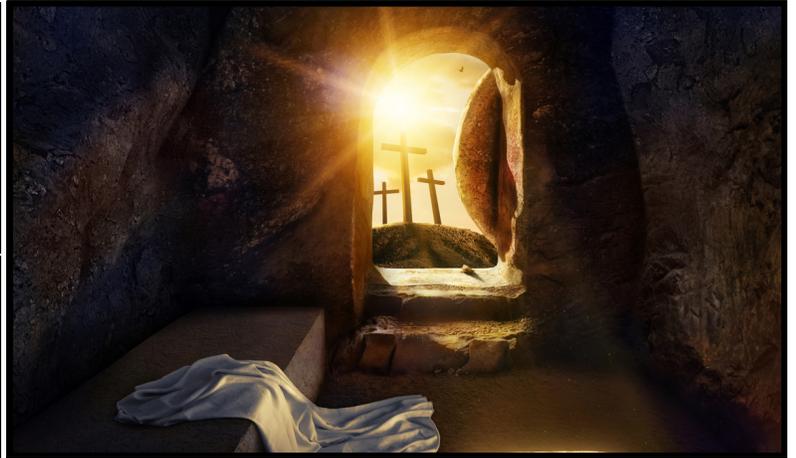


COGA NEWS



WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- The Resurrection Now and When
- Upcoming Events
- A Little Something to Laugh About



The Resurrection Now and When

Bishop Cecil Reid

Matthew 27:50 – 54 expresses one of the grandest gifts of love given by Jesus to his beloved Saints.

When Jesus died on the cross, a chain of events immediately followed. The veil in the Temple tore in half, – darkness blanketed the earth for three hours, – and a powerful earthquake struck the vicinity of Jerusalem, causing significant tremors that fractured rocks, yet spared buildings from any structural damage.

The crowd, once filled with mockery and curiosity, now departed from the scene with solemn expressions, some even striking their chests in remorse. – The same earthquake uncovered many graves. But only the graves of

Saints that died in the area. It left them exposed to the elements and released the foul odor of the grave for over two days.



On the third day another earthquake was reported that opened the freshly sealed grave of Jesus. It removed the huge stone which now two Angels set upon. – The women who arrived to complete the embalming process on Jesus' body were astonished to find the tomb empty, discovering that He had risen from the dead.

Jesus became the first fruit of all resurrections.

Now the Saints that occupied the graves that were opened in the first earthquake, suddenly awoken from their sleep of death and began a journey into the holy city of Jerusalem. There were sightings of these resurrected Saints reported by numerous families and friends throughout the city. – But just as they had come and was known...they left!



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All these events were observed and reported by the Roman Centurion and the 100 soldiers under his command, who had been given charge of the crucifixion details of Jesus Christ. They had noted his mild mannerism in the court before Pontius Pilate, and His endurance under their own scourging, mocking and abuse. They had heard the cause of His fatal conviction was because He claimed to be the Son of God. They had witnessed His prayer of forgiveness for all those who had signed off on his death, and His refusal to alleviate His pain and misery by rejecting all pain medication.

Now finally, He said "it is finished", followed by a loud cry submitting His spirit to God. It's over. It was the Centurion himself who stepped forward and plunged his spear into the side of the Savior to witness blood and water escaping through the womb. Having collected all this mental data of what had been done, they became greatly afraid and gave testimony, **"Truly this was the Son of God"**, in other words, **"He was who he said he was!"**



Now to When

The open graves and the resurrected Saints, what was that all about? Here is a gift from Jesus that is often overlooked; its importance is vital to any and all other resurrections. The moment Jesus died the power of death, and the grave was broken for all Saints!

Note:

1. Only the Saints' graves were opened.
2. Only this selected group of righteous people arose from the dead and went into the holy city.
3. They had recognizable bodies and were acknowledged by many in Jerusalem.

Our wonderful Lord has just given us, His church, a preview of the general resurrection of all His Saints, who will return at His coming with recognizable immortal bodies free of sickness, pain, and death. These will go into the New Jerusalem as described in Revelation 21 as the Bride of Christ.

How thrilling and comforting to preview God's plan for us who embrace his Holiness through our Savior Jesus Christ. As the Roman Centurion said – **"Jesus was who he said he was!"**

Amen

UPCOMING EVENTS

<p>MARCH NW SE District-- 31st > Easter Sunday</p>	<p>APRIL SE NW District Convention & AYPU Retreat</p>	<p>JULY <i>Lets Get ready!</i> 2024 Annual Church Growth Conference. July 15th-19th</p>
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Find more information on www.cogainc.org

A LITTLE SOMETHING TO LAUGH ABOUT

- What goes up when March rain comes down? An umbrella.
- What March flowers grow on faces? Tulips
- Why is everyone so tired on April 1? Because they've just finished a long, 31 day March.
- "March is the month when the weather decides to play all four seasons in a single day."
- "In March, the only thing predictable is the unpredictability of the weather."

HELLO March