

## *The Empty Grave & the Open Gates*

### I. Access to Love

#### A. The Gates of Righteousness

- Ps 118.19 Open to me the **gates of righteousness**;  
I will go through them,  
And I will praise the LORD.
- 20 This is the gate of the LORD,  
Through which the righteous shall enter.

#### B. Cornerstone of the New Creation

- 21 I will praise You,  
For You have answered me,  
And have **become** my **salvation**. (**yeshuah**)
- 22 **The stone *which* the builders rejected  
Has become the chief cornerstone.**
- 23 This was the LORD'S doing;  
It *is* marvelous in our eyes.

**David's unexpected ascension & ours**

#### B. The New Day

- 24 This *is* the day the LORD has made;  
We will **rejoice** and be **glad** in it.
- 25 Save now, I pray, O LORD;  
O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity.
- 26 Blessed *is* he who comes in the name of the LORD!  
We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.

## II. Jesus is the Message of God - Jesus is the Gospel! Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John!

**Differing Metaphors:** His nature is communicated in different images. God expressed as **Creator, Lord, Father, Physician, Shepherd, Farmer, Judge, Light, Fire, Eternal One**, and more!

His final message is in the Son!

## III. Jesus – The Name

### •The Great Rescuer

[Matt 1.21](#) ... you shall **call his name Jesus**, for he will **save** his people from their sins."

### • Lamb who takes away the Sin of the World

[John 1.29 NKJV](#) The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The **Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world!

### •By Death ABOLISHED Death

[2 Tim 1.8](#) Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but **share in suffering** for the gospel by the power of God, [9](#) who **saved** us and **called** us to a **holy calling**, not because of our works but because of **his own purpose** and **grace**, which he **gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began**, [10](#) and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who **abolished death** and brought **life** and **immortality** to light through the **gospel**,...

## IV. His Death is His Gift

*As He is dying... He's dying for us! ... It's His gift*

**John 10.17** For this reason the Father loves me, because **I lay down my life** that I may take it up again. **18** No one takes it from me, but **I lay it down of my own accord. ..."**

## **What WAS Christ doing as laid down His Life?**

(Early church Gospel. Pascal Homily of St. John Chrysostom)

**As he dies he destroys death!**

**Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free.**

**He that was taken by death has annihilated it.**

**By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive.**

**He embittered it when it tasted His flesh. ...**

**It was embittered, for it was abolished.**

**It was embittered, for it was mocked.**

**It was embittered, for it was slain.**

**It was embittered, for it was overthrown.**

**It was embittered, for it was bound in chains.**

**It took a body, and met God face to face.**

**It took earth, and encountered Heaven. -**

**It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen.**

**O Death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?**

**Christ is risen, and you are overthrown.**

**Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen.**

**Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice.**

**Christ is risen, and life reigns.**

**Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave.**

**For Christ, being risen from the dead, has become the first fruits of those who sleep.**

**To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.**

## V. The Gospel:

Sin (hamartia) is a disease, God is the Great Physician

- **God creates man in his image for perfect fellowship.**
- **Man turns away, sins and subjects creation to corruption, futility and death.**
- **God who is love, turns toward him, clothes him and goes with him out of the Garden**
- **In the fullness of time, He GIVES his Son**
- **The WORD who created us! He **seeks** us. He **heals** us. He **delivers** us. He **removes all offense**. He **forgives** us.**
- **To the most corrupt **Sanhedrin** and **Pilate & Barabbas & Soldiers & thief** that kill him, he says:**

1. **Father, **forgive them**** (also Barabbas) Lk 23:34
2. Today you will be **with me** in Paradise Lk 23:43
3. Behold your son, Behold your mother Jn 19:26-27
4. Psalm 22 Eli, Eli Did God turn His face from Christ?

**No! The Trinity cannot be *divided!***

*Ps 22:1 My God, My God.... (that's the first verse! Shorthand for the whole Psalm. Suffocating. This is what's going on!)*

- 14 *I am poured out like water, all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;*
- 16 *... they have pierced my hands and feet—*
- 17 *I can count all my bones—;*
- 18 *they divide my garments among them,*
- 19 *But you, O LORD, do not be far off!*
- O you my help, come quickly to my aid!**
- 22 *I will tell of your name to my brothers;  
in the midst of the congregation **I will praise you:***
- 24 *For **he has not despised** or abhorred*

*the affliction of the afflicted,  
and **he has not hidden his face from him,**  
but has heard, when he cried to him.*

27 **All the ends** of the earth shall remember  
and **turn to the LORD,**  
and **all the families of the nations**  
**shall worship before you!**

### Where was the Father during Crucifixion?

2 Cor. 5:19 NKJ ... God was **in** Christ reconciling the world **to Himself**, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

5. I thirst      Jn 19:28

6. It is finished      Jn 19:30

7. Into your hands I commit my spirit. Luke 23:46

- Descends into Death to Destroy Death,
- Opened the Graves.
- God Raises Him,
- He APPEARS to his friends!
  - “Mary...” Jn 20:11-15 (to the grief stricken)
  - “Peace be with you” 20:15-23 (to the fearful)
  - known in the breaking of bread (discouraged) Lk 24:31
  - Peace & a Meal (troubled & doubting) vv 41-42

Luke 24.36 As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “**Peace to you!**” ... 38 And he said to them, “**Why are you troubled,** and **why do doubts arise in your hearts?** 39 See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. **Touch** me, and see. For a **spirit does not have flesh and bones** as you see that I have.” 40

And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. 41 And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, **“Have you anything here to eat?”** 42 They gave him **a piece of broiled fish,** 43 and he **took** it and **ate** before them.

- **opened their minds** *nous* v.45

45 Then he **opened their minds** to **understand** the Scriptures,

- **RELENTLESS LOVE! You can't lock Him out! If YOU RUN, He will RUN TOWARD YOU! Ps 139:7-8**

**Are YOU tired of running FROM, want to run TO Love?**

**If you run TO HIM, you will be TRANSFORMED!**

**He is the Transforming One who changes individuals, families, nations. The Stone the builders rejected.**

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Through which the righteous shall enter.

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For You have answered me,  
And have become my salvation.

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## **VI. Rejoice!**

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O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity.

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