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THE INCREDIBLE STORY OF OUR RESCUE



Isaiah 52:7-10 (NLT). How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news, the good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns! The watchmen shout and sing with joy, for before their very eyes they see the Lord returning to Jerusalem. Let the ruins of Jerusalem break into joyful song, for the Lord has comforted his people. He has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has demonstrated his holy power before the eyes of all the nations. All the ends of the earth will see the victory of our God.

<u>Good News ("Gospel")</u>: Jesus Christ, through His resurrection, has conquered death and reigns as King. That He Himself has forgiven our sins and corruption. He has conquered us with His life and love.

Luke 24:1-7 (NLT). But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes. The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day."

THREE TRUTHS FROM THIS INCREDIBLE STORY OF OUR RESCUE:

1. THE INCREDIBLE STORY OF OUR RESCUE WAS [FORETOLD].

Genesis 3:15 (NIV). So the Lord God said to the serpent...I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

Jesus fulfilled more than 350 prophecies with His birth, life, death, and resurrection, given over a period of 1,500 years by different people, living at different times, and living in different places.

Isaiah 53:5-6 (NLT). But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.

2. THE INCREDIBLE STORY OF OUR RESCUE IS [VERIFIABLE].

The early church grew not from inspirational teachings or moral ideals, but from an empty tomb.

Acts 2:32 (NLT). "God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this.

3. THE INCREDIBLE STORY OF OUR RESCUE CONTINUES TO BE [TOLD].

This incredible story of our rescue culminated in His resurrection, but continues in a commission.

Acts 1:8 (NLT). But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Jesus died not only so that you can live in the reality of an empty tomb, but so that you can experience and live in the power of His resurrection.

Watchman Nee. "Our old story ends with the cross; our new story begins with His resurrection."

