

“It Is Not Over!”

The Resurrection of Hope

Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb (of Jesus). Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it..(and said) to the women, Don't be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you.

Excerpted from Matthew 28:1-7NLT

I. The Message of Easter and All of Scripture: “It is not Over!”

- **The Resurrection of Hope**

1. Not hope promised by political parties or infomercials by rich people getting richer selling you their “sure formula” for getting rich...
2. Real hope is Bible hope...hope in God...so no matter what we're going through, we can say, “It's OK! It is not over!”
3. Jesus created hope...but all seemed lost at the Cross. Every hope and dream His followers had was gone...until the Resurrection!
4. The Angel rolled away the stone and “sat on it”! The “job” was done! A man had RISEN FROM THE DEAD...

The Angel did not roll the stone away to let Jesus out!

He rolled the stone away so everyone could see it wasn't over!

5. Jesus had a glorified body that could pass through solid objects! (John 20:19, 26)
6. The Easter message is simple: It is Not Over!!!

II. The Bible Is a Book of Hope

A. With God, It is Not Over!

1. Adam and Eve -The first man was the father of all men...He committed sin...and was driven from the Garden. But God assured him, even after he sinned, "It is not over!" Someone is coming who will restore you to my favor!

a. The famous painting by Michelangelo tells it all...God is reaching down to man!

b. Are you far from God today? It is not over!

2. Israel in Bondage - Centuries later, God's people suffered 400 years of Egyptian bondage. But it wasn't over. God delivered them...only to find themselves backed up against the Red Sea with Pharaoh's army rushing toward them from behind...they couldn't go forward and they couldn't go backward...but it wasn't over! God split the Red Sea and drowned their enemies!

a. Has God delivered you only to find yourself in an impossible situation? It is not over.

3. Daniel was a man committed to serve God, which only got him in trouble with the authorities. Into the lion's den he went...for a whole night. But it wasn't over! God sent an angel to shut the mouths of the lions!

a. Are you spending your night surrounded by your enemies? It is not over!

4. Jonah was a man running from God. He ended up on a ship sailing the opposite direction from where God told him to go. And God sent a storm that brought trouble to everybody sailing with him! They threw him overboard and the storm stopped! But Jonah was swallowed by a great fish! (Some say this story is just an allegory...but Jesus Christ Himself affirmed that it really did happen! See Matthew 12:40)

a. Are you in a storm because you've run from God? Have you been swallowed up by your problems? Have you been there 3 days and 3 nights? Great! It is not over! When Jonah cried out to the Lord, God had the fish vomit Jonah up onto dry land! Jesus compared His own 3 days and 3 nights in the bowels of the earth to this story...It is not over!

5. Joseph was a young man who loved God but he was betrayed by his own brothers and sold into slavery. (Anybody in here been sold out by your friends?) It is not over! Then he got promoted into service in a fine house...only to be lied about and falsely accused, getting himself thrown into prison. But it wasn't over! After 10 years of imprisonment, God promoted him...he ended up sitting beside the King of Egypt running the whole country!

a. Anybody in here in a prison because of false accusation and lies? It is not over!

6. Elijah was a prophet helped by a woman who was barren. He promised her a child and she had a son. Then, the child died!

a. Anybody in here ever had God give you your heart's desire and then take it away from you? It is not over! Elijah stretched himself over the dead body and God raised the boy from the dead!

7. I could tell you Bible stories all day. But why should I? This room is filled with people who've survived impossible situations!

- *Sinners saved by grace*
- *Healed of terrible illnesses*
- *Miraculously delivered out of financial catastrophe*

8. The testimonies of multiplied millions of Christ-followers over 2,000 years of church history continue to pile up to this day...and it is not over!

9. You either have a story now or you will have! You are either in a blessing or in a testing! It doesn't matter because either way it is not over!

10. The worst disaster in human history was the crucifixion of the Son of God! The One Who made us came to bring us back to the Father...and we killed Him. But it wasn't over!

B. The Message of Resurrection Is a Message of Hope

1. The certainty of the resurrection of Jesus guarantees the certainty of our own resurrection!

2. If Jesus told the truth about His own resurrection, He was telling the truth about yours and mine! When we die, we will wake up alive and know, it is not over!

3. The Bible assures us that it is not over when we die! It goes on. And resurrection is for everyone...the holy and unholy...believer and non-believer!

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell

were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.
Revelation 20:11-15

III. Conclusion: It is Not Over...But One Day It Will Be!

- **The Lamb's Book Of Life Is A Work In Progress**

1. There *will* be a day when the book of life is over...a future moment when the book is finished and what's done is done.

a. Noah preached righteousness for 120 years, but one day, after all who believed entered the Ark, God shut the door.

On that same day Noah and his wife went into the boat with their three sons...and their wives. With...every kind of animal...as God had commanded. Then the Lord shut the door behind Noah.
Excerpted from Genesis 7:13-16 Today's English Version

b. Judgment is coming. Come into God's Ark...which is Jesus Christ!

2. It is not over as long as God is calling, inviting, offering you Christ...working in your conscious, drawing you toward spiritual things...But one day it will be over.

Then the Lord said, My Spirit shall not strive with man forever,
Genesis 6:3

3. We aren't promised tomorrow...but we have today!

(I, Paul)...urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain — for (God) says, At the acceptable time I listened to you, And on the day of salvation I helped you; behold, now is the acceptable time, behold, now is the day of salvation —
Excerpted from 2 Corinthians 6:1-3 NASB

4. If you have received His grace, whatever trouble you're in...marriage, finances, legal issues, tax problems...It is not over!

5. But if you have NOT come...come now! Come today! While we can still say, "It is not over!"