

LORD, IF YOU HAD BEEN HERE, MY BROTHER WOULD NOT HAVE DIED.

(John 11)

Now a certain man named Lazarus was ill..... So the sisters sent to Jesus, saying, Lord, he whom You love is sick. Therefore when He heard that Lazarus was sick, He still stayed **two days longer (2+days)** in the same place where He was. So when Jesus arrived, He found that he had already been in the tomb **four days**. Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about **two miles away**. When Jesus saw her (Mary) sobbing, and the Jews who came with her sobbing, He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. And He said, where have you laid him? They said to Him, Lord Come and see. Jesus wept. Now Jesus again sighing repeatedly and deeply disquieted approached the tomb. Take away the stone. So they took away the stone....Lazarus, come out! And out walked the man who had been dead, his hand and feet wrapped in burial cloths, and with the napkin bound around his face. Jesus said to them, **Free him of the burial wrappings and let him go.**

Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died affirmed Martha and her sister, Mary. The hidden purpose of God in his sovereignty causes us to wonder with ifs in our limitation of knowing beyond now. The beauty of His plan, as we see in this story, reveals how wonderful and marvelous it is to know the awesomeness of our God and His sovereignty. Think for example why Jesus had to stay two more days where He was, after hearing of Lazarus sickness. Wasn't the call urgent? Yes, indeed! However The raising of Lazarus after four days in the grave was given to be a sign that after 4,000 years the seed of Abraham would again be raised to nationhood in the land of Israel, which God gave as a perpetual possession to Abraham and his seed, as recorded in Genesis 15 (The Restored Vision). In staying four days where He was, the Lord pointed to the future pertaining to the nation of Israel. We see in this that Lazarus is a type of the nation of Israel.

In this same day the Lord had made a covenant with Abram, saying, unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates. It is a fact of transcendent significance that from the day that is named

in this verse, Four Thousand Solar Years of 365, and one fourth days have passed to the rise of the State of Israel in May, 1948 (The Restored Vision).

Bethany was near Jerusalem only two miles. The two miles which lie between these two places clearly typify the two weeks which separated our Lord's death and the resurrection from that of Lazarus (The Restored Vision).

“When Jesus saw them sobbing, He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled...Now Jesus again sighing repeatedly and deeply disquieted, approached the tomb”. It is to wonder why was He emotionally involved with the death of his friend, when He was about to bring him to life. Something else was disturbing Him and that was the thought that in only two weeks He was going to be handed by the religious authorities of Israel to the gentiles to be made an object of horror, to be despised, rejected and forsaken by man, and by His Father. The reality of the fulfillment of prophecies from Isaiah and the Psalms, in their unimaginable cruelty, as it is described in Psalm 22 which reads, I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart is like wax; it is softened and melted down within me. My strength is dried up like a fragment of clay pottery; my tongue cleaves to my jaws; I can count all my bones. And worse of all would be the spiritual separation from His Father, expressed by the prophetic words, My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me? These realities disquieted Him at that moment when he was faced with the death of his friend.

After He had prayed, He shouted with a loud voice, Lazarus, come out! This resurrection power one day will be heard by those who are dead in Christ, being called to life! Lazarus came out with his hands and feet wrapped in burial cloths and with a napkin bound around his face. To that Jesus said, Free him of the burial wrappings and let him go. As Lazarus represents the nation of Israel being brought to life in 1948, I am reminded that the burial cloths and the napkin bound in her face have not yet being removed; Israel continues spiritually dead and blind to the truth of her Messiah. I also see this situation with those who have been born again, but remain in their old clothes and blind to the truth of Scripture, because they continue in bondage to the world. We are responsible however to free those people from their burial, including the napkin from their faces, so that they will be

able to see spiritually and grow in their faith. It is important to lead one to salvation, but it is of the same importance to disciple them to their spiritual growth because without sanctification one cannot see God. We must obey the call in its complete form, if possible.

Think about it!

I am Jacinta for Light from the Word.