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GOD'S WORD FOR ISAN NEWSLETTER

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A Faith-based Ministry Sustained Through the Prayers and Partnership of God's People

The Tomb Is Empty – Jesus Christ Is Risen "Our Salvation Is Secured and We Have Peace with God"

By Ron Myers

Dear Friends in Christ,

If you were to describe the most important aspect of our salvation in three words, what would they be? They would be what the Angels sitting in the empty tomb told the women who came to anoint Christ's body. They announced; "He is not here, He is Risen" This is in all three synoptic Gospels; Matthew, Mark and Luke. In fact, Matthew 28:7 adds: "Go quickly and tell His disciples." It's a reminder for us during Eastertime to tell others about our risen Savior, more appropriately called "Resurrection Celebration Sunday."

And no, it's not a hoax! The Cross has been vacated, the tomb is now empty, and we, as overcomers because of it, are filled with hope, joy and faith. Not just during Easter season, but every day while we still have breath on this earth as we await Christ's soon return in the clouds for all believers (1 Corinthians 15:50-54 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). Every Bible prophecy has been fulfilled preceding Christ's return, including the final one - Israel's return to their Godgiven homeland and reestablished as a nation (1947-48). So, be looking up with anticipation.



If Christ's resurrection were a hoax, as sceptics claim, we'd all be hopelessly doomed in our sin.

We'd still be living in our heathen state, God would be found a liar and the Bible message would be just another fairy tale. Atheistic sceptics realize the earth-shaking immensity of the event, so have concocted a plethora of weak explanations to counter Christs bodily resurrection, all to salve their own unbelief and deceive seekers. These fabrications are easily disproven by reviewing the historical evidence.

That's what happened to the former-Atheist, now-Christian author and speaker Dr. Lee Strobel, who wrote *The Case for the Resurrection* and other notable case studies. Then, there's Josh McDowell, noted author and speaker who wrote the acclaimed Evidence That Demands a Verdict series and its condensed booklet: More Than a Carpenter, an outstanding explanation. Both former Atheists, they were absolutely against the Gospel. So, as a journalist and an attorney respectively, they set about using the skills of their respective fields to blow holes in the so-called *resurrection hoax... Not!* Neither of these two professionals, applying their investigative prowess, were able to disprove Christ's bodily resurrection, no matter how much exertion they applied. Both, left with only one choice, did so: **Believe!** The same was true of once-Atheist C. S. Lewis, the well-known British writer of *The Chronicles of Narnia*, an epic Christian masterpiece. So, Easter is not about goodie baskets, chocolate bunnies or colored eggs, as fun as they may be, but about the resurrected living Christ!



Where's the proof? Old Testament prophesies of a coming Messiah were all fulfilled in Christ. He kept His promise that He would rise again, victorious over sin, death and evil Satan. When visiting His disciples, doubting Thomas saw his wounds and believed. There were over 500 evewitnesses on one occasion. Others saw the living Christ, touched Him and watched Him eat, which He did to prove that He wasn't a disembodied spirit or a figment of people's imagination. He later joined two forlorn disciples and conversed as a stranger as they walked on the road to Emmaus. Their hearts warmed when He expounded Scripture truths about Himself. Grief later erupted into joy when they recognized Him as He broke bread at their dinner table. (Luke 24:13-35)

But what if someone is skeptical of the Bible and its accuracy, or is a scornful unbeliever, like the three former Atheists mentioned above? First, there are the terrified Roman soldiers who were guarding the tomb and gave testimony. There are the prolific writings of early church fathers who quoted multitudinous scripture portions in their letters. Then there's the secular historians of that time period who wrote about Christ. These include the Roman historian Suetonius; the Roman Senator and great historian Tacitus; Eusebius of Caesarea; and the first-century Jewish historian, Flavius Josephus (circa 37-100 AD), a Jewish general who led the Jewish revolt against the Romans, then wrote a historical account of those events. His writings are indispensable for a proper understanding of Jewish thought and history around the time of Christ. In fact, Josephus' voluminous chronicles can be purchased in book or digital format over Amazon at a very reasonable price, translated into English.

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In closing, a sincere thank you for your faithful support. Please pray for us; for wisdom, safety and the audio version of the Isan New Testament project. As you know, the printed version is already done and being distributed since June, 2016. The audio recording is also finished and segmented into chapters by my Isan coworker, Baaw Ter. We're now in the remaining stages; fine-tuning, producing and distributing.