

HIS STORY, OUR GLORY / “Christ, Our Resurrection Reward”

Today we pick up where we left off in our series entitled HIS STORY, OUR GLORY_ drawing from concepts found in **Isaiah 53**. Open your Bibles there.

So far in this series, we’ve considered *Christ’s identification with* us as a “**Man of Sorrows**”_ His *justification for* us as our “**Sin Bearer**”_ and the *reconciliation between* us and God as “**our Healer**.” Today, we’ll focus on His “**resurrection**” _ and its profound effect on us in a lesson I’m calling “**Christ, our Risen Reward**.” Look closely to the last verses of our text. ¹⁰ **...He will see His offspring and prolong His days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in His hand. ¹¹ After the suffering of His soul, He will see the light [of life] and be satisfied; by His knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and He will bear their iniquities. Isaiah predicted** Jesus’ death, but He also predicted His rising from the dead.

Certainly these are references to His resurrection. Hone in now on **verse 12: Therefore I will give Him a portion among the great, and He will divide the spoils with the strong...** What are we to make of that phrase? Divide the spoils? What spoils? This language is something the people of God would have well understood in Isaiah’s time. When a king conquered a foe, he enlarged his borders, acquired lands and riches, and gained subjects in his kingdom. Then, He often “*rewarded*” those who fought at his side. The loyal and supportive to his cause were awarded positions of power, titles and lands, and riches of their own_ and often even provided them personal armies for their protection.

Like it or not, the custom continues in our country today. When someone is elected to office, they often appoint people who helped them to win to cabinet positions or return favors by supporting their causes. They “*share the spoils*” of victory. So, **what are these spoils** Jesus took possession of when He arose victorious over the grave? It was Satan He overcame, but what did He take as plunder? Whatever Jesus seized from the enemy when He rose from the dead, Isaiah says He would share it with those who have been “**strong**” in their allegiance to Him. The strong includes those who stand shoulder to shoulder, as well as those who stand up for Him and supports His purposes. Here are just a few things worth considering...

First of all, because Jesus conquered death, He is able to grant us a **glorious residence** in God’s kingdom. In **John 14:1-6** He promised a place in heaven to His followers. **“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it weren’t so, I would’ve told you. I’m going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going...I am the way, truth and Life.”** Now, ever since the KJV rendered the passage as “*in my Father’s house are many mansions*” people have had this vision of a huge house that Jesus built especially for them. As comforting as we may find that thought, we should think again. Not because the idea is too glorious, but because it’s not glorious enough. I am confident that the spiritual home Jesus has prepared for us is **far more GLORIOUS** than anything man has ever constructed, including the Taj Mahal and Buckingham Palace. And this home will never need upkeep or repair.

He purchased this kingdom residence with His blood on the cross, and when He rose from the grave He handed the keys to His apostles, telling them to announce the good news the world. Even now, when someone believes in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and accepts Him as both their personal Savior and their “*eternal landlord*,” their name is written on that heavenly deed.

The Bible describes it a gated community with a beautifully jeweled entrance. The climate is always warm and the sun never sets. It's a place of peace and tranquility_ with streets paved in gold and a lake as smooth as glass. It's not heaven on earth. It's heaven.

Next, Jesus gives the faithful a **glorious body**. I know a man who worked all his life to buy a Condo in Florida. Shortly after moving there, he had a massive coronary and died. Wouldn't it be a shame if we moved into "a *glorious mansion*" in heaven, but didn't live to enjoy it? Don't dismay, for we're told in **1st Corinthians 15:42-44** how it will be for those who put their faith in Christ's resurrection. **⁴² So, this is how it will be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; ⁴³ it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in GLORY; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; ⁴⁴ it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.** We'll have **glorious bodies** for a **glorious home**. We will never be sick, suffer pain or injury. We will never grow old or weary. Our bodies will never wear out.

Finally, Jesus shares an honored place in a **glorious family**. We won't be dwelling in a remote corner of heaven. We'll be dwelling with God. **Romans 8** says: **¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His GLORY.** We will share in Christ's glory? Yes. **His story truly is our glory.**

The Hebrew writer says: **⁹ We see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with GLORY and honor because He suffered death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. ¹⁰ In bringing many sons to GLORY, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹ Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.**

The first time I grasped the meaning of this, I literally cried. To think that God, the Father, has adopted me and welcomes me into His family. Then, Jesus introduces me to the rest of those at the table. **Verse 12** says that Jesus says: **"I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises."** (**Hebrews 2:9-12**) Imagine Jesus telling others about what a wonderful servant you have been, telling them how faithful and trustworthy you have been. He promised that would happen in **Matthew 25** when He said: **²³ "Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your Master's my happiness." / ³⁴ "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world."**

If we put our faith and trust in His sacrifice, **Christ's Story really will result in our Glory**. That is what Easter is all about. **Christ is our Risen Reward**. If we really believe that Jesus gave His life on the cross to pay for our sins so that we could live forever with God in heaven, then what should we do?

The response that Jesus told His Apostles to call for is recorded in **Acts 2:38**: **"Repent and be baptized, every one of you for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."** When we respond in faith to the true story of Easter, it will indeed result in eternal glory for us. Praise God for His grace.

His story truly is for our glory.