

“THE MESSAGE OF THE EASTER ANGEL”

MARK 16:1-8

INTRODUCTION

THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE, GOD USED ANGELS TO MAKE SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS TO HUMANS. FOR INSTANCE, HE USED AN ANGEL TO:

1. SEND A MESSAGE OF DESTRUCTION TO LOT IN SODOM — GEN. 19

2. ANNOUNCE THE BIRTH OF SAMSON — JUDGES. 13

3. ANNOUNCE THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST — LUKE 1

4. ANNOUNCE THE CONCEPTION OF CHRIST — LUKE 1:11

5. ANNOUNCE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST — LUKE 2:8-14

IT SEEMS THAT WHEN GOD HAS AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXTREME IMPORTANCE, HE OFTEN SENDS THAT MESSAGE THROUGH AN ANGEL.

FROM READING THE BIBLE, IT KIND OF MAKES YOU WONDER IF ANGELS EVER GET A DAY OFF!

IN OUR TEXT, WE ARE PRESENTED WITH AN ANGEL THAT MADE AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT STILL ECHOES THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE ALMOST 2,000 YEARS LATER.

IT IS THIS SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THAT EASTER ANGEL THAT I WANT US TO CONSIDER THIS MORNING.

ON THAT FIRST EASTER MORNING, AS DAWN WAS BREAKING ON A WORLD THAT WAS FOREVER CHANGED, A SPECIAL ANGEL DELIVERED A SPECIAL MESSAGE, A MESSAGE THAT IS STILL VITAL TODAY.

LET'S TAKE JUST A FEW MOMENTS TO HEAR THE MESSAGE OF THE EASTER ANGEL.

ILLUSTRATE THE CONTEXT

FEAR AND DREAD FILLED THE HEARTS OF THIS LITTLE BAND OF WOMEN AS THEY MADE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE STILL AND DARK STREETS OF JERUSALEM EARLY THAT SUNDAY MORNING.

THEY WERE GOING TO THE TOMB OF THE MAN THEY HAD ALL BELIEVED TO BE THE MESSIAH, THE MAN FOR WHOM THEY HAD LEFT ALL OTHER THINGS BEHIND.

THEY WERE GOING TO THE TOMB OF A MAN WHO HAD PROMISED LIFE TO ALL WHO CAME UNTO HIM, BUT WHO WAS NOW, HIMSELF, DEAD.

CERTAINLY, THEY WERE CONFUSED AND CONFOUNDED AS THEY CAME NEAR THE TOMB.

THEY WERE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE HUGE STONE THAT COVERED THE DOOR INTO THE TOMB.

HOW WOULD THEY EVER GAIN ACCESS TO THE BODY?

HOW COULD THESE THREE WOMEN EVER HOPE TO MOVE A STONE THAT WEIGHED SEVERAL HUNDRED POUNDS?

YET THEY PROCEEDED, CARRIED ALONG BY THEIR TENDER MISSION, THAT OF FINISHING THE PREPARATIONS FOR BURIAL OF THE BODY OF CHRIST.

AS THEY CAME WITHIN SIGHT OF THE TOMB, THEY WERE ASTOUNDED TO SEE THE STONE ROLLED AWAY AND THE ROMAN GUARDS LYING LIKE DEAD MEN ALL AROUND THE MOUTH OF THE TOMB.

SEEING THIS, THEY RAN TO THE TOMB AND LOOKED IN, ONLY TO FIND THAT THE BODY OF JESUS WAS GONE.

WHAT FEAR MUST HAVE GRIPPED THEIR HEARTS!

PERHAPS THEY FEARED THAT THE JEWISH RULERS OR THE ROMANS HAD TAKEN THE BODY TO PREVENT HIS DISCIPLES FROM FAKING HIS RESURRECTION.

MAYBE THEY SUSPECTED THAT GRAVE ROBBERS HAD TAKEN THE BODY AND WOULD USE IT IN SOME EXTORTION PLOT.

WHATEVER THE DOUBTS AND CONCERNS THAT MAY HAVE FILLED THEIR HEARTS, THEY WERE SHORT LIVED.

BECAUSE, SUDDENLY, THE WOMEN NOTICED A "YOUNG MAN" SITTING UPON THE STONE, MATT. 28:2-3.

THIS ANGEL SEES THEIR FEAR AND BEGINS TO SPEAK TO THEM.

IN DOING SO, HE DELIVERS A MESSAGE OF HOPE THAT STILL HAS THE POWER TO CHANGE LIVES THIS MORNING.

LET'S LISTEN IN AND HEAR FOR OURSELVES "THE MESSAGE OF THE EASTER ANGEL."

(I). ACCORDING TO VERSE 6a, IT IS A MESSAGE OF PEACE. "BE NOT AFFRIGHTED".

(A). IMAGINE THE FEAR THESE LADIES MUST HAVE FELT UPON SEEING THE ANGEL.

(1). BUT THE FIRST WORDS FROM THE LIPS OF THE ANGEL ARE WORDS OF PEACE.

(2). YET, THIS IS HOW THE LORD ALWAYS DEALS WITH HIS PEOPLE.

(a). 2 TIM. 1:7. "FOR GOD HAS NOT GIVEN US THE SPIRIT OF FEAR; BUT OF POWER, AND OF LOVE, AND OF A SOUND MIND."

(B). IT IS VERY APPROPRIATE THAT HIS RESURRECTION SHOULD BE ATTENDED WITH A MESSAGE OF PEACE.

**(1). BECAUSE AFTER 2,000 YEARS,
HIS RESURRECTION FROM THE
DEAD IS STILL BRINGING THAT
SAME MESSAGE OF PEACE TO THE
HEARTS OF ALL WHO BELIEVE IN
HIM!**

**(C). NOTICE JUST A FEW OF THE AREA OF
LIFE WHERE HIS RESURRECTION GIVES
PEACE:**

(1). SALVATION.

**(a). HEB. 7:25. "WHEREFORE HE
IS ABLE ALSO TO SAVE
THEM TO THE UTTERMOST
THAT COME UNTO GOD BY
HIM, SEEING HE EVER
LIVETH TO MAKE
INTERCESSION FOR THEM."**

(2). DEATH.

**(a). JOHN 11:25-26. "AND JESUS
SAID UNTO HER, I AM THE
RESURRECTION AND THE
LIFE; HE THAT BELIEVETH
IN ME, THOUGH HE WERE
DEAD, YET SHALL HE LIVE.
AND WHOSOEVER LIVETH
AND BELIEVETH IN ME
SHALL NEVER DIE."**

(3). ETERNITY.

**(a). REVELATION 1:13-18, JOHN
SAW A GLIMPSE OF THE**

**GLORIFIED CHRIST AND HE
IS DOING WELL!**

**(b). JOHN 14:1-3, HE IS ALIVE
AND WAITING ON HIS
CHILDREN TO COME HOME!**

(4). LIFE ITSELF.

**(a). JOHN 14:16-18. “AND I WILL
PRAY THE FATHER AND HE
SHALL GIVE YOU ANOTHER
COMFORTER, THAT HE
MAY ABIDE WITH YOU
FOREVER.”**

**(D). I DON’T KNOW ABOUT YOU FOLKS,
BUT THOSE THINGS GIVE ME TRUE
PEACE OF HEART!**

**(II). IT IS NOT ONLY A MESSAGE OF PEACE, BUT
ACCORDING TO VERSE 6b, IT IS ALSO A
MESSAGE OF POWER: “HE IS RISEN.”**

**(A). JESUS WASN’T THE FIRST MAN TO GET
UP FROM THE DEAD.**

(1). LAZARUS — JOHN 11;

**(2). THE WIDOW OF NAIN’S SON —
LUKE 7;**

(3). JAIRUS’ DAUGHTER — MARK 5.

**(4). BUT HE WAS THE FIRST TO
EVER GET UP TO DIE NO MORE!**

**(5). ALL THE OTHERS WERE JUST
RESUSCITATIONS, BUT JESUS
ACCOMPLISHED A TRUE
RESURRECTION.**

**(B). BECAUSE HE WAS ABLE TO
CONQUER DEATH, ALL THOSE WHO
RECEIVE HIM AS THEIR PERSONAL
SAVIOUR BECOME PARTAKERS OF
THAT SAME
RESURRECTION POWER.**

**(1). AT THE VERY MOMENT OF
SALVATION, HIS RESURRECTION IS
IMPUTED TO US AND WE BECOME
ALIVE IN HIM.**

**(a). ROM. 6:8; "NOW IF WE BE
DEAD WITH CHRIST, WE
BELIEVE THAT WE SHALL
ALSO LIVE WITH HIM."**

**(b). 2 TIM. 2:11. "IT IS A
FAITHFUL SAYING: FOR IF WE
BE DEAD WITH HIM, WE
SHALL ALSO LIVE WITH HIM."**

**(2). THIS IS THAT "ABUNDANT LIFE"
WHICH JESUS SPOKE OF IN JOHN
10:10.**

**(a). JOHN 10:10, "THE THIEF
COME NOT, BUT FOR TO
STEAL, AND TO KILL, AND TO
DESTROY: I AM COME THAT**

**THEY MIGHT
AND THAT THEY
HAVE IT MORE
ABUNDANTLY.”**

**HAVE LIFE,
MIGHT**

**(C). ALL THIS GREAT RESURRECTION
POWER WILL BE ULTIMATELY REALIZED
WHEN JESUS RETURNS AND RAISES
THE DEAD IN CHRIST.**

**(1). IMAGINE ALL THOSE DEPARTED
SAINTS RESURRECTED FROM THE
DEAD AND GLORIFIED TO LIVE
FOREVER WITH JESUS!**

**(a). 1 THES. 4:13-18 — WHAT A
DAY DOESN'T
DO IT JUSTICE!**

**(D). IF GOD'S PEOPLE WILL TAKE THE
TIME TO LOOK AROUND THEM AND SEE
WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE IN SAVING
THE LOST AND CHANGING THE
LIVES OF THE REDEEMED, IT
BECOMES PLAIN THAT THE
RESURRECTION POWER OF THE LORD
JESUS IS ACTIVE ALL AROUND US
TODAY.**

**(1). EVERY REDEEMED SINNER IS A
TESTIMONY TO THE LIFE-
CHANGING; LIFE-GIVING POWER OF
THE RISEN CHRIST.**

**(2). AFTER ALL, A DEAD MAN
DOESN'T CHANGE HAVE THE POWER TO
ANYONE!**

**(2). BUT A LIVING LORD CAN WORK
MIRACLES IN ANY WRECKED AND
RUINED LIFE.**

(a). 1 COR. 5:17.

**(III). NOT ONLY IS IT A MESSAGE OF PEACE AND
POWER, BUT ACCORDING TO VERSE 6c, IT IS
ALSO A MESSAGE OF POTENTIAL: "HE IS NOT
HERE!"**

**(A). AFTER JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD,
HE IMMEDIATELY DISAPPEARS AND
APPEARS TO BE BUSY DOING
SOMETHING IMPORTANT.**

**(1). HIS APPEARANCE TO MARY
MAGDALENE — JOHN 20:11-18.**

**(a). JESUS FORBIDS MARY
FROM TOUCHING HIM THAT
MORNING BECAUSE HE WAS
ON HIS WAY TO THE FATHER.**

**(B). AS THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST, JESUS
WOULD BE THE ONE REQUIRED TO
MAKE THE OFFERING OF THE BLOOD
UPON THE MERCY SEAT THAT WOULD
ATONE FOR THE SINS OF THE WORLD.**

(1). IT SEEMS THAT, THAT IS WHAT JESUS WAS DOING THAT MORNING IN HIS ABSENCE FROM THE TOMB.

(a). IN HEBREWS 9:6-14, THE GREAT PRAISE THAT MUST HAVE FILLED HEAVEN WAS WHEN JESUS PLACED HIS BLOOD UPON THE MERCY SEAT!

(C). THIS WORK OF THE RISEN LORD IS FOREVER FINISHED.

(1). HEBREWS 10:12, "BUT THIS MAN, AFTER HE HAD OFFERED ONE SACRIFICE FOR SINS FOREVER, SAT DOWN ON THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD."

(2). HOWEVER, DO NOT THINK FOR A MINUTE THAT JESUS IS NOT BUSY THIS MORNING. HE IS STILL ALIVE AND HE IS STILL ACTIVE ON OUR BEHALF. HE IS:

(a). HE IS ACTING AS OUR INTERCESSOR — HEB. 7:25; ROM. 8:34

(b) HE IS WATCHING OVER US ALWAYS — HEB. 4:13; (ILL.

©. HE FEELS OUR PAIN — HEB. 4:15) (ILL.

(d). HE IS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT OUR AFFAIRS THAN WE ARE —

(e). HE STOOD UP WHEN STEPHEN WAS STONED.

(f). THE NEEDS OF GOD'S PEOPLE LITERALLY MOVE HEAVEN — ACTS 7:55.)

(3). HE IS ACTING AS OUR ADVOCATE — 1 JOHN 2:2

(4). HE IS PREPARING A PLACE FOR US — JOHN 14:1-3

(5). HE WAITING FOR THE FATHER TO SEND HIM AFTER HIS CHILDREN— HEB. 10:13.

(D). JESUS SHARES A COMMON TRAIT WITH EVERY OTHER LIVING THING THIS MORNING;

(1). HE IS ACTIVE. BUT, HIS ACTIVITY IS ALL FOR THE BENEFIT OF HIS PEOPLE!

(IV). NOT ONLY IS IT A MESSAGE OF PEACE, POWER, AND POTENTIAL, BUT ACCORDING TO VERSE 7, IT IS ALSO A MESSAGE OF: "YE SHALL SEE HIM."

(A). THE ANGEL CLOSED HIS MESSAGE TO THESE WOMEN BY REMINDING THEM

**OF THE LORD'S PROMISE. THEY WOULD
SEE HIM AGAIN.**

**(1). THIS WORD FROM THE LORD
MUST HAVE LIFTED THEIR HEARTS.**

**(2). THEY HAD COME TO THE TOMB
THAT MORNING EXPECTING TO SEE
A DEAD BODY, THEY LEFT IT WITH
THE PROMISE THAT THEY WOULD
LOOK UPON HIS LIVING FACE.**

**(3). CAN YOU IMAGINE THEIR
EXCITEMENT?**

**(B). MY FRIENDS, THEY DON'T HAVE A
THING ON US THIS MORNING!**

**(1). WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SEE
THE RISEN LORD THERE IN
GALILEE, BUT WE HAVE A
PROMISE THAT MAY BE JUST A
LITTLE BETTER.**

**(2). YOU SEE, WE TOO SHALL SEE
HIS FACE, NOT IN GALILEE, BUT IN
GLORY!**

**(a). REVELATION 22:4, "AND
THEY SHALL SEE HIS FACE,
AND HIS NAME SHALL BE IN
THEIR FOREHEAD."**

**(C). IN FACT, WE WILL SEE HIM FIRST OF
ALL IN THE CLOUDS ABOVE THE EARTH.**

(1). 1 THES. 4:16-17. "FOR THE LORD HIMSELF SHALL DESCEND FROM HEAVEN WITH A SHOUT, WITH THE VOICE OF THE ARCHANGEL, AND WITH THE TRUMP OF GOD: AND THE DEAD IN CHRIST SHALL RISE FIRST: THEN WE WHICH ARE ALIVE AND REMAIN SHALL BE CAUGHT UP TOGETHER WITH THEM IN THE CLOUDS, TO MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR: AND SO SHALL WE EVER BE WITH THE LORD."

(2). THEN, WE WILL SEE HIM RETURNING IN GLORY, REV. 19:11- 16.

(3). THEN, WE WILL SEE HIM RULING THIS EARTH AS THE KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS, REV. 19:15.

(4). THEN, WE WILL SEE HIS FACE FOREVER IN ALL HIS GLORY IN HEAVEN ABOVE.

(5). I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT JESUS WILL BE HEAVEN ENOUGH FOR THIS OLD SINNER SAVED BY GRACE!

(6). WHEN WE SEE HIM, WE WILL FOREVER BE REMINDED OF THE AWFUL PRICE HE PAID FOR US AT CALVARY.

(7). HE IS STILL A "LAMB AS IT HAD BEEN SLAIN!"

**(8). AND, FOREVER, IN HIS BODY, HE
WILL BEAR THE MARKS OF HIS
LOVE FOR US!**

**(D). HEAVEN WILL BE WONDERFUL
BECAUSE WE WILL GET TO SEE JESUS.**

CONCLUSION

**(A). THIS EASTER ANGEL PREACHED A PRETTY
POWERFUL MESSAGE DON'T YOU THINK?**

**(1). I AM PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT
THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT
MESSAGE EVER DELIVERED BY AN
ANGEL TO HUMANITY.**

**(2). I JUST PRAISE THE LORD THIS
MORNING THAT I KNOW JESUS IN A
PERSONAL WAY AND THAT I AM
SAVED. HOW ABOUT YOU?**

**(B).YOU KNOW? HE IS STILL SAVING SOULS
TODAY!**

**(1). HE IS STILL BLESSING HEARTS
TODAY!**

**(2).HE IS STILL FILLING HIS SERVANTS
TODAY!**

(C).HOW CAN THIS BE? BECAUSE HE LIVES!

**(1). BECAUSE WHAT THE ANGEL SAID IS
STILL TRUE, "HE IS RISEN, HE IS NOT
HERE!"**

(2). TO THAT, I SAY "GLORY TO GOD!"

**(3). DO YOU NEED SOMETHING FROM THE
LIVING CHRIST THIS MORNING?**

**(4). IF SO, THEN COME AND GET IT! HE
LIVES FOR YOU!**