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The Importance of the Resurrection

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THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RESURRECTION

- **It is the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and Bill of Rights of the Christian faith.**
- **It emphasizes the absolute uniqueness and utter superiority of the Christian faith.** The founders of all other religions in human history eventually died. But only the founder of Christianity (who also died) is alive and active today! Thus, in one sense of the word, the empty tomb, not the cross, serves as the official sign of Christianity!
- **It is the final side making up the divine triangle of salvation.** Thus:
 - A. Jesus' birth made it possible.
 - B. Jesus' death made it actual.
 - C. Jesus' resurrection made it certain.
- **It serves as the official measurement of God's power.**

We are all aware of how man measures power, using such units as candle power, horse power, atomic power, etc., but how is divine power measured? In the scriptures there are two such standards of measurement.

- A. In the Old Testament it is the power God used in bringing Israel out of Egypt.

"And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them. But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore" (Exod. 14:26-31).

Time and again, especially in the Psalms this mighty event is referred to. Note but a few references:

"For God is my King from of old, Working salvation in the midst of the earth. You divided the sea by Your strength; You broke the heads of the sea serpents in the waters. You broke open the fountain and the flood; You dried up mighty rivers" (Psa. 74:12, 13, 15).

"He sent Moses His servant, And Aaron whom He had chosen. They performed His signs among them, And wonders in the land of Ham" (Psa. 105:26, 27).

Our fathers in Egypt did not understand Your wonders; They did not remember the multitude of Your mercies, But rebelled by the sea—the Red Sea. Nevertheless He saved them for His name’s sake, That He might make His mighty power known. He rebuked the Red Sea also, and it dried up; So He led them through the depths, As through the wilderness. He saved them from the hand of him who hated them, And redeemed them from the hand of the enemy. The waters covered their enemies; There was not one of them left. Wondrous works in the land of Ham, Awesome things by the Red Sea” (Psa. 106:7-11, 22).

“For I know that the LORD is great, And our Lord is above all gods. He destroyed the firstborn of Egypt, Both of man and beast. He sent signs and wonders into the midst of you, O Egypt, Upon Pharaoh and all his servants” (Psa. 135:5, 8, 9).

- B. In the New Testament it is the power of God used in bringing Jesus out of the grave:

“And what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come” (Eph. 1:19-21).

- It is the focal point in regard to both salvation and the scriptures.

- A. Regarding salvation:

“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain” (1 Cor. 15:1, 2).

- B. Regarding the scriptures:

“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:3, 4).