

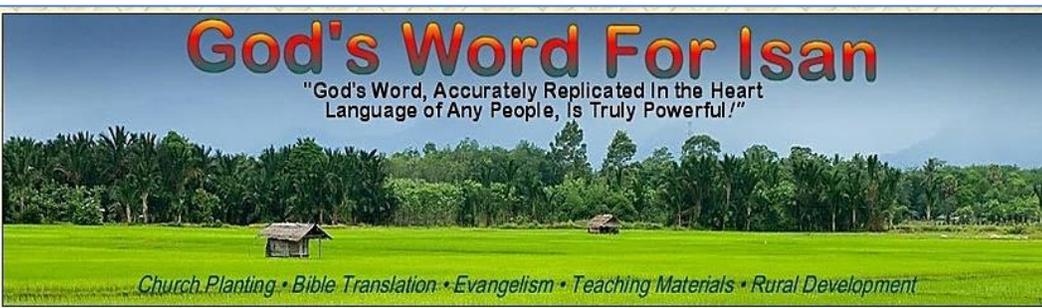
RON & CHERYL MYERS



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GOD'S WORD FOR ISAN NEWSLETTER

April-II, 2017

Is He Risen?... Is He Indeed Risen?

RISEN? REALLY? What Do The Scriptures Say?

By Ron Myers

Greetings Again In Jesus' Name—He Is Risen Part II,

The bodily resurrection of The Lord Jesus Christ is the undeniable, irrefutable, indispensable, historical and factual bedrock of Biblical truth which remains forever the underlying fabric of the Gospel message (*whew!*). In my recent newsletter, I mentioned that, to cover their embarrassment, the unbelieving Jewish leaders, who had Christ crucified, were busy inventing explanations as to why there was no body lying in the sepulcher. Namely, that the distraught and fearful disciples had somehow overpowered the heavily armed *Special Ops* team of elite Roman Soldiers that were standing guard over the tomb throughout the night. The soldiers had been sent there on Pilate's command, at the request of the Jewish leaders who wanted no more of this *man* that they had grown to hate... fearing Christ's disciples might try something.

The soldiers' specific mission was to guard against the unlikely possibility that the ragtag unarmed disciples might try to steal the body, hide it, then claim that Christ had risen from the dead, as He had claimed. The first problem with that is, none of the disciples really comprehended Christ's resurrection claims—although He had told them numerous times—until He later opened their minds to understand. (Luke 24:37-46) Second, why would they set out in a daring *Mission Impossible* attempt to overpower the fearsome Roman Soldiers, break into the tomb, steal the body, then claim Christ had risen. In actuality, the disciples were all hiding out in abject terror, fearing they too might suffer the same fate as their Master... a merciless scourging and horrible crucifixion. These realities destroy the theory that the Jewish leaders had feared might occur.

These highly disciplined, battle-hardened soldiers, upon experiencing "a great earthquake" firsthand, and seeing the glorious brightness of one of God's mighty angels sitting there on the disposed stone door, fainted "as dead men" and fled the scene in terror; AWOL. (Matthew 28:1-4, 11b-15)

The fact remains; if Christ's bodily resurrection were merely a fairytale or fabrication as skeptics claim, we who believe would be of all men most piteous. The Apostle Paul addressed this line of reasoning in I Corinthians 15. In verses 3 through 8 he lays down the facts of the Gospel in detail, and that myriads of people had seen the living Christ after His resurrection, Paul himself being the last to see the risen, Living Christ during his conversion experience, when the glorified Christ appeared to him on the road to Damascus while he was headed there to persecute Christians. (Acts 9). He then presents the argument what might occur if Christ hadn't raised bodily from the dead—we who believe would be left without hope, and Gospel preaching would be a falsehood. Paul ends with the truth that Christ *did* rise, and therefore our faith and hope is not in vain. (v. 12-20)

Even in more recent times, skeptics have fabricated a myriad of *theories*, attempting to explain away Jesus' bodily resurrection, keeping Him in the tomb, thus forever turning the Word of God and the Good News message into just another manmade religious myth... no more, no less. I would like to address some of these allegations as a followup to my *Resurrection Celebration* Easter newsletter.

Numerous atheistic sceptics have set out to disprove both Christ's crucifixion and His resurrection, feeling that if they could do so, they would have proof that the Bible is riddled with untruths. Of these were Drs. Lee Strobel (journalist) and Josh McDowell (attorney). Their research could find *no* evidence to disprove either. In fact, Christ's crucifixion is actually recorded in Roman historical annals. And, in regards to Christ's resurrection, there are "many infallible proofs" of His bodily resurrection, which led these two men to accept the fact that it *was* indeed all true. All they could do at that juncture was humble themselves and receive Christ. These two men are now in the ministry and have authored numerous Christian books... transformed from their atheistic past by the truths of God's Word. Concerning Dr. Strobel, there is presently a movie in theaters depicting his life story; "The Case For Christ." Josh McDowell has written in detail, facts he discovered in his quest on this subject in the following link; [Powerful Evidence for the Resurrection](#).

As Dr. Henry Morris (*Founder of Institute of Creation Research*) states in his article "[Impact of the Empty Tomb](#)," of these many infallible proofs, the empty tomb is the most conclusive ...with Christ's grave wrappings still lying there in place, undisturbed. He goes on to state that the many recorded appearances of the resurrected Christ to His disciples changed them from fearful weaklings to fearless evangelists—willing to die for their faith—because their life-giving Gospel message was founded on Christ's bodily resurrection, which they had experienced personally. And, it remains unchanged today.

In Mark 15:44, Pilate commanded his soldiers to make sure Christ was really dead before granting the wish of Joseph of Arimathea to take Christ's body down from the cross for burial. Yet, many modern-day naysayers have constructed various theories to disprove, either Christ's actual death, or His bodily resurrection. Of these, the swoon theory states that Christ didn't actually expire, but merely fainted from exhaustion and blood loss. Then, the coolness of the tomb revived him. That discounts the fact that seasoned Roman soldiers watched him die, and thrust a spear through his heart to prove it. Another theory is that Christ fled and another was crucified in his place, then He appeared again later, claiming He has risen. The stolen body theory began during the first century. Yet, if the Roman soldiers had allowed that to occur, they would all have been killed, but the Jewish leaders "fixed" things for them with the authorities, and paid them to say the disciples had stolen the body. Yet another of the many theories is that the actual tomb location was lost, and Christ is still dead, in that lost location. The testimony of the Roman soldiers and bodily appearance of the resurrected Christ to over 500 of His followers outflanks all of these theories. Meaning that our hope is not in vain because Jesus *is* our Living Savior, and His return from Heaven for us is imminent... Be ready!

By God's Grace and For His Glory,

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There isn't nearly enough room on this one-page newsletter to include all aspects of this important subject, which reminds me of these lyrics from the hymn, "The Love of God."

The love of God is greater far; Than tongue or pen can ever tell...
Could we with ink the ocean fill; And were the skies of parchment made
Were every stalk on earth a quill; And every man a scribe by trade
To write the love of God above; Would drain the ocean dry
Nor could the scroll contain the whole; Though stretched from sky to sky