

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of March 31, 2024

THEME: "The Resurrection"

### THE EMPTY TOMB

**Sunday** ..... **Read: John 20:1-10**

*"The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre."* The real triumph in Jerusalem came one week after the Triumphal Entry. Within that one week there was the trial and crucifixion of Jesus leading to His resurrection on the first day of the following week. Mary Magdalene and then some of His disciples had come to the tomb to pay their respects. Instead of a dead body, they found an empty tomb. They did not anticipate that even though Jesus said He would rise from the dead as recorded in Luke 24:7: *"Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again."* The woman found an empty tomb that Sunday morning, and others followed as eyewitnesses of the empty tomb.

### THE TRIAL

**Monday** ..... **Read: Matthew 27:1-2**

*"And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor."* Following the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, the word reached Pilate, the Roman governor, that Jesus had come to be the King in Jerusalem. Realizing that this would cost him his elevated position in the Roman Empire as governor in Jerusalem, he questioned Jesus. Jesus did not deny that profession to be King even though He knew that would come centuries later. Pilate really had no reason to worry about the rumors that were going around. Jesus remained silent when Pilate questioned Him which Pilate took as an affirmation that Jesus had come to be King. Jesus, who could have prevented it, continued on the path of being the Lamb of God rather than the King of kings. He will be the King of kings, but that is for the future.

### THE CROWD

**Tuesday** ..... **Read: Luke 23:15-18**

*"And they cried out all at once, saying, Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas."* Pilate realized the innocence of Jesus, but was finally persuaded to go ahead with the crucifixion of Jesus to satisfy the crowd. When Pilate gave them a choice between a hardened criminal and Jesus, they chose the sinner over the Savior. Only a comparatively few remained supporters of Jesus. That actually is a picture of the world today: comparatively few become followers of Jesus. That is what we are told in Matthew 7:13-14: *"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."* Sadly, the crowd of people miss the way of salvation by faith in Christ.

### TWO THIEVES

**Wednesday** ..... **Read Matthew 27:35-40**

*"Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left."* It is quite amazing, when you think about it, that Jesus, the Son of God, was dying on a cross between two criminals, who were suffering a punishment that they deserved as lawbreakers. The worldly crowd got their way and celebrated seeing the one they had come to hate suffering the fate of a criminal. Jesus, who could

have given the word to strike them all dead, was unaffected. If anything, He was filled with pity at their ignorance! He was dying to pay the penalty for their sins with the blood that flowed from the nail prints in His hands.

### **A PROFESSION OF FAITH**

**Thursday ..... Read: Luke 23:39-43**

*"And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise."* The two thieves on their cross on either side of Jesus are a microcosm of the entire world of all time believers and unbelievers. The one saw the light, the other remained in darkness. The one thief scoffed and challenged Jesus to come down off the cross if He really was the one He claimed to be. The other demonstrated His faith in Jesus as the Messiah and asked Jesus to remember him in Paradise, the eternal home of the living. That man is now in heaven because of his last minute conversion.

### **THE TRIUMPH**

**Friday ..... Read Matthew 28:1-6**

*"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."* On the first day of the week, God the Father sent an angel to roll back the stone from the tomb. The angel then sat on the stone. When the two women appeared at the tomb, they saw the angel who advised them that Jesus was no longer in the tomb. He had triumphantly arose from the dead and was now alive again. Jesus had conquered death, the ultimate enemy of all humans. Because Jesus had triumphed over death, His followers have that same assurance when life on earth ends. I Thessalonians 4:16-17 says this: *"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."*

### **THE PROOF**

**Saturday ..... Read: John 20:19-21**

*"Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you."* Many of the followers of Jesus had gathered together to share thoughts of all the events that had taken place. They were expressing amazement of what had happened. Thomas, however, needed reassurance. He said He had to see to believe. Jesus rather than rebuking Thomas, came and gave him proof by having him actually see and touch the evidence. God is truly a loving God and gives people ample opportunity to become believers.