

The Day Death Died
1 Corinthians 15:1-4
Tom Rempel – Faith Bible Church
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Son-RISE Sunday!

DA Carson probably summarized it better than anyone when he said, “The entire Bible pivots on one weekend in Jerusalem two thousand years ago.”

I want you to take your Bible and turn if you would to the great chapter on the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. This text is going to be preached around the world today, but we need to see it again for ourselves. The Apostle Paul with almost twitter-post brevity summarizes the heartbeat of the entire message of the Gospel when he says this ...

1 Corinthians 15:1-4
The Resurrection of Christ

¹ Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand,
² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you – unless you believed in vain.

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,
⁵ and that he appeared

Those truths are the heartbeat of the Gospel. “Christ Jesus died for our sins,” “He was buried,” “He was raised on the third day,” and He was witnessed, “He appeared” to many.

The question that you have is. “Where in the Bible did it say that Christ died according to Scripture?” Remember, the Apostle Paul is at this point simply penning the New Testament, so he is obviously referring, not to this text, but he is referring to the Old Testament itself.

Over seven hundred of you walked on the Redemption Road this weekend, so you have a very real understanding of the cost of the death of the Lord Jesus Christ and the price that He paid for your salvation. But was it really consistent with all that the Old Testament taught? I refer you back to the book of **Genesis**.

Genesis 22, we have the sacrifice of a son on a stone in the story of Abraham being called by God. At the age of a hundred he finally welcomed into his arms the long-promised son that would be the one through whom the **Genesis 3:15** and “the seed of the serpent will bruise the seed of the woman on his heel, but the seed of the woman will crush the seed of the serpent on his head.”

The Son on the Stone

Genesis 22

The fulfillment of that was to come through the bloodline of Abraham, through his special promised son Isaac. Yet when Isaac's about seventeen to twenty years old, God spoke to his father and said, “Abraham, I want you to offer your son.” And when you read **Genesis 22** ... doing a Bible study with some college students on Wednesday night, we're reading through there ... notice how specific he's being in **Genesis 22**. He says “I want you to sacrifice your son, your only son ... Isaac” ... unless there's any question about it at all.

And he obeyed the Lord, and he journeyed for three days north, all the way to what today is Jerusalem. It wasn't in that day. It was simply Mount Mariah. He journeyed there, and he took his son and he said to the servants, he said, “We're going to leave you here, and the boy and myself are going to go up on the mountain, and we're going to worship the Lord there, and then we will return to you after we have done so.”

On the way up the mountain his son Isaac looked at him, and he said, “Father, I'm carrying the wood for the sacrifice, and you're carrying the knife and the fire ... but where's the lamb?”

And his father said, “My son, God will provide the Lamb for the sacrifice.”

A strapping young man with a father of 120 years old, obviously he didn't have to submit to that. Yet **Genesis 22** says that his father "bound his hands and his feet, and he laid him upon the stone." And just before he lowers the knife to obey the Lord and accomplish the sacrifice, an angel of the Lord stopped him, and he said, "DON'T!" And there he found a ram caught in the thickets.

The story of Isaac and his sacrifice in **Genesis 22**, there is a picture, there is a portrait, there is a prophecy of One who is going to come. And He will be a substitute sacrifice for many.

The Blood on the Doors **Exodus 12**

The second one that comes to mind is in **Exodus 12**, and there are dozens, but we refer to this. This is at the end of the four generations of captivity and slavery of the children of Israel in Egypt. At the end of that period, after eighty years of preparation for a Deliverer, Moses raised for forty years in the palace of the of Pharaoh, and for forty years serving in the wilderness and herding the flock of his father-in-law, at the end of that time God calls him to go and deliver His people. And after nine amazing plagues, signs, miracle, they come to the tenth. And on the final one God instructed the children of Israel through Moses, "You are to select a lamb, not just any lamb, not something disposable to you, but a perfect lamb, the most expensive one in the flock. It can have no scars. It can have no stains. It can have no blemishes. I want you to take that lamb, and I want you to slit its throat. I need you to catch the blood."

But slaughtering a lamb was not sufficient. "When you catch the blood, I want you to paint it on the doorframe of your house."

And so on this night the Death Angel is passing over the land, and the firstborn son and the firstborn of all the livestock will be slaughtered by the Angel of Death, except for those who remain in the house where the blood has been shed, and the blood has been applied.

In the “Passover” of the of the Lamb there is a portrait of the Coming One that John said ...

John 1:29

“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Paul would say in his letter to the **Corinthians** he said, “Our Passover Christ has been sacrificed.” There is a portrait of a perfect substitute lamb. But the death of Jesus is not enough unless the blood of Jesus is applied. He says in **Leviticus**, “Without the shedding of blood there cannot be any forgiveness of sins.” There was a Old Testament portrait and prophecy that there was One who would come, and He would die in our place.

The Scapegoat in the Wilderness

Leviticus 16

The third one I think of is the scapegoat in **Leviticus**. You know the story of the Day of Atonement. They were to carefully select two rams, and of those, again, they must not be disposable ones. They had to be absolutely spotless and perfect without blemish, no scars, or anything. The priest would throw the lots, and he would cast lots for which one of those would be the lamb of sacrifice, which one would have its throat slit, its blood collected and sprinkled on the Mercy Seat for a covering for the sins of the people.

But the other one, on that other one, called the scapegoat, the priest would lay both of his hands upon it in the presence of the gathered congregation, and with a loud voice he would declare their failures and their sins. “God gave you guidelines. He gave you a law, He is a Perfect One, and you are an imperfect people.” He declared their sins publicly. Then he would take the rope, and that Lamb would be led out into the wilderness in order to die.

Isaiah 53:6

All (of us) like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned – every one (of us) – to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

Certainly our sins he bore in his body on the tree outside the city.

The Snake on the Stick **Numbers 21**

The fourth one that comes to mind is one of my favorites. Linda is back to reading through the Old Testament again, and so now, because her mom's losing her eyesight, Linda reads the Scriptures to her mom every day, which means that after an hour of that, there are just dozens of questions, so you can imagine what dinners are like in our house in the evenings.

They've been reading to the book of **Numbers**, and you come to the story of the "Snake on a stick," where the people of God had rebelled against God. And God, as an act judgment and indiscipline on them, He has sent fiery serpents into the camp, and they are poisonous snakes, when anyone is bitten by them, almost immediately they die of that. Moses cried out to God and he said, "God, do something for your people!"

I want to notice that God's answer was not to remove the serpents, but His answer was, He said to Moses, "I want you to take some brass, and I want you to make a serpent, and I want you to put it on a pole in stand it up in the middle of the camp so that anyone who is sinful and rebellious and is bitten by the deadly snake, if they simply look ... to the serpent on the stick ... they will live."

That's why in **John 3** when Jesus is hanging out with Nick at Night and He says to him, He says, "How is it that you being the great teacher of Israel, you don't understand that a man must be born again?" And then He used that reference when he says ...

John 3:14

(Even) as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,
(even) so must the Son of Man be lifted up

When Moses raised up the snake on a stick and the people by faith knowing that they were dying, looked at that by faith, they lived. So Jesus said, "The Son of Man must be lifted up, so that all who look to Him by faith might live."

One author put it this way ...

Before we can begin to see the Cross as something done FOR us, we must first see the Cross as something done BY us.

– **John Stott**

I was blessed this week on Wednesday night. At 4:30 I got a call from of my first associate pastor from years ago in Gothenburg, and after twenty-some years of pastoring a Chinese congregation in lower Manhattan, New York, he moved to Nashville where his grandkids are, and there he is pastoring a church. He was in Holdredge, doing a memorial service for his father-in-law, and he said, “Tom, I’m going to hit Lincoln at about 6:30, and I’ve only got an hour because I’m driving all the way to Nashville tonight, but I need to see you.”

I hadn’t seen George in probably a decade, so it was just like old times when he came. It wasn’t open yet, but we walked the Redemption Road and caught up on the news and all of that. As we were completing with the cross here, I said to him, “George, do you remember that time at the youth rally when we were speaking together, and right before you began that evening, you had us take six-inch nails, big spikes, and handed them out? Then you said to everybody there, you said, ‘Hold on to the nail, and don’t lay it down,’? And all through your message you were holding onto the nail. And at the end of the message you said, ‘Who held the nail that placed Him on the cross? He died for our sins according to the Scriptures.’”

What is the benefit for those? Just let me list a few.

Benefit number one, because He was crucified in that way ...

Fulfills All the Scriptures

We can actually believe the Bible to be true because all of the portraits and principles and promises and prophecies of the Old Testament had become a reality because Jesus died on the cross.

Secondly it ...

Satisfies God’s Perfect Holiness

His righteousness has to be met sinful people cannot stand and live in the presence of a holy God but because of the cross.

Romans 6:23

The wages of sin is death, BUT the free gift of God is eternal life thru Jesus Christ our Lord.

Number three it ...

Relieves Us of Our Debt

“The wages of sin is death. The word “wages” is a military term, as we said last week, for “a paycheck.” All that we can earn by our rebellion against God is death, and yet, by God’s grace He paid the penalty in full for us. He erased the record as though it had never existed.

The fourth one is, some of you need to hear this desperately, it literally ...

Frees Us from Slavery

... to our sin. When He died on the cross, He broke the power of sin over our lives ...

Matthew 20:28

For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life a ransom ...

... literally the deliberation payment for our sins.

And fifth it ...

Cleanses Our Conscience

It is a reminder that Satan will constantly bring memories to you, and you say, “Ah, why didn’t I know this years ago? I committed so many sins against Him. My memory is always nagging me on my failures.” But according to ...

Hebrews 9:14

How much more will the blood of Christ purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

But the greatest truth of all, in the Cross of Jesus Christ, we are ...

Restored to Fellowship with the Living God

Romans 5:1

We have peace with God thru our Lord Jesus Christ.

He is no longer our enemy.

As I came in this morning before the snow started to fall, I ran into one of our brothers whose son's funeral I did one year before we did my daughter's funeral, and I was able to look at him and say this, "Because of the Cross and the Resurrection of Jesus, our children are involved in a worship service that we can't even come close to replicating at Faith Bible Church. They are seeing the face of God. Because of the Cross, our broken relationship has been restored.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4a

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ^{4a} (AND) that he was buried ...

... that's the confirmation that His death was real. They buried Him in the tomb, but it wasn't his friends, His closest ones. They ran into the dark, scared to death for their own survival. But rather it was Nick who was a secret follower. It was Joseph, a rich man who had a tomb near where the cross was. And they quickly wrapped Him up, and they buried Him there.

But He didn't stay there.

1 Corinthians 15:4b

he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures ...

We're reminded that when Mary went out on Easter morning, the very first Easter Sunday, when she went there, she would've been satisfied just to have been handed His cold, lifeless body, and with that her soul would've been full. She no idea ... no idea that when she arrived in the graveyard, in the garden, that there she would see the resurrected Savior.

1 Corinthians 15:4b

He was raised from the dead according to the Scriptures ...

... and you say, “Where does the Scripture talk about that?” Let me just give you some illustrations.

Job

Job himself made ten trips to the graveside. Ten cemetery visits for his own children plus dozens more for all of his servants who were killed as well. The only ones that lived were the messenger that was to bring the word of the disaster that it stricken and where would Job find hope and encouragement?

Job 19:25-27a

²⁵ For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and at the last he will stand upon the earth.
²⁶ And after my skin has been thus destroyed,
yet in my flesh I shall see God,
^{27a} whom I shall see for myself,
and my eyes shall behold (it'll be Him),
and not another.

Abraham

We already talked about Abraham getting the message from God, “You are to take your son, your only son, Isaac, and sacrifice him on the stone altar on Mount Mariah.” Abraham left the next morning. It says, “And Abraham arose early in order to obey the Lord and saddled the donkey, and took the wood, and he took the fire, and he took the knife, and he took the servants. And he journeyed, as it were, three days to Mount Mariah.” His son was as good as dead the morning he got up early and headed north. He knew without question that he was going to obey the Lord. He was going sacrifice his son. For three days his son was a dead man to him. And yet ...

Hebrews 11:17a

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac ...
He considered that God was able to raise him from the dead ...

He had never witnessed a bodily resurrection before. The only thing that was close to it was a one hundred-year-old man was capable of fathering a child by a ninety-year-old womb. Apart from that, he had no practical resurrection experience at all, but he was convinced if this is the Promised Son, if this is the line

through which the Messiah is going to come, “I’m going to obey the Lord. And if I obey the Lord then the Lord is going to have to raise him from the dead.” **Hebrews 11** said he believed that ...

Hebrews 11:17b

... from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

The word “considered” means that “he looked upon” it, “he struggled with” it, “he examined” it. For three days as he walked with his dying son, he wrestled with, “How is God going to keep his promise?” And the only conclusion he could come to is, “I’m going to obey the Lord, and the Lord’s going to raise him from the dead.”

Joseph

Then I found this interesting one in the story of Joseph in **Genesis 42**. You remember that Joseph’s brothers had sold him into slavery, and they had been reunited after about twenty years, and his brothers come to him for survival. He recognizes them. They don’t recognize him, so in order to reveal himself and to test have they been changed, he said ...

Genesis 42:16-18

¹⁶ ... by this you shall be tested ... ¹⁷ And he put them all together in custody (he put them all in jail) for three days. ¹⁸ On the third day Joseph said to them, “Do this and you will live, for I fear (the Lord).

Jonah

What about Jonah? The great story of Jonah, and people like to say, “Well, that’s just simply a myth.” Jesus didn’t believe it was a myth. In ...

Matthew 12:38-40

³⁸ scribes and Pharisees (said to him), ... “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.” ³⁹ But he answered them (and said), “... no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ (Who) was three days and three nights in the belly of the ... fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in ... the earth.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance ... that Christ died for our sins ... , ⁴ ... he was buried, ... he was

raised on the third day (according to) the Scriptures

David

David put it this way ...

Psalm 16:9-10

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;
my flesh also dwells secure.

¹⁰ For you will not abandon my soul to (the grave),
or let your holy one see corruption.

So what are the glorious rewards for the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ? We repeat ...

Scriptures are fulfilled.

God's holiness is affirmed as satisfied.

Romans 1 says that God put His stamp of approval on the sacrifice of Jesus by raising Him from the dead, and ...

Our debt has been paid ...

... in full as though it never existed.

Some of you need this reminder ...

Sin's chains are broken.

You say, "Well, I can't help myself. I just keep committing these sins. I just keep doing these wrong things. I just keep rebelling."

If you put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ, you can help yourself. He has set you free. The bonds of your addiction have been broken in the Cross and the Resurrection. He says in **Romans 6** if you have been buried with Him in the likeness of His death and raised with Him in His resurrection to newness of life, how can you then who have died to sin go on living in it? His resurrection has broken the hold of sin in your life.

And ...

Our conscience has been totally washed clean ...

... because He is alive. He has raised us up with Him to walk in newness of life, and again ...

We are (fully) restored to God.

He is seated at the Father's right hand. He is our ever-living Mediator, because when we pray, He prays on our behalf, and we have a relationship with God.

Several years ago we were in Jerusalem during this time of season. It was Holy Week, and we were staying in a hotel. It was early afternoon. We had a break. I went down by the pool where lots of the Orthodox Jewish families were gathered, and on my way back into the hotel, one of the guys on our trip said, "You probably should've pulled the dust cover off your book."

I wondered why people were looking at me with somewhat of a hateful stare. I suddenly realized the book I was reading by the swimming pool was *The Murder of Jesus* by John MacArthur.

Jesus says, "I wasn't murdered."

John 10:18

No one takes (my life) from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down,
... I have authority to take it up again.

1 Corinthians 15:25-26

²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Death is our last great enemy. It does not get the last word. Someone summarized it this way ...

There is no resurrection without crucifixion.

There can be no Easter Sunday without Passion Friday.

There's no empty tomb without the Cross.

Paul goes on to say ...

1 Corinthians 15:54

Death is swallowed up in victory.

Acts 3:15

... you killed the (Prince) of Life, whom God raised from the dead.

They killed the Prince of Life, and by His murder ...

DEATH HAS DIED!