

Lazarus!

A Pre-Easter Account of Christ's Power to Bring Forth Life!

John 11; Ephesians 2

Main Point

At the point of time in John 11, Jesus knew the next Passover (Easter) would be His last. He knew His disciples would struggle with His death. They were already worried about the Chief Priests and Pharisees plotting to kill Him. Jesus would remind the Disciples of His power to bring forth life from death by literally bringing Lazarus back to life. The event would also show how Jesus brings new life to those who are dead in trespasses and sin, Eph. 2:1.

God's Plan of Power

God revealed to Jesus a pre-Easter plan to show their power over death. This plan would involve the death of a faithful follower whom Jesus loved...Lazarus.

The plan would accomplish two things, Jerusalem would see Jesus was indeed the Son of God, and the Disciples would see a fresh reminder that Jesus has power over death shortly before His own death.

Recap of Lazarus' Death and Return to Life - John 11

1. Jesus has through prior visits formed a love for Lazarus, Mary, and Martha. They live under two miles from Jerusalem. In the throng of Passovers, Jesus would stay with Lazarus beforehand.
2. Mary and Martha messaged Jesus, and reported that Lazarus, whom He loved, was sick. Perhaps they thought that nothing bad would ever happen to anyone Jesus loved, since Jesus could heal anything.
3. Jesus knew beforehand that Lazarus' sickness would cause his death, and thereby, through bringing him back from death, all Jerusalem would know He was the Messiah, the Son of God.
4. Jesus also knew this event would solidify the resolve of Satan's minions in Jerusalem to kill him. But Jesus also knew this would make His sacrificial death on the altar of the cross possible.
5. Lazarus' death could not be disputed. If he was alive in the tomb, he would have removed his own graveclothes before coming forth. Martha was appalled when Jesus commanded the stone to be removed, and reminded Jesus that after four days, her brother would smell of death and decay.
6. Jesus groaned over the pain of death that sin brought onto mankind and wept.
7. Jesus returned normal life to Lazarus' restored body, versus resurrecting Lazarus into his new, eternal body. The Pharisees decided to kill Lazarus along with Jesus, to get the people to return to following them.

The Powerful, Beautiful Message, of Life After Death in Sin - Ephesians 2