

## SURELY, I COME QUICKLY

As a believer in Jesus there are basically some fundamental truths that each of us, as believers, are to hold dear to our heart. These truths are not the only fundamental truths of our faith. However, they are very much a vital part of our true faith in our God. I am speaking about our faith in Jesus.

We know that believing in Jesus and what He had accomplished is not the only fundamental truth of the believer's faith. We know that there must be the same fundamental belief in who the total triune God truly is. Our God is the Father, the Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit. Each one is God but yet together they are the One and only truly and living God. That is very difficult for any of us to truly grasp a hold on to and give it a true definition that is worth its weight.

The simple fact of the matter is that the truth of the concept of the fullness of the trinity is simply a matter of true undeniable - faith. The same is true when we speak of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We can explain them both to some extent and we can comprehend the truth that they are each God - along with Father God. Yet, we must also believe that collectively they are the One true God. As a true believer, each of us must believe that very fact - the three in one God - each one is God and the three, together, are the One true God. That is where our simple faith in who our God is comes into being.

The same is true when we speak of Jesus. We know that Jesus had come in the flesh. Yes, He was born of the flesh. He lived on this earth. He also died on the cross. Yet, as a true believer, we must also believe that Jesus was and is God. We must believe that even though He is God, a "spirit" being, He came in the flesh and died on the cross for each of us. He did this as an act of His will. This very action expressed the love that Jesus, the Father and the Holy Spirit had for all of creation.

Jesus was the first to have risen from the dead. He did so on that very first Resurrection Day which was the first day of the week, our Sunday, and a day that God had appointed many years earlier. It was actually one of the main seven Jewish feast days to be held within the year. It was called "*Chag ha-Bikkurim*" - the Feast of First Fruits. This feast day is held on the first day of the week (our day which we call Sunday) in the Jewish calendar that immediately follows the first Sabbath (Saturday) of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The day just before the beginning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread is known as Passover.

We know that Jesus died on the cross on the Feast Day known as Passover. Jesus promised that He would rise from the grave on the "third day," which He most certainly did. That "third day" we, as believers, refer to as "Resurrection Sunday." However, we must realize that our "Resurrection Sunday" is actually that Jewish Feast day known as the Feast of First Fruits, "*Chag ha-Bikkurim*."

I have written on this previously but just to "refresh" our memory, this Feast of First Fruits, "*Chag ha-Bikkurim*," was the only "Feast of the Lord" that God was very specific in giving the **actual, specific day of the week** that it must be celebrated on - "*the first day of the week*" which we now know as our Sunday. This can be found in Leviticus 23:11.

It did not matter what the day of the week that Passover or the Feast of Unleavened Bread began but **this "Feast Day" must be** celebrated on a very specific day of the week - the "first day of the week" **after** the "Sabbath" day (Saturday) of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. This would always make "*Chag ha-Bikkurim*," to be the first day of the week, Sunday, following the 15th of Nisan. This specific day was set by God from the very beginning. Everything else must fall in line with this very specific date.

Jesus, obviously, was the fulfillment of this Feast of First Fruits, "*Chag ha-Bikkurim*." Jesus rose from the dead on the "*first day of the week*." (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:2; Luke 24:1; John 20:1) Jesus was the "first of the first fruits" of all true believers in Jesus.

Jesus had fulfilled all the rituals/ aspects of the Feast of First Fruits. He fulfilled the "wave offering" raised and waved by the High Priest before Yahweh as the "first of the first fruits." This is implied when Jesus told Mary Magdalene while they were at the tomb, not to touch Him. Jesus could not be touched or be defiled before He, as the "High Priest," would present Himself as the "wave offering" to God, the Father.

We commemorate all of these events which have already taken place, as we celebrate the Resurrection season each and every year. We know that Jesus fulfilled these first three feasts of the Lord. We know that the fourth feast which is known as Pentecost was also fulfilled as we read of the Holy Spirit coming into the lives of the believers so they could go forth doing the works of the Kingdom. However, more importantly, they were empowered to bring the Good News of salvation to both the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.

We must realize and understand that these few things we have just previously mentioned are fundamental to our faith in our God – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. However, we must grasp and fully understand that is not where our faith ends. Yes, it is the crux of our faith but we must truly and fully believe without a shadow of a doubt that there is still more. Yes, there is still more that we will one day all see and behold.

Jesus did indeed resurrect from the dead. Jesus, we know from the scriptures, did ascend into heaven to be with the Father. However, the fundamental aspect of our faith is that one day He shall return to this earth. He will rule and reign upon it for 1000 years which is known to us as the millennial period. We know that after that 1000 year period, the scriptures tell us that the heaven and earth that we all know of will both "pass away." There will come forth a new place which the scriptures refer to as the "New Jerusalem." This will be a place where we will be with the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit forever and ever.

Yes, we may celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and His ascension into heaven to be with the Father. Yes, we are to rejoice over the fact that Jesus has given each of His true believers the fullness of the Holy Spirit to empower us to live forth our lives on this earth as His people until He does return. The most important thing for each of us to know and always remember is that, one day, Jesus will return.

That is our hope as a believer in all that Jesus had done. He did all that He had done but yet there is still one more thing that He is called to do – He shall return to this earth when the Father declares that the time has come. Jesus shall come back to this earth to defeat the forces of wickedness and darkness, both in the "natural" and in the "spirit" realm. Yes, the enemies of the Kingdom of God shall be taken care of.

The enemies of our God, both the spiritual forces of darkness and the human forces of wickedness (people) shall be destroyed. They shall be destroyed because of their own deceitfulness and by their own lusts. They will be destroyed by their own greed and by their own wicked ways. Jesus will come on that day and destroy them all. He will destroy them not with any weapon, nor with a great army. Although there will be the hosts of angels and all His true believers who will be with Him when He does return.

No, the scriptures are very clear. Jesus will destroy all of those who consider themselves to be the enemies of God simply by the "sword" of His mouth – His "Word." We must fully understand that there is absolutely no weapon that is greater than God's Word. Yes, it will be the Word of God that shall be spoken by the true "Word of God," the true Son of God - Jesus, that will destroy all of His enemies. The scriptures are very clear that there will be a great dirge of death and blood that will fill the Valley of Armageddon. All of that death and destruction will simply come by the Word spoken forth by the Lamb of God.

Jesus will then come to the Mount of Olives. He will look towards the “cemented up” Eastern Gate of Jerusalem. The earth will then split open before that “temporarily boarded up” Eastern Gate. Yes, the ground will open and unearth the Moslem cemetery that was placed there to try to hold back the true Messiah. The earth will open up to about twenty to thirty feet below what is there now. There, for all to see and be revealed will be the true and original Eastern Gate from 2000 years ago.

It will be the Gate in which Jesus made His triumphant entry into Jerusalem on His first visit just before His crucifixion on what we refer to today as “Palm Sunday.” That first visit by Jesus literally prophesied this “second coming” of His to Jerusalem. Truly, Jesus shall return as the true victor, the King of kings and the Lord of lords over all those who are still left upon this earth and over all the forces of darkness.

Yes, Jesus is the absolute, supreme and final authority over all the earth. He is King and He is Lord over all that this earth has and could ever have held or ever will hold. That is who Jesus is. He was sent by the Father to set men free from the bondage of their sin. The Holy Spirit was given to all believers to continue the work that Jesus began. However, soon and very soon that will all come to a conclusion.

The time is getting shorter and shorter. Jesus’ return is getting nearer and nearer. Take a good look around and see all that is taking place. You can see that the end is getting nearer and nearer. However, the Good News is that for the true believer it is not that the end is getting nearer but rather a new beginning is getting nearer and nearer.

As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus this year on this upcoming Resurrection Sunday never forget what Jesus has done. He came on this earth, died and took the punishment for all of man’s sins. However, Jesus, three days later, rose from the dead and went to the Father on our behalf and presented the “gifts” that were to be given on “*Chag ha-Bikkurim*,” Resurrection Sunday.

Jesus then came back to teach His disciples and prepare them for their task – to tell the world about salvation that is now available only in and through Him. On the fortieth day, Jesus ascended back into Heaven to be with the Father. He is now seated at the right hand of the Father.

Ten days later, on the Day of Pentecost, He gave all of His disciples, including all of us today, the Holy Spirit to empower us and lead us forward until He returns. However, always be reminded and keep in your thoughts the most important truth that we as believers in Jesus have – He will come again.

Jesus declares at the end of the Book of Revelation, “*Surely I come quickly. Amen.*” I whole-heartedly agree. I, along with all the true believers, declare, “*Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*”

I do not know about you but I can’t wait!!! Oh what a day that will be!!!

From Trish and myself, we bless you all and may you all have a very blessed Resurrection Sunday.

**HE IS RISEN - and HE WILL COME AGAIN - soon!!!**

*“...Even so, come, Lord Jesus.” – Revelation 22:20*