



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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Dear Friends,

*And this is the real and eternal life:
that they know You,
the One and only true God,
and Jesus Christ, whom You sent.
I glorified You on earth
by completing down to the last detail
what You assigned me to do.*

John 17:3,4 (The Message)



If we were to place the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ on a historic timeline along with other related events of that time, what would it look like? Draw a line on a sheet of paper and place the big events of history on it. Then after a long trail of historical events, zoom in on the events of Holy week. Then follow those events with a return to ongoing unfolding history. Get the idea? Creation, the Fall, the Rise of civilization, the Call of Abraham, the Birth of Israel, etc. Then add the birth of Jesus, His ministry and crucifixion, His Resurrection and Ascension, and then whatever comes next in the continuing flow of history. We would seem to be on the right track in mapping out our timeline sequence of unfolding events. Even though we would be right on one level, we would really be WRONG.

As a boy of twelve, my 1960's rock and roll world was shaken by my exposure to the live musical event of **Messiah** during the Christmas season. The songs of my pre-teen world were displaced by the shocking event of a musical portrait of the life and death of Jesus. When the *Hallelujah Chorus* began, a thousand people in the music hall stood to their feet as the music celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus. Even though I had no musical experience that even came close to matching it, I had some awareness that this was the great climactic event of the presentation. I assumed that we would all then walk out, because this was the end. I was

confused when we didn't. We sat back down and an entire hour of more music flowed from the stage. It didn't truly end till *Worthy is the Lamb* and the final *Amen*.

I wanted it to end where I thought it should have ended, when we all stood at the playing of the *Hallelujah Chorus*. But thankfully Handel knew better. He understood that the Resurrection was not a hyper climax at the end of a series of dark human events, but an opened door to an entire new Reality, one in which time as we had known it was no longer relevant. Yet in my boyish ignorant mind, the story had been unfolded, and the big climactic event of the Resurrection had been played, and we could leave. What was being played out *musically* was what was also being played out *actually*. But I didn't get it, not for many years. Like my church-going elders, I didn't let art interfere with church dogma. The art in the *Messiah* painted the true story. But the dogma communicated a much more mundane confusing stream of events. The dogma said Jesus died, rose again, and then lived on earth for a few weeks (no one knew just why), then floated back up to heaven and told His people to go preach about it to the whole world. We then returned to the slow grinding days of human struggle without a clear understanding of what this meant. It seemed like a strange interruption of Life in the ongoing ocean of death that we called life. The dogma was one dimensional, lacking in many cases to communicate the True Reality. It was the art of *Messiah* that reached into my heart and planted the Truth, the accurate story.

The Resurrection was not the high point in a train of unfolding events that went back to normal the following week. No! As Handel understood, the Resurrection was the beginning of an entirely different flow of Reality. It was not the end of the old, but the beginning of the new! It could not be placed on a systematic timeline of events. It was not part of those other events, or subject to that measure of time. It was **THE EVENT** that forever redefined all previous events as well as all future events following it. It is the power of the Resurrection which swallowed up all evil, all sorrow, all sin, all death, and finally Death itself. The cosmic calendar has forever been altered and transformed. Jesus didn't come back to shame his abusers with rubbing their faces in His triumph over death. Rather, He so completely transcended it that He didn't waste time saying, "I'm back! And boy, are you in trouble!" No! What Jesus did communicate is, "I have conquered Death by death. I have destroyed the Destroyer. Now, no matter what level of evil Sin and Death express, no matter how many die in blood orgies, no matter what horror of holocausts or cruel abuses you hurl at each other, **I AM HE who was dead. And behold! I am alive forever more.** No matter what evil you have poured out on the lives of suffering humanity, **I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE.**" Time was no longer measured by unfolding daily events. There was a much greater manifestation of victory coming.

So, returning to our imaginary timeline we began with, how should it appear now? Not with the events of previous history leading up to the Resurrection and then continuing on past it. Far more! When the vast flow of

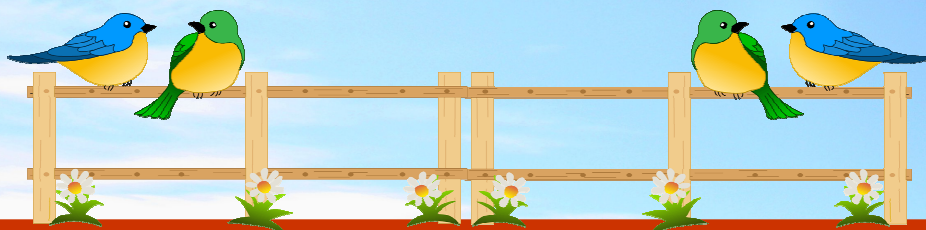
history hits the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, it is transformed by Resurrection, and everything thereafter is affected. For Resurrection is not just a historical event, but one that transcends both time and space. It is the Good News of the gospel story, the single **EVENT** that redefines all events - past, present, and future. It is Love Himself – the Blessed Trinity – redeeming all our messes.

I walked out of the music hall that night long ago deeply shaken. But I would not understand why for many unfolding years. It was December 12, 1966. I didn't understand what I was feeling. From the dark point of view, nothing had changed. From the point of view of Resurrection, which is not at all subject to time/space events, **EVERYTHING HAD CHANGED**. I was being led into an ongoing unfolding **EVENT** called Resurrection. Time didn't matter. Timelines mattered even less. What mattered was the death in me was being swallowed by the **EVENT** called Resurrection – LIFE HIMSELF!



First Epistle of Peter - a prayer

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Who according to His abundant mercy
hath begotten us again unto a lively hope
by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
to an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away,
to joy and rejoicing unspeakable and full of glory in Him;
to Whom with Thee, O Father, and Thee, O Holy Spirit, one Blessed Trinity,
be ascribed all honour, might, majesty, and dominion, now and for ever.*



Closing Thoughts...



Why didn't Jesus finish off evil as He stepped out of the tomb? He did! It is done, but not yet. Lay aside your view of time. Lay aside your own perspective. Ask the Holy Spirit to sanctify your imagination with His divine objectivity. It is not about the annihilation of the bad guys; but about the annihilation of not only their badness, but our badness as well. God's great vengeance on evil is the ultimate enthronement of Love. He is a Redeemer. May we trust Him, and His unfolding of "It is finished." It is done...but not yet. May we live in the light of the higher Truth, above the clouds of our own world view. Bless His holy Name.

Resurrection blessings, Clay & Mary



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