

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

ls LET'S SING EASTER

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

by Nan Allen

Lifeway™

“Come, People of the Risen King”

“He is risen! He is risen indeed!”

We often repeat this salutation on Easter Sunday, but in the early church it was equivalent to the greeting of “hello” or “good day.” It was as though the first believers were identifying themselves as “people of the risen King.”

Read Matthew 28:6-7 and discover where this tradition began.

Read Philippians 3:10. What sets a person of the resurrection apart from others?

Read I Peter 1:3. Through Christ’s resurrection, what else do we receive as people of the risen King?

Simon Peter elevates our status as believers even higher. Read what the apostle calls us in I Peter 2:9.

Are you living like a child of God—a person of the resurrection? Pray that God will reveal to you how you can be transformed by claiming the power of His resurrection.

“Worthy Is the Lamb”

In the ancient Hebrew world, meat was not served often. In fact, the serving of meat at a meal was mostly reserved for special occasions, so a taste of lamb was a rare treat. It was the delicacy—the lobster or caviar—of the day, especially if it was a perfect lamb. This made lamb expensive and, therefore, the perfect sacrifice—something rare, costly, and pure. Read Revelation 5:12.

Blood is essential to life, and there is no substitute for it. That’s the purpose of blood drives and donor programs: to pass the life-giving properties of blood from one life to another. The blood was to be taken from an animal, a lamb that had been slaughtered. This was significant because lambs—any kind of meat—was scarce, and the killing of a food-producing animal meant real sacrifice. But that’s what God required of His people, then and now—obedience, sacrifice, and trust without full understanding.

Today, animal sacrifice is no longer practiced in most places in the world, but the idea of a lamb slain to cover our sins forevermore is still as sobering a thought as ever. In fact, read Hebrews 10:10 and thank God for the gift of His Son.

“How Great Thou Art”

This song, written by Stuart Hine, was published and handed out in leaflet form during Billy Graham’s crusade in London in 1954. George Beverly Shea saw the song and loved it. That next year, Shea and Cliff Barrows felt impressed to introduce it for the first time in the Billy Graham Crusade in Toronto. It has become a classic.

Read Psalm 86:8-10. Write down your impressions of the greatness of God and how you believe human beings relate to Him.

“Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me)”

This song pretty much tells the whole gospel story. Read one of the biblical accounts of His death, burial, and resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15:1-8. How do the first verses in the song correspond to this Scripture?

Later in the chapter, Paul tells “the rest of the story.” Read it in 1 Corinthians 15:20-26. Now read the last verse of the song and compare the accounts.

Thank God for all of those “glorious days” that provide for our salvation.

“Grace *with* Grace Greater than Our Sin”

He was called the “Prince of Preachers,” and it is estimated that he preached to over ten million people in his lifetime. Charles Spurgeon, born in Essex, England, in 1834, was fifteen years old when he stepped into a church on a snowy day. He heard and received the gospel that day. The Scripture that spoke to him the loudest was Isaiah 45:22.

Read this Scripture passage and ask God to help you understand and absorb its power.

“God So Loved”

This song is taken from John 3:16, one of the most beloved Scripture passages in the Bible. Jesus was having a secret meeting with Nicodemus, a respected and renowned Jewish rabbi. Read the conversation between these two beginning in verse one of the third chapter of John. What does Jesus say and what was Nicodemus’ reaction? Read it over and over until this becomes part of your testimony. Pray that God will give you the boldness to share this truth with others.