



# NightLight

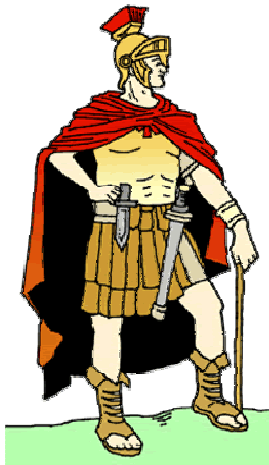
A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

"take heed....as to a light that shines in a dark place." II Peter 1:19

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## Movie Review:



# RISEN



This is not your typical bible epic movie (not that those are bad necessarily). It is not of the caliber of **The Passion of The Christ**. Still, this one is different in several remarkable ways. The story is more like a detective novel with a Roman soldier played by Joseph Fiennes sent by Pontius Pilate on a search for the body of Jesus in order to prove He is dead and not **Risen**. Tom Felton who played Draco Malfoy in **Harry Potter** is the junior officer in the search. Don't look for total accuracy or exact event sequence. There are many liberties taken (only two soldiers at the tomb and they drank a lot ). But the testimony of the one drunken soldier given to Clavius in the tavern is to me the high point of the whole film! This story is not meant as a blow by blow description of recorded gospel events. Rather it is a study in the breaking down of Roman arrogance by the power of the gospel. And that gospel is clearly presented

(unless you are of the opinion that it must be the four spiritual laws and an altar call to qualify as the gospel). There will be many naysayers as usual. And we need to try to be respectful of all opinions. But as I have asked over and over, when will we stop tearing apart every detail and consider that for the first time in film history attempts are being made to tell the Story in a way that can capture the heart of this generation? The liberties taken in this film are not in conflict with the heart of the Scriptures, unlike the travesties of **Exodus: Gods and Kings** and **Noah**. Your ticket purchase is a vote for more solid faith-based films. Be aware that the battle scenes are quite graphic and are not appropriate for young children.

# Grave Robber

*Written by Bob Hartman - Recorded by Petra*

There's a step that we all take alone  
An appointment we have with the great unknown  
Like a vapor this life is just waiting to pass  
Like the flowers that fade, like the withering grass  
But life seems so long and death so complete  
And the grave an impossible portion to cheat  
But there's One who has been there and still lives to tell  
There is One who has been through both heaven and hell  
And the grave will come up empty-handed that day  
Jesus will come and steal us away

(Chorus)

Where is the sting, tell me where is the bite  
When the grave robber comes like a thief in the night  
Where is the victory, where is the prize  
When the grave robber comes  
And death finally dies

Many still mourn and many still weep  
For those that they love who have fallen asleep  
But we have this hope though our hearts may still ache  
Just one shout from above and they all will awake  
And in the reunion of joy we will see  
Death will be swallowed in sweet victory

When the last enemy is gone from the dust will come a song  
Those asleep will be awakened - not a one will be forsaken  
He shall wipe away our tears - He will steal away our fears  
There will be no sad tomorrow - there will be no pain and sorrow

My grandmother wasn't interested in having a recording of this song, but she loved these lyrics so much that she had them printed and framed over the bed from where she departed this life. Your recorded message this month is on death. It is a joyful life-giving look at the grim reaper. I hope you listen intently and take to heart the reality that death is dead. Jesus meant what He said when He cried, "It is finished." He is making all things new. The world is not falling apart. It is falling into position for the end of evil and the beginning of life in its fullest form. Keep your eyes on the Light that has already conquered the darkness.



## Book Reviews



### **Dreams & Visions**

*by Tom Doyle*

### **Inside the Revolution**

*by Joel Rosenberg*

There are now a number of good books available from first hand sources describing the appearance of the Lord Jesus to Moslems in dreams, visions, and other supernatural events. These two are among the best. They are powerful faith-building testimonies and a needed reminder that God is not in a tug-of-war with evil, but is bringing His Kingdom and moving the nations into position for the final harvest.

## **Movie News The Young Messiah**

This film is based on Anne Rice's historical novel *Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt* (written after her *Vampire Chronicles* and her return to Christian faith). Everything in this genre of film-making must be discerned for error, license, and sometimes willful misrepresentation. The reviews of this film from sources I have come to trust say that this film is careful to maintain truth and honor of its subject. I know how hard it is to please everyone when it comes to filming Jesus stories. After all, it is JESUS being shrunk down to a film. But whenever it is Christ-honoring and truth-telling, even if there is some questionable mixture, we need to be DISCERNING and separate the truth from the error, while upholding the one and exposing the other. Let us not do as we have so sadly done in the past, and run and hide from the world inside our stained-glass ghettos and throw rocks at the outside world.

# Closing Thoughts...



Your gifts are especially appreciated during this season in our ministry. In the past several years, our travelling has gradually diminished, and the Lord seems to have turned our focus to more of a one-on-one ministry. The picture is much like the starfish story: We stand on the beach overwhelmed by the numbers of starfish that have washed up after the storm. What can we do? We see a child picking up one starfish after another and throwing them back in the ocean. We ask, "Why are you doing that? Do you really expect it will make any difference? There are so many starfish!" As the child picks up another starfish, he answers, "It matters to this one." That seems to be where the Lord has us for a season: one person at a time, and very few public forums. Please continue to pray for us to listen and obey as we love others to Him. Thank you so much for your generosity in partnering with us as we choose to live in His love day by day.



*Christ is Risen!*  
*Clay & Mary*



## McLean Ministries

P.O. Box 2088 • Hickory, North Carolina 28603 • 828.322.5402  
website: [www.mcleanministries.org](http://www.mcleanministries.org) • email: [claymcleanministries@pobox.com](mailto:claymcleanministries@pobox.com)