

Palm Sunday to *Pentecost*



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"Hosanna in the Highest!"

Palm Sunday: Israel Prepares for the Passover

Teachers: There is **Homework Activity** sheet for each child to take home with them.
They will be examined.

I have attached a handful of small activities to do at the conclusion of the lesson with the first suitable for the older children. There are plenty of different online craft ideas to consider if you have time after the teaching.

...Others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. (Matthew 21:8b)

Who knows what day it is today? That's right, today is called Palm Sunday.

Q: What do you remember about Palm Sunday from your Bibles?

Teachers give the children time to recall before continuing with the Scripture reading.

Let's open our Bibles and read **Matthew 21:1-11**

1 Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. 3 And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them."

4 All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying:

5 "Tell the daughter of Zion,
'Behold, your King is coming to you,
Lowly, and sitting on a donkey,
A colt, the foal of a donkey.' "



6 So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. 8 And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying:



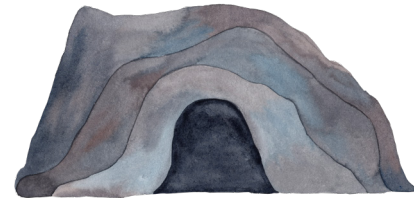
"Hosanna to the Son of David!
'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'
Hosanna in the highest!"



10 And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?"

11 So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee."

Briefly discuss what is taking place here. You may wish to write on the board what the people cried out in v.9.



Who knows what day it will be next Sunday? That's right, it will be Resurrection Day – the day when Jesus rose from the dead. (We will have a special lesson on that next week also.)

From today, until next Sunday, it is often referred to as 'Holy Week' because this week is the week in which

- Christ was applauded as He rode into Jerusalem,
- He was tested for 4 days in the Temple
- He celebrated the Lord's Supper as part of the Passover for the last time with His Disciples on the Thursday evening
- He was crucified the next morning
- He rose from the dead on the Sunday (The 3rd Day) by the power of the Holy Spirit.

For us as Christians this is a special week that we celebrate because **Christ's sacrifice on the Cross has brought us salvation.** Not only us, but all who believe in Him.

This is a special time of year for the Jews, even though they do not yet believe that Jesus is the Christ, their Messiah. This past week they would have been preparing to celebrate **the Passover.**



Q: When and where was the very first Passover celebrated?

A: In Egypt as the Children of Israel prepared to leave Egypt for the Promised Land

Q: What do you remember about the event?

Allow the children to share their recollections before reading the Scripture verses from their Bibles.

Read Exodus 12:1-14

1 Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, 2 "This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. 3 Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. 4 And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb. 5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. 6 Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. 7 And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. 8 Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. 9 Do not

eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire—its head with its legs and its entrails. 10 You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire. 11 And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover.

12 'For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord. 13 Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

14 'So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance.

Q: Israel was told to take a lamb on which day of the first month? (v.3)

A: The 10th day

Q: Until what day were they to keep the lamb before sacrificing it? (v.6)

A: The 14th day

Q: So how many days in total were they keep the lamb?

A: (4 days)

Q: What condition was the lamb to be in? (v.5)

A: Ex 12:5 'Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats.'

God had given very specific instructions concerning the preparations for celebrating the first Passover, and also for subsequent generations to follow (v.14).

The lamb that was selected for each household was to be kept for 4 days before sacrificing it. The lamb was to be without blemish, the very best of their flock, and they would observe the lamb for those 4 days to make sure it was an acceptable sacrifice to God.

In the Book of Leviticus Israel was told that their sacrifices and offerings were to be without defect, it must be perfect (Lev.22:18-21). If they were to offer a blind or lame creature then God said that was evil (Mal.1:8).

Let's return to Palm Sunday

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the donkey, in fulfillment of prophecy, the people cried out in v.9:

*"Hosanna to the Son of David!
'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'
Hosanna in the highest!"*

The people adored Jesus, recognizing that He was the prophesied "Son of David". They recognized Jesus was the One prophesied to come – the Son of God, Who would deliver and save them. '**Hosanna**' means "**save now**", and it was being used as joyful praise for the One who was 'coming in the name of the Lord' (Ps.118:26).

So how was salvation and deliverance going to be possible for Israel?

Christ would be the perfect sacrifice, the Passover Lamb without defect or blemish, One that God would accept on their behalf!

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

God would not only accept the sacrifice but He Himself would also be providing the acceptable sacrifice! (John 3:16)

Following Jesus' ride into Jerusalem on the donkey, with the crowds exalting Him and laying down palm branches, that next day was the 10th day of their first month. Jesus spent the next 4 days in the Temple teaching and being tested with questions by the religious leaders.

Just as in that very first Passover when the lamb was kept for 4 days in or around the house, so Jesus spent 4 days in the House of God being examined:

Matthew 22:17 "Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" 18 But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, "Why do you test Me, you hypocrites?"

Matthew 22:34 But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"



After 4 days of close scrutiny, Jesus was eventually brought before Pilate, the Roman Governor, and neither he nor Herod could find any blemish or fault with Jesus:

Luke 23:13 Then Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, 14 said to them, "You have brought this Man to me, as one who misleads the people. And indeed, having examined Him in your presence, I have found no fault in this Man concerning those things of which you accuse Him; 15 "no, neither did Herod, for I sent you back to him; and indeed nothing deserving of death has been done by Him.

Pilate did not want to crucify Jesus but found himself bowing to the pressure of the chief priests, and the Jewish crowds, the very ones who were crying out "Hosanna" just days before.



John 19:14 Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he [Pilate] said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" 15 But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!"

Concluding Remarks



This might seem sad and tragic that in just a few short days Israel went from adoring Christ and shouting out 'Save now!', on what we have come to call 'Palm Sunday'; to then crying out "Crucify Him!"

However what is the mind of God in this matter?

The people were asking for salvation ("Hosanna"). Jesus is the Lamb of God and He was thoroughly examined during those 4 days and found to be without blemish and defect, and therefore He was the perfect sacrifice to bring the salvation that the people clamored for. As a result Jesus was sacrificed on the very day that the priests in the Temple were sacrificing the lambs in fulfillment of the Feast of Passover, not realizing they were also sacrificing the very One who was THE Passover Lamb outside the city.



There is coming a Day when every eye will see the Lord, even those who crucified Him (Rev.1:7) and they will cry out once again to Him:

Psalms 118:25 Save now, [Hosanna] I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity. 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

And in that Day all Israel will be saved. Hallelujah

Suggested Homework Activity

You too will be tested for 4 days! Read through each verse several times a day on each day for 4 days. Endeavor to read with understanding, and with particular emphasis on the underlined parts. Next Sunday come prepared to be examined (just like Jesus was) on them and receive a reward.

Day 1:

Matthew 21:9 Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' Hosanna in the highest!"

Day 2:

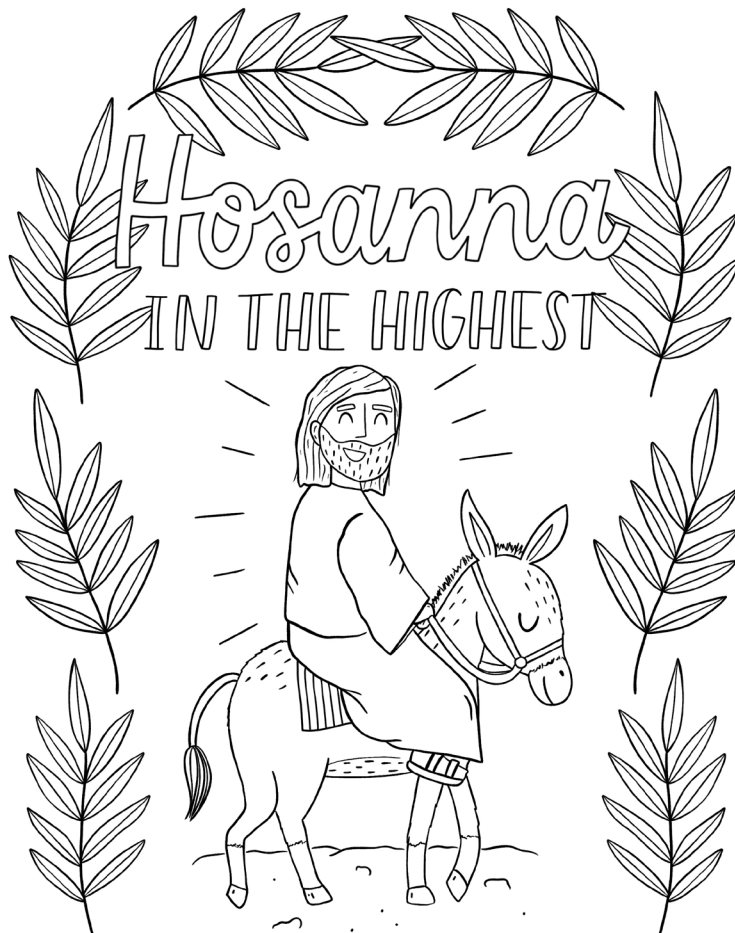
Exodus 12:5 'Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

Day 3:

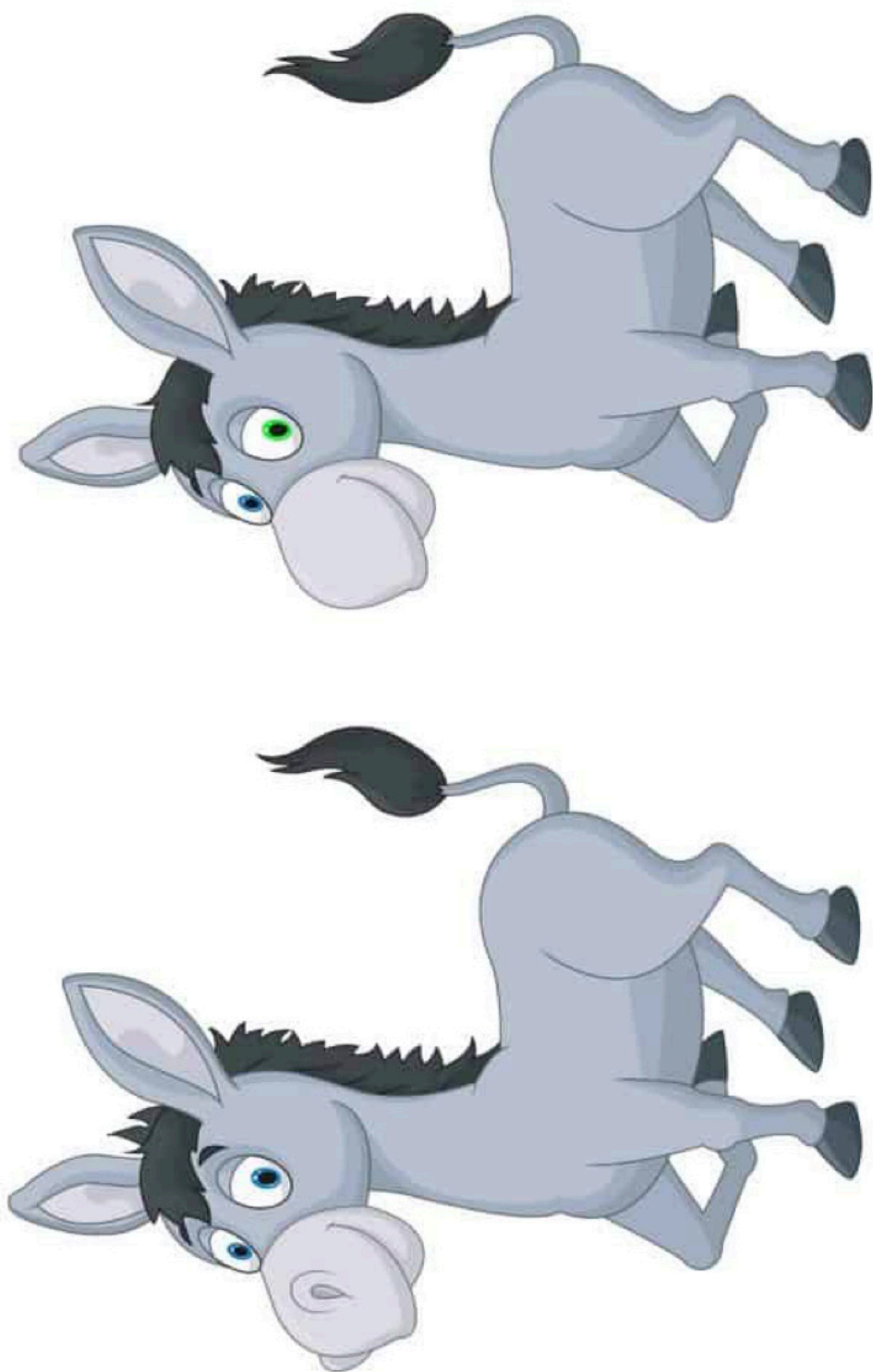
John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Day 4:

1Corinthians 5:7 Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.



Find six (6) differences



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"He is Risen!"

"He has Risen Indeed"

Resurrection Sunday: Jesus is Resurrected!

Today we celebrate a most important day! (Perhaps the most important day in the history of mankind yet to date!) It is Resurrection Day – the day that Jesus was raised from the dead.

Does anyone have any idea as to why this day is so important?

As we celebrate the Day in which Jesus was raised from the dead, we will study why it is so important that He was raised. First, let's review a little from last week's study. (I am sure you remember the details of what you learned about Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey.) Let's look at the timeline on the board in review.



Holy Week Timeline

In class last Sunday you learned that this past week is often referred to as HOLY WEEK. Last Sunday was what we call 'Palm Sunday', the first day of the week leading up to the crucifixion death and resurrection of Jesus. It was on this day that Jesus rode into the city of Jerusalem on a donkey.

Q: Do you remember what the people were saying as Jesus came into the city?

A: *"Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' Hosanna in the highest!"*

Q: Do you remember what the word Hosanna means?

A: **'Hosanna'** means **"save now"**, and it was being used as joyful praise for the One who was 'coming in the name of the Lord' (Ps.118:26)

These Jews had already been eternally saved through faith in the Pass-over lambs, which the Lord God had provided for them throughout all their generations ever since that first Passover Night in Egypt almost 1,500 years prior. So, they were asking Jesus to save them in a different way – they were asking for the earthly kingdom to be re-established by the Expected Messiah. But apparently, they were only concerned with rulership in the earthly kingdom, as the greater part of the Nation had not been interested in the offer of the heavenly kingdom, which Jesus had spent the previous three years offering to them.



So, on the first day of Holy Week, Jesus rode into the Jerusalem on a donkey, God offering Jesus to be their Passover sacrifice.

Do you remember at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry John the Baptist introduced Jesus to the Nation by saying: "Behold, the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world"?

But first, as you learned last week, Jesus was to be deemed perfect and spotless. And so... for the next four days, Jesus spent:

- the days in and around Jerusalem and in the temple being questioned and tested by the leadership of the Jews. (This was to prove that He was the perfect and unblemished Lamb, Who was about to be sacrificed). And then He spent

- the evenings with His disciples, teaching them and praying for them, as they would need to be encouraged and strengthened because He knew He was about to die.



Then we come to the day of the Feast of Passover, which began that fourth evening and went through to the next day.

Of course, this was the day that Jesus died on the cross as the fulfillment of the Feast of Passover.

(Although Jesus was crucified the following morning (Friday), it was still the same day as the previous evening when the Feast of Passover began, and Jesus celebrated with His Disciples what has become known as 'The Last Supper'.) He died as **THE LAMB WHO TAKES AWAY THEIR SIN**, just as John had told them about 3 years earlier. And as the Nation's Passover Lamb, Jesus died on **the very day** that all the Jewish families in Israel were slaying lambs in celebration of the feast. (You looked at all of that in last week's study.)

Now, let's read a passage that somewhat summarizes Christ's death for us, and leads us into His being raised from the dead:

1 Peter 3:18 *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit...*

Q: How many times did Jesus have to "suffer in the flesh" – literally meaning that He DIED!?

A: Once.

That means 'once for all time'. Jesus will never have to die again. Nor will the Jews ever need to sacrifice animals again (because Jesus died once-for-all-time and shed His blood for all sins)! His death fulfilled all the OT laws concerning sacrifices for sin. Jesus **DIED** as the **PERFECT LAMB OF GOD, WHO CAME TO TAKE AWAY SIN**. Once for all.

Q: So, He was 'put to death in the flesh'. But what does the next phrase say in the verse we just read?

A: but made alive by the Spirit...



So now, let's go to Scripture and read about what happened THREE DAYS after His death:

Luke 24:1 Now on the first day of the week [point to the last day on the timeline], very early in the morning, they [women who had prepared spices for Jesus' body mentioned in the previous chapter], and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared.

2 But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb.

3 Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

4 And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments.

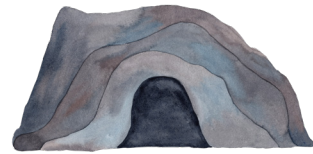
5 Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"

6 "He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee,

7 "saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'"

8 And they remembered His words.

9 Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.



This somewhat gives us the initial events that took place on the day Jesus was raised from the dead. (Other Scriptures add more detail about this day!) But for the remainder of class today, we will be looking into what Scripture says about **WHY it was so important to know that Jesus was raised.** In this passage, Paul is explaining to the believers why it is so important. But remember, it is important for us to know these things too. So, as I read it straight through this passage, I would like you to circle all the "if"s in the text, and be trying to identify in your mind WHY His resurrection is so important to us. (The first "if" is circled for you.)

After this read-through, we'll talk more about it. Let's look at the passage now.

1 Corinthians 15:12 Now **if** Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen.

14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.

15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up--if in fact the dead do not rise.

16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen.

17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!

18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Ann,
please
confirm
the an-
swers on
this page.

Q: Did anyone see the reasons it is so important that Jesus was raised from the dead?

17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! **18** Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

Now we will go back through this passage and make sure that we all caught the importance of what is written. In Paul's argument against those in Corinth who did not believe in the resurrection from the dead (v.12), he proposes what certain things would be true IF that were indeed the case – IF Christ were not raised from the dead.

Q: In v. 13, Paul said that if there is no resurrection from the dead, then what would have to also be true?

A: then Christ is not risen.

Q: In v. 14, if Christ is not risen, then what is also true?

A: then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.

Q: In the first part of v. 15, what would Paul and the others ministering to them be found to be?

A: Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God,

Q: In the last part of v. 15, why would they be found to be false witnesses?

A: because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up--if in fact the dead do not rise.

Then to bring emphasis to what he has just told them, Paul repeats these thoughts in v. 16, saying: For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen.

Q: And in v. 17, if Christ is not risen, then what happens?

A: 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!

Q: Why would our faith be futile (meaning it would be for nothing), and why would we then still be in our sins if Jesus was not raised?



It is only because Jesus was raised from the dead that He can be our High Priest.

And even though we are eternally saved through faith in His DEATH (our spiritual salvation), as long as we are alive on this earth, we still continue to sin. So, **if** He **was not** raised from the dead, then we would continue to be in our sins because there would be no way for us to be forgiven, cleansed, nor would our sins be taken away!

So, our ongoing faith in Christ's death and shed blood would be for nothing, our faith would be empty, futile – because it is ONLY by His LIFE that we can be cleansed of our ongoing sin and that sin be taken away. Jesus can only be our High Priest **IF** He is alive!

Now go back to v.20, underline and put a big circle around “But now..”

Q: “But now” – what?

A: 20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Can you begin to see just how important it is that JESUS was raised from the dead? And the passage goes on to say in v. 20 that because He was raised from the dead, **Jesus has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep (died)**. Since Jesus was raised from the dead, we know that if we die prior to the rapture, we will also be raised from the dead. (But if we are alive at the time of the rapture, we will be caught up into the heavens.)

Now catch this! This is the other part why the resurrection is SO IMPORTANT! RESURRECTION is for the purpose of being able to rule and reign with Christ when He comes into His Kingdom, which can ONLY happen **IF** we are raised from the dead. Dead people cannot rule! And **if** Christ was not raised, even He could not rule in His Kingdom, **if** He remains dead. And THAT is why it would be so bad **if** there was no resurrection from the dead. **BUT NOW, Christ IS risen from the dead.** And TODAY – we celebrate His Resurrection!

He is Risen! He is risen indeed!

During the coloring activity, please review the homework assignment (p 13) with each student.

