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"...The Lord is risen indeed..."!
(Luke 24:34)

Are you His joyful herald?

THE LIGHT VANQUISHES DARKNESS

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“And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.”
(Luke 23:45-46)

This was a dark day for Jesus’ disciples. All their hopes had rested on Him. At an earlier time Peter had said to Jesus,

“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (Matthew 16:16)

Peter had believed Jesus was God’s promised Messiah. But now, Jesus was dead! Peter’s hopes were shattered. For three days and three nights, they had agonized in the knowledge that the one they’d thought was the Lord of life, had died.

At Easter time, it’s natural for us to contemplate the horrible death that Jesus suffered. While this is appropriate, the story doesn’t end there. His death, as a sacrificial substitute for the sins of His people, is the amazing doorway into the wonder that followed. Listen!

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“In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.” (Matthew 28:1-7)

Notice how the angel’s shining brilliance replaced the darkness of despair as he announced the victorious news! The darkness and gloom were gone. By shedding His blood, Christ had become the long awaited redeemer, sacrificed for His peoples’ sins!

Despairing disciples became joyful heralds of

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