

EASTER - ABOUT ROCKS, EPICENTRES AND SEEDS
LUKE 24:1-12; 1CORINTHIANS 15:35-57
2026-04-05

Luke 24:1-12: *“On the first day of the week very early in the morning the women took the spices they’d prepared went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they didn’t find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “**Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!** Remember how He told you while He was still with you in Galilee; “The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified on the third day be raised again.” Then they remembered His words.*

When they came back from the tomb they told all these things to the Eleven to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. Peter, however, got up ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, he went away wondering to himself what had happened.”

Nichea: WAS IT A MORNING LIKE THIS?

¹Was it a morning like this? When the sun still hid from Jerusalem
And Mary rose from her bed, to tend the Lord, she thought was dead.
²Was it a morning like this? When Mary walked down from Jerusalem
And two angels stood at the tomb, bearers of news she would hear soon.
Did the grass sing? Did the earth rejoice to feel You again?

**Over over like a trumpet underground,
Did the earth seem to pound, “He is risen!”
Over over in a never ending round,
“He is risen, hallelujah, hallelujah!”**

³Was it a morning like this? When Peter John ran from Jerusalem
And as they raced towards the tomb, beneath their feet was there a tune?
Did the grass sing? Did the earth rejoice to feel You again?

**Over over like a trumpet underground,
Did the earth seem to pound, “He is risen!”
Over over in a never ending round,
“He is risen, hallelujah, hallelujah!”**

Was it a morning like this? When my Lord looked out on Jerusalem.
He is risen, Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

CHRIST THE LORD:

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

¹Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!

Suffered to redeem our loss, Alleluia!

²Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!

Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!
³But the pain which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation hath procured, Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!
⁴Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love, Alleluia!
Praise Him, all you heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!

In Christ Alone:

¹In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.
²In Christ alone!—who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.
³There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ!
⁴No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand,
Till He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Offering:

He is Lord

He is Lord, He is Lord; He is risen from the dead and He is Lord!
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:35-57

“But someone may ask, ‘How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?’ How foolish. What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. But God gives it a body as He's determined, to each kind of seed He gives its own body. All flesh is not the same: men have one kind of flesh, animals another, birds another, fish another... So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that's sown is perishable, it's raised imperishable; it's sown in dishonour, it's raised in glory; it's sown

in weakness, it's raised in power; it's sown a natural body, it's raised a spiritual body. If there's a natural body, there's also a spiritual body...For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable we'll be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, the mortal with immortality, then the saying that's written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.' 'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death is your sting?' The sting of death is sin, the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Thine Be the Glory:

¹Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won;
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes where Thy body lay.
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory Thou o'er death has won.

²Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear gloom;
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.

³No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of Life;
Life is nought without Thee; aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conquerors, through Thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan to Thy home above.
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.

MESSAGE: ABOUT ROCKS, EPICENTRES AND SEEDS

A little known fact for you: Sharon loves rocks. She does. On the way to or from the cottage, she will spot them say, "There's a nice rock." Now beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Because more than once, I've been the guy on the receiving end of that "nice rock", lifting it into the back of our vehicle, then placing it somewhere to "the perfect place" on the cottage lot.

In case you don't know rocks are heavy—very heavy. Way heavier than they look! When we were landscaping our old house we ordered some limestone rocks to "make the garden just right". I'm no dummy. I borrowed my friend's dolly to move them on the 1st rock it collapsed—the metal folded up like an accordion. We have two rocks out in the shallow water of our lake-front. They might be about 2 ft. X 2 ft.—not very imposing. But they don't want to be moved. I've tried with two of us—you can't get any more hands or muscles on them than that. Even used a long pry bar. But they're still there. Rocks end with "ite"—calcite, quartzite, etc. The rock in

the beach water is ‘leverite’, because it’s so heavy you’ve got to lev’er right where it is!

There are two rocks I want to talk about with you this Easter morning. The **first** is the rock that closed Jesus’ tomb. As heavy as those cottage beach rocks are, they’re minuscule compared to a tomb rock. They were probably hauled into place by a work animal or animals. A groove was cut for them to be rolled down. And they were never intended to be rolled back up. They probably weighed about a ton (2000 lbs/900+ kg.). But Jesus blew the tomb rock away. He certainly didn’t do it in human strength. We already determined that He was dead in the message I shared with you on Friday. But some, who say He never really died, think He subsequently rolled the stone away. He was so mutilated, even if He had been alive, He would have had no strength left. No, there was divine power in the moving of this rock! And that power is one of the gifts that Jesus has left us. He told the disciples to stay in Jerusalem until “*you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you you will be My witnesses in Minden Ontario Canada, to the ends of the earth.*” (Acts 1:8). Paul’s prayer in Ephesians for all believers is:

*“That the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints (that’s you) **His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power’s like the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead** seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule authority, power dominion, every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. (Ephesians 1:18-21)*

Easter screams about God’s love for us His power! God’s power has overcome every other rule, authority, power dominion. That means Jesus’ victory over the grave means He’s defeated, once for all time sin, death, Satan, hell. And to get back to **the second rock**, when Peter answers Jesus’ question, “*Who do you say I am,*” with “*You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God*”, Jesus says, “*On this rock I will build My Church, the gates of hell will not prevail against it.*” (Matthew 16:18.) **Jesus doesn’t only smash rocks; He is the Rock.** Peter refers to Jesus as “*the Living Stone.*” Jesus is the rock who is our firm foundation. He has that kind of power. And He has given it to us. Our problem is we don’t live like we have it. It is only one of Jesus’ gifts to us, but one we should use for His honour glory! Are you living a life of power in Jesus or are you just limping along, still looking for the living among the dead? He is not there; He is risen!

You’ve heard about epicentres. When there’s an earthquake, geologists are quick to point out where the epicentre of it is—ground zero, where the earthquake originated. **Well, here’s the real news: there is only one Epicentre in the world. And that Epicentre is Jesus Christ.** He’s the alpha the omega—the beginning the end. He’s before all things all things are created—not just by Him but for Him. In fact, in Him all things hold together...”*He’s the first-born from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy*” (Colossians 1:15-18). So, when you start to worry about the present troubles—whether earthquakes or the outrageous geopolitics of our day, remember that **Jesus has not stepped off the throne.** He’s there, just as He was before all this started. And He’s there now. Our present world events—Iran, Ukraine, Cuba, Venezuela, Russia, the U.S.—didn’t catch Him by surprise. Like other difficult or

tragic events, we start to wonder where is God in this. But keep the faith. In fact, use this as an opportunity to increase your prayer life your faith. Use it as an opportunity to increasingly connect with others to reflect the love of Jesus, so when others look at you they see Him.

In John 15:12-13 Jesus gives us the new command to love one another—as I have loved you. *“Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends”*—exactly what Jesus did for us. Paul connects the resurrection to planting seed.

When you plant a seed, the seed doesn't remain the same. Jesus gives the example of a mustard seed, which, though the smallest of seeds, grows into a bush large enough that birds can perch on its branches. In reality, the seed dies becomes something different. Yet, it is still the same seed that generates the change—dissolution, change, yet continuity. So, the analogy: our bodies will dissolve they will rise again in a very different form, but it's the same person who rises. Dissolved by death, changed by resurrection, it is still we who exist. And just as God gives everything a suitable body for its part in creation, so He will give us a body suited, fitted, for the resurrection life.

Under the old way of life, we were one with Adam, sharing his sin, inheriting his death having his body. But under the new way of life, we are one with Christ will share His life being. We have a physical body to begin with, but one day we will have a spiritual body. In the transition we will change from corruptible to incorruptible—from our present decay to unfading beauty. We will transition from dishonour to honour (glory)—from bodily passion to instruments of the pure service of God. We will transition from weakness to power—from body limitations to none. We will transition from an imperfect natural body to a perfectly filled Spiritual body, able to render perfect worship, service love.

On Easter Sunday, we have a resurrected Jesus who can walk through locked doors eat solid food; who appears disappears to the men on the road to Emmaus who knows the words thoughts of Thomas even when He isn't physically present. He's never stopped revealing Himself to us. He's never absent. We are never alone. He will never leave you or forsake you! We forever are the beneficiaries of His perfect love!

Thank you, Jesus, that You headed resolutely to Jerusalem...to the cross... overcame death for us. For Yours is the power the glory forever! **Death busting power that also empowers us.** And we praise the One who is the only Epicentre of all life for all time! The One who makes us new who gives us new life to be spiritual seed in a needy broken world! Share Jesus His love for you with others, today, throughout the week with power great joy! Happy Easter! Because He Lives!

Because He Lives:

¹God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus. He came to love, heal forgive. He lived died to buy my pardon. An empty grave is there to prove my Saviour lives.
Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, all fear is gone.

Because I know He holds the future life is worth the living, just because He lives.

²How sweet to hold a newborn baby feel the pride joy He gives.

But greater still the calm assurance this child can face uncertain days because He lives.

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, all fear is gone.

Because I know He holds the future life is worth the living, just because He lives.

³And then 1 day I'll cross the river. I'll fight life's final war with pain. then as death gives way to victory I'll see the lights of glory I'll know He reigns.

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, all fear is gone.

Because I know He holds the future life is worth the living, just because He lives.