKE 24:49. This was just the beginning of what Jesus told them in ACTS 1:8 *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me... .*

A short while later in ACTS 3 Peter and John were entering the temple, and there sat a lame man over forty years, who had been lame since birth, who asked an alms. Peter full of the Holy Ghost, and by the power of the Holy Ghost said to him in ACTS 3:6 *...Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. 7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. 8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.* This miracle attracted a very large crowd to who Peter preached his second Holy Ghost inspired sermon in ACTS 3. Peter again preached of the death and resurrection of Jesus saying in part: ACTS 3:13 *The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. 14 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; 15 And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. 16 And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.* Here again our monumental historic day 1, and day 2 are again brought to the forefront. Peter concluded his sermon saying in ACTS 3:26 *Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.*

In ACTS 4:2 we find that the Sanhedrin council was *...grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.* They arrested Peter and John, and the next day Peter full of the Holy Ghost witnessed the resurrection power of Jesus Christ to the Sanhedrin. ACTS 4:8 *Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, 9 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; 10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. 11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. 12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.* The Sanhedrin council didn't like what they heard, but after further threatening Peter and John, they released them, and we read in ACTS 4:33 *And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.*

HEBREWS 12:1 & 2 states: *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith: who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.* The next time an event takes place in your life, and you feel like saying "I sure didn't need this," realize that this event, this thing, this test in your life, this obstacle on your race course, is being brought to you by Jesus the author and finisher of your faith, who is working **patience** into you **heart**, and life. Look unto Him. Let the Lord Jesus Christ be the

first thought in your **heart** in everything. You are His first thought, and the joy that was set before Him, so shouldn't He be your first thought in everything? Jesus will be first on the **hearts**, and minds of the full overcomer, and you know this to be true.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21 tells us: *For he (God the Father) hath made him (Jesus) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.* Jesus too wants to forever live with His Bride, but in order to do so He, who knew no sin, willingly had to be made sin for us. Christ's Bride was the joy that was set before Him as He endured the cross for her, for us.

The greatest overcomer of all time was Jesus Christ. As a man Jesus too faced many midnight tests, and this story Luke tells of the betrayal of Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, which was His last midnight as a man here on earth, led to His finest overcoming hour, which was accomplished upon the cross a few hours later where He died for our sins! **Jesus overcame death, hell, and the grave, and is now sitting on the right hand of God.**