



*April 17, 2022*

*“The Bodily Resurrection”*

*SS at 9:30. Service at 10:30 with King’s Kids.*

NEWS

Men’s Breakfast, Saturday at 8:00 ~ Middle School Class next Sunday ~ Church Workday May 7

330 N. Somers Rd. (Mail: PO Box 10626) Kalispell, MT 59904~ (406) 755-1776

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**JOHN 2:13–22** ~ 13The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. 15And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables; 16and to those who were selling the doves He said, “Take these things away; stop making My Father’s house a place of business.” 17His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for Your house will consume me.” 18The Jews then said to Him, “What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?” 19Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” 20The Jews then said, “It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?” 21But He was speaking of the temple of His body. 22So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.

After nearly 400 years of enslavement, God chose Moses to be His envoy to Pharoah.

It started with God conversing with Moses through a supernaturally burning bush. “Who shall I say sent me?” Moses asked God, to which God said in Exodus 3:14, “I AM WHO I AM” - “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” אֶהְיֶה אֲשֶׁר אֶהְיֶה (Greek ἐγώ εἰμι ὁ ὢν). In either language, it is unusual. It is the concept of pure and perfect existence.

God alone exists in the truest sense of the word. (Hebrews 13:8, etc.)

*Fill out the other side, detach this part of the page, and place it in the offering plate or the prayer/suggestion box in the lobby or with an Elder or Deacon of the church.*

*God Bless You!*

As the 10<sup>th</sup> plague, God would send the Angel of Death to kill all the firstborn of the land. Those who trusted in the Lord, could kill a lamb, paint their doorway with the blood and the Angel of Death would Passover.

God further instructed His people to eat the lamb without breaking any bones, along with unleavened bread that night in preparation to leave.

Jesus entered the Temple area and was confronted with what He had seen every year of His life – this was nothing new.

Jesus never lost it. Everything He did was precisely calculated for the purposes of the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The cleansing fulfilled several Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah, which served a few different purposes. It temporarily stopped the Old Covenant Sacrificial system. It reminded the Jews that the physical Temple would be replaced. It was a judgement on the House of the Lord. It was a huge miracle with a plausible deniability.

The key comes in verses 15 and 18. Jesus “Drove them all out of the Temple.” That was physically impossible. One man with a small whip could not disrupt that massive crowd.

Their response showed that Jesus’ claim to rebuild the Temple, all by Himself, in only three days was too incredible to believe... You need to ask yourself why it was too incredible for them to believe?

The statement by Jesus was in relation to His Resurrection. God Himself is our salvation.

Jesus is returning and when He does, He will judge the living and the dead. His judgment will start with the house of God – with His church. When Judgment comes, there is only one thing that will save you and that is a complete and total reliance of the completed salvific work of Christ Jesus on a Cross proven effective by His bodily Resurrection!

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Write a brief note – detach and place in the offering, or the prayer box, or give it to a Deacon or Elder.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



Alêtheia  
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



Alêtheia Christian Fellowship welcomes you to...

RESURRECTION  
SUNDAY

CELEBRATE THE SAVIOR

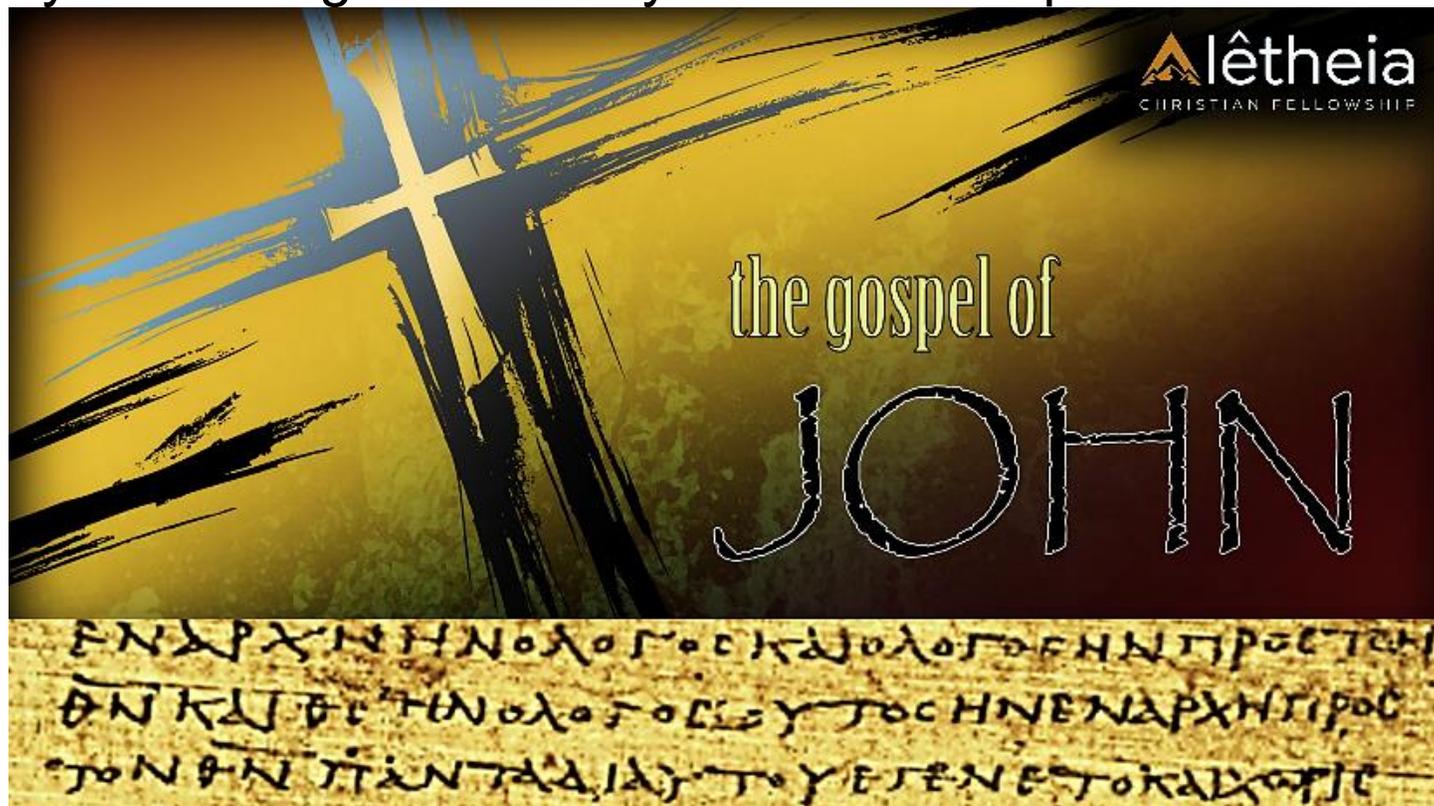
What we celebrate today is what we should celebrate every day. This is Christianity. This is the single-most important event in human history. Our Lord is not dead, but alive, because He is Life itself. He has defeated sin and so, death.



This is not Christianity. In my personal opinion – just my opinion, now – it is perfectly acceptable to enjoy the secular parts of Christian holidays as long as you remember the real reason we celebrate, and you know the difference.

Since the Resurrection is so vital to Christianity it would make sense that it would be woven throughout

Scripture, and so it is. We could take nearly any passage in the Bible and find the Resurrection in it and since that is true, we'll talk about this special Sunday by continuing in our study of John's Gospel.



Last week we saw where Jesus performed a truly incredible, supernatural, miracle that was a sign. A sign showing who He was and what He was going to do. His person and His mission were coalesced into one thing as prophesied centuries beforehand. God's Anointed was, in fact, God Himself providing a new and better Covenant out of the Old.

The Messiah was going to finally fulfill the Old Covenant Law, by accomplishing it entirely thus ushering in a New Covenant that by definition supersedes the Old. The water for ritual washing was replaced by the super overabundant, entirely sufficient, Blood of the Lamb.



John 2:13–22 ~ 13The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. 15And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and

overturned their tables; 16and to those who were selling the doves He said, "Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a place of business." 17His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house will consume me." 18The Jews then said to Him, "What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?" 19Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" 21But He was speaking of the temple of His body. 22So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.

This may be the most misunderstood and mischaracterized event of Jesus' ministry. Few people see it for what it actually was and why it was done. I hope to dispel any wrong ideas today.

John started with "The Passover of the Jews." That phrasing plainly informs us, that by the time he wrote this Gospel, approximately 35 years later, no Christian, regardless of their ethnic, or religious background, was

observing the Passover as part of Christianity. It isn't simply "The Passover," but specifically, "The Passover of the Jews."

As a quick reminder, the Jews went to Egypt as guests, but, in time, Egypt had a major change of management and the new team decided to enslave the Jewish inhabitants. That went on for roughly 400 years. A Jewish dude named Moses was raised by a member of the Egyptian Royal family and later exiled.



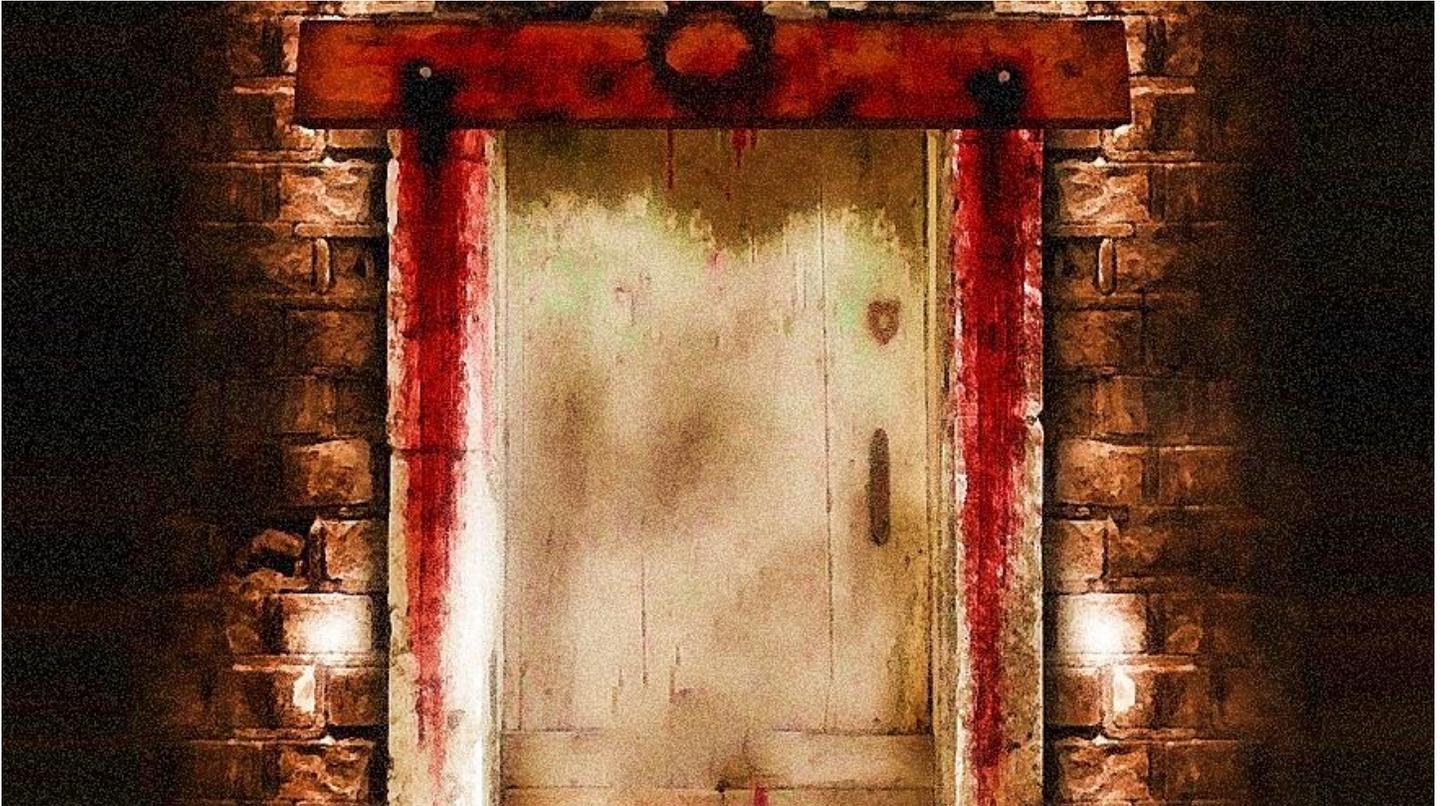
Eventually he was called by God to free his people through a conversation with a supernatural burning bush.

“Who shall I say sent me?” Moses asked God, to which God said in Exodus 3:14, “I AM WHO I AM”... “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” אֲנִי אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי (ě-yě ä-shěř ě-yě) “I Am that which I AM.” In the Greek translation ἐγώ εἰμι ὁ ὢν, Again, in either language it is an unusual combination of the verb “to be,” and it gives us God’s name Yahweh, which means I AM. It is the concept of pure and perfect existence.

What that means is that God alone exists in the truest sense of the word. Existence means no beginning and no end and so, no middle, which also means no change. The Bible declares that God is without beginning or end and makes it clear that He is unchanging and unchangeable as being the “Same yesterday, today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8) As I’ve repeatedly pointed out our English word Jehovah, as used in the name of the popular cult, is a mixing of the consonants of Yahweh and the Hebrew vowels of Adonai meaning Lord.

Anyway, God sent Moses back to Egypt and after 9 wild Plagues, Pharoah was still resistant to losing his

slave labor force of a million men. So, God said that He would send the Angel of Death to kill all the firstborn of the land.



Those who trusted in the Lord, could kill a lamb, paint both the vertical and horizontal frame of their doorway with the Lamb's blood and the Angel of Death would Passover that home.

Since this was to be the tenth and final plague, God further instructed His people to eat the lamb without breaking any bones, along with unleavened bread that night in preparation to leave. Unleavened bread because they were in such a hurry that they couldn't

wait for the dough to rise, nor did they have time to break any lamb bones to get at the marrow.

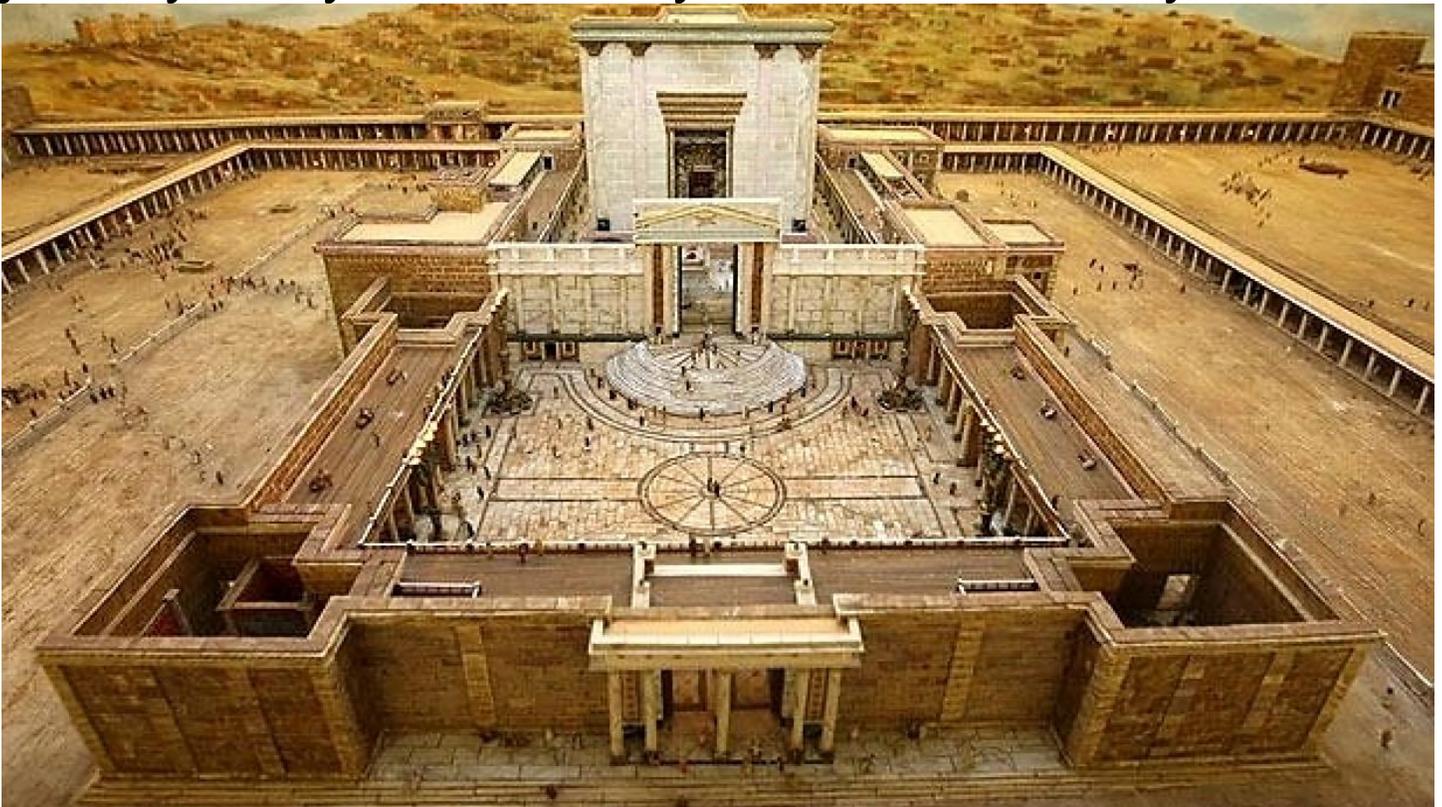
God told the Jews to gather together every year and commemorate this deliverance with what was formalized as the “Passover of the Jews,” complete with the week-long “Feast of Unleavened Bread.”



In the first century, this was the most sacred time of the year for Jews, and everyone did their best to travel to the Temple in Jerusalem and take part. In Luke 2:41, we have, “Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.” That’s the account of when Jesus was 12 years old. There’s every reason

to believe that Jesus never missed a Passover in Jerusalem during His earthly life.

Here we see him going once again with His family and now with some Disciples. I'm quite certain that on the journey, Mary told the story of Jesus as a 12-year-old.



Almost two decades later Jesus entered the Temple area and was confronted with what He had seen every year of His life – this was nothing new. His outrage and His righteous indignation were likewise nothing new. His purpose in cleansing the Temple on this occasion was purely mission oriented. The Father directed Him to take the action He took – it wasn't a wild hair, or a

spur of the moment reaction. There was a goal and an objective – this was not Jesus losing it!

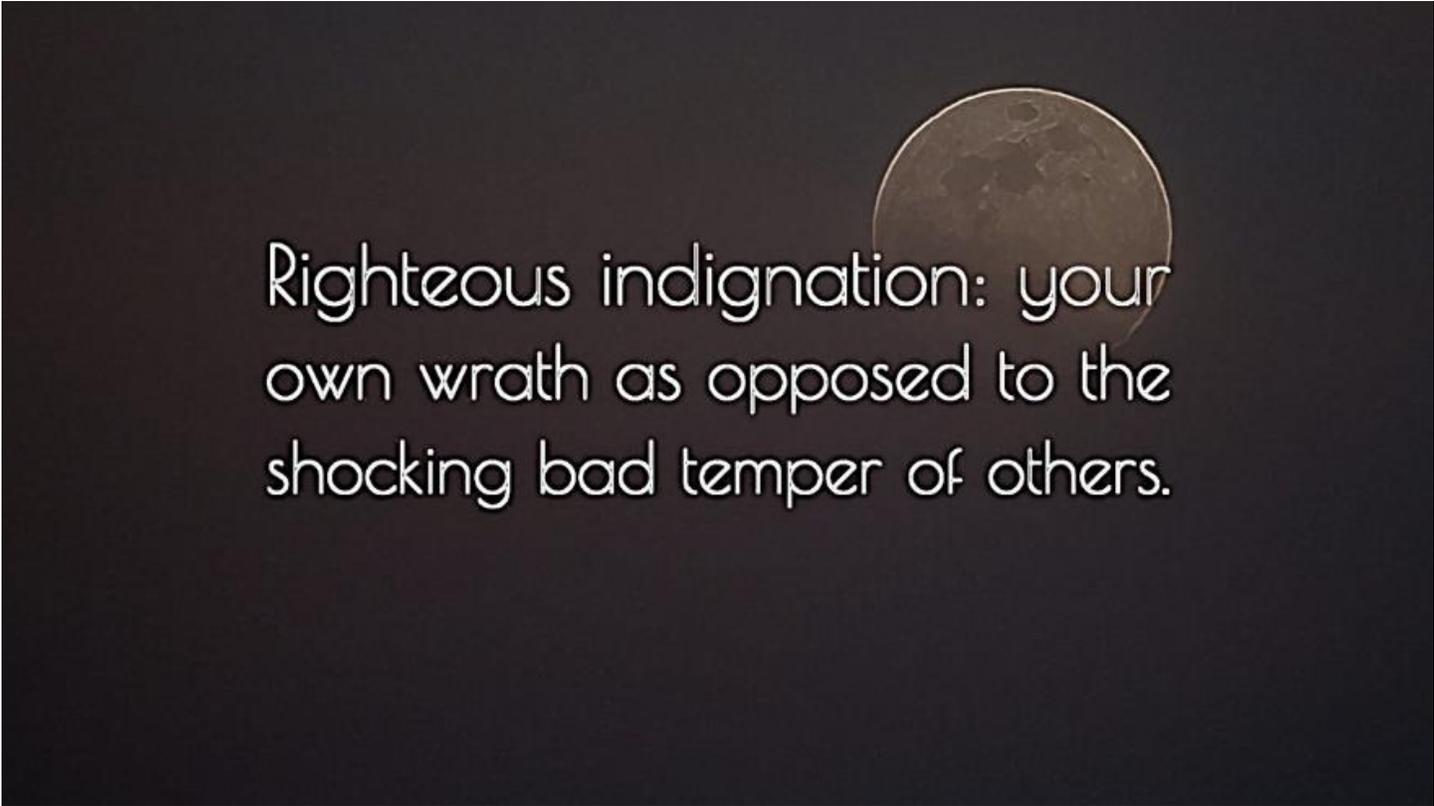
Jesus never lost it. Everything He did was precisely calculated for the purposes of the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. I mentioned last week that the Apostle Paul summed up the entirety of the Fruit of the Holy Spirit as “Self-control.”

There’s so much going on here that it’s often easier just to gloss it and make assumptions and then move on. Because it’s complicated and interconnected with so many prophecies and so much history it’s difficult to know where to begin, especially when I’m trying to get us to the most relevant bit for today.

Let me say two things... First, I’m going to give an overview of this passage today and go into more detail next Sunday, Lord willing. Second, the single-most important thing to fully understand about this cleansing is that it was entirely supernatural.

I don’t mean that it was only spiritual and so not physical, I mean that this was one of the most amazing

displays of Jesus' supernatural power – this, my friends, was a massive miracle.



Righteous indignation: your own wrath as opposed to the shocking bad temper of others.

That's the bit most people miss and because they do they get a completely distorted view of Jesus and then they do all manner of insanely vicious and violent things using this as a rationale – using the “Lamb who takes away the sin of the world,” as a validation for inhumane evil.

The Spanish Inquisition used the cleansing of the Temple by Jesus as their endorsement to torture millions of people, men, women, and children to death. They were cleansing the church of imperfections by

means of horrors that you cannot even imagine. All of it justified by appealing to the violent act of Jesus – talk about a travesty! What's worse is so-called Christians are still doing that today. Untold numbers of Christians today use this as an excuse to act viciously and violently against other people calling it "Righteous indignation."

The cleansing, as I mentioned, fulfilled several Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah. Those prophecies and so the action fulfilling them served a few different purposes. It temporarily disrupted and so put a stop to the Old Covenant Sacrificial system, hinting at a future where it would no longer be needed. It reminded the Jews that the physical Temple would be replaced. More than that, it was a judgement on the House of the Lord and perhaps even more, it was a huge miracle with a plausible deniability.



We'll take the last one first. The key comes in verses 15 and 18. Jesus "Drove them all out of the Temple." That is humanly, physically, impossible. At the time of this incident, during the Jewish Passovers of the early first century, there were between 1 million and 2.7 million people in the city of Jerusalem and the surrounding countryside. The Temple complex was huge, but the numbers of people crowding into the Temple Complex was equally huge. The press of humanity there to make their mandatory sacrifices and pay their mandatory taxes would have been enormously overwhelming. It would have been a chaotic scene with literally thousands upon thousands

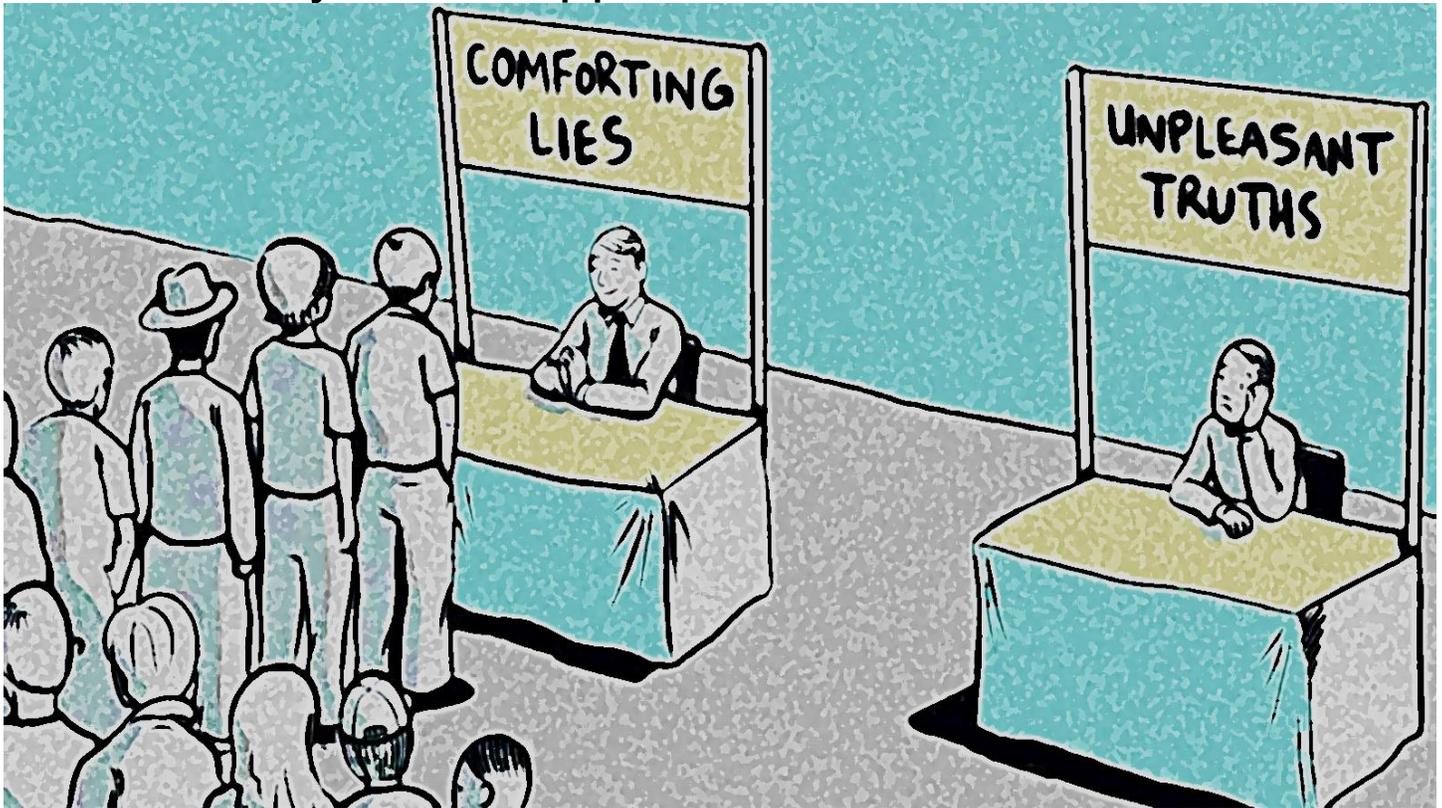
of people in close proximity. Imagine the entire population of Montana trying to get into our county fairgrounds.

One man with a small whip could not disrupt that massive crowd and if he tried, the people would simply grab him and probably beat him near to death. The scene we play out in our mind – the scene we've seen portrayed in plays or on screen or even described in books is impossible. Through a divine power Jesus supernaturally drove everyone out of the Temple. He drove out the people, the merchants, the priests, the animals, the birds. He overturned the money tables and the greedy people responsible for that money left the building without their money.

Please think about what happened. According to the Bible, Jesus made them all exit the Temple Courts. He cleared out 10's of thousands of people all by Himself and no one was injured in the process.

All those people and all those animals simply find themselves outside of the Temple wondering what just happened. Proof that no one was hurt comes not only

because no injuries are mentioned in the text, but it is confirmed by what happens next.



The Jewish leaders ask Jesus the most ridiculous question conceivable. “What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?” They are all standing outside of the Temple with all the other people and the animals, and they ask by what sign can you show us to confirm that you have the authority to shut down the Temple business? You’d think that Jesus would shrug and say, “Well, I guess the sign would be, that I just did it!”

For today, I want you to understand that Jesus never lost His temper, never was “Out-of-control,” never hurt anyone, but through the miraculous power of God emptied the Temple Court, thus obeying the Father perfectly, thus fulfilling Scripture entirely, thus confirming the end of animal sacrifice and the need for a physical Temple, thus announcing the impending judgment on God’s people.

Does anyone get it? No, as I said, it was an amazing supernatural manifestation that got everyone moved outside, but that is easily dismissed as the miracle was accomplished by getting people to walk out on their own two feet in a fairly orderly fashion. Now, standing outside, they quickly dismiss the divine nature and simply assume that they got caught up in the movement of the crowd. “Why are we all outside? Well, I don’t really know, but I guess we should go back in and resume what we were doing as though nothing ever happened.”



**“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” John 2:19**

**Jesus Christ**

To their ridiculous question Jesus replies with a reasonable answer that turns out to be far too cryptic for them to grasp. He said, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” His answer is legitimate when you consider the Old Testament prophecies that He’s just fulfilled, but of course they misunderstand the second part of His answer. They totally got that the existing Temple would be eliminated so that a new spiritually perfect Temple could replace it – that was part of the Messianic expectation.

Their response makes it clear that Jesus’ claim to rebuild the Temple, all by Himself, in only three days

was too incredible to believe... You need to ask yourself why – why was it too difficult to believe that God's Anointed could raise up the new Temple in just three days? The only real reason was that they refused to believe that a carpenter from Nazareth could possibly be that guy. They couldn't even begin to accept that the man Jesus could be God's Anointed, the Messiah, the Christ – no way. The Holy One of Israel would most assuredly be someone from the ruling class.



Someone with the royal blood of Aristobulus II, the Jewish King and High Priest 100 years earlier. Certainly not some common laborer from a backwater

village in the middle of Galilee, the country bumpkin province of the Jewish world.

If you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the truth. Of course, what is impossible is subjective. Their problem is they forgot that with God all things are possible. It was, of course, a test of humbleness and of faith... One that those who are sure of themselves, always fail.

The unbelievers retort that even with thousands of workers it had already taken 46 years to build this magnificent, but imperfect Temple – how could He possibly build a perfect Temple by Himself in only three days? It is a derisive statement masquerading as a question.

John then reveals that neither he, nor his fellow Apostles, got it at the time either. Even those following Christ closely need to humble enough to keep learning from the Master.



The statement by Jesus was in relation to His Resurrection. Well, a Resurrection is not possible without a death first.

Jesus was murdered probably two years later. Perhaps we will talk more about that next week. For now, what is of supreme importance is that Jesus was the long awaited Anointed One who was sent to restore right relationship between God and His children once and for all time by providing them a clean heart made of flesh, replacing their evil heart made of stone.

God Himself would be their salvation. That was the promise and that was exactly what was delivered. Jesus took the sin of the world and paid for it all and as He said, "It is finished." The proof that Jesus was the Messiah and that His sacrifice did work, that it was accepted by God, is His bodily resurrection on the "Third day." That what we celebrate today.



What was the Jewish role in the matter? Were they all God's children and all ultimately saved regardless of their attitude towards Jesus? No. A thousand times no! Billy Jack said, "Being an Indian is not a matter of blood, it's a way of life." That may, or may not be true,

but what God says is that being His child has never been a matter of blood.

There has always been Israel and the true Israel. As I mentioned another set of Scriptures fulfilled by Jesus that day had to do with God's holy and righteous judgement coming to the House of God. The Jews always looked for the Messiah to judge, condemn and destroy their enemies, but never stopped to think about the Biblical fact that God's Judgment always comes to the House of God first.

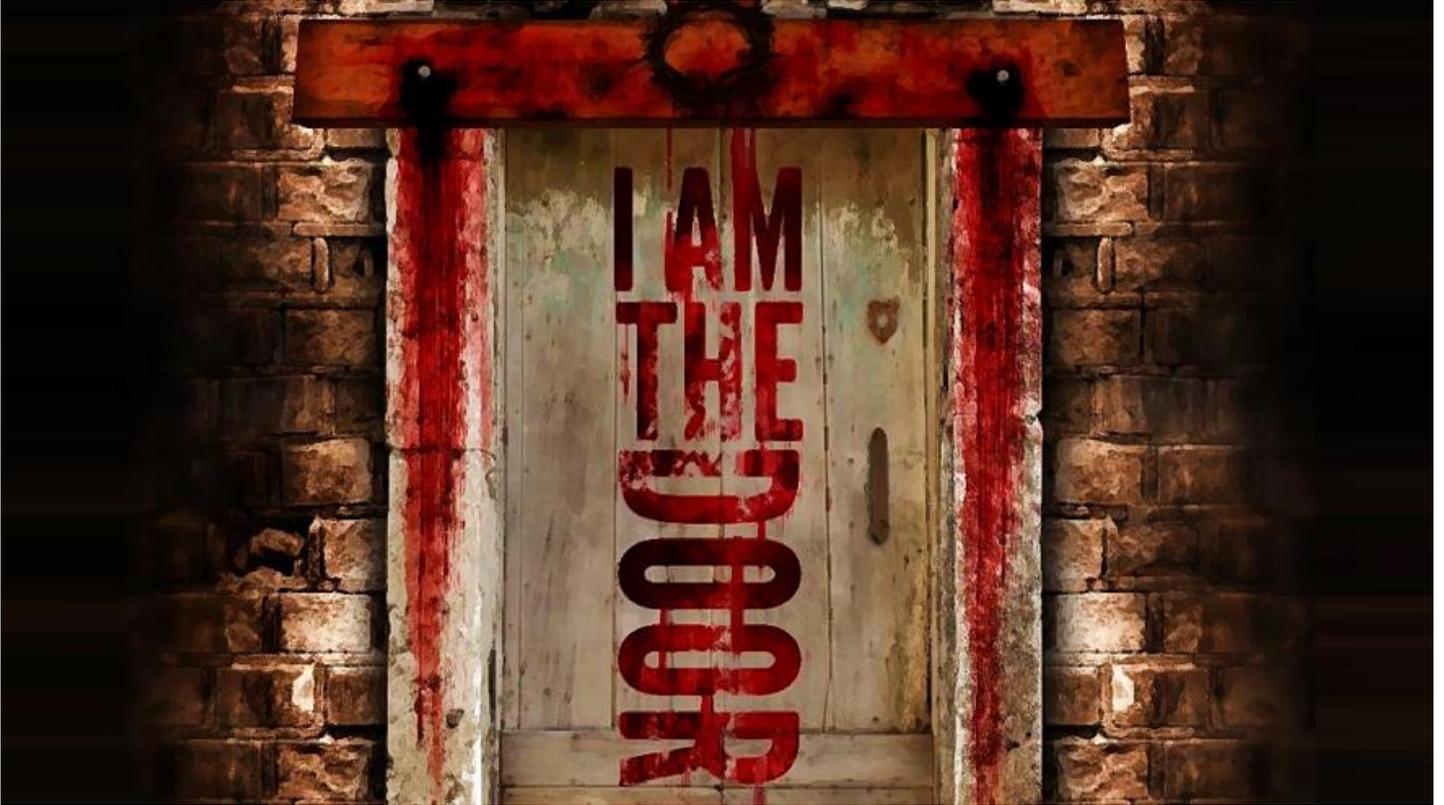
I'm certain that the people who had Jesus murdered thought, "God judging us?" Fine, bring it on, we're God's elect, we're the good guys.



What I'm telling you is that Jesus is returning and when He does, He will judge the living and the dead. His judgment will start with the house of God. You may wave that idea away just like the Jewish leaders did 20 centuries ago, and say I am God's elect; I am one of the good guys. When Judgment comes, there is only one thing that will save you and that is a complete and total reliance of the completed salvific work of Christ Jesus on a Cross. That is an entire surrender to His righteousness in place of your righteousness because He's the only one who has actually conquered sin, death, and the grave.



That's what the Resurrection is my friends. It is the proof that Jesus destroyed the power of sin which is the cause of death. To believe in Jesus is to believe in the Resurrection and to believe in the Resurrection is to make yourself ready for your eternity while you still can.



In my mind, it's already time to start cramming for finals. Even if you're only 15 and will live to be 95, that's a very short time to practice being like Christ.

