

RAISED

UP



ROBERT PRINS

RAISED UP

by *Robert Prins*

(c) August 2023

A high pitched scream echoed around the valley graveyard. More screams. Someone fainted. Others stood and gaped. But one man looked up to heaven and smiled.

After four days in the Mediterranean heat, decomposing bodies begin to stink. This one was no exception. The body had been prepared for burial. It had been wrapped in spice laden strips of cloth and placed in a tomb, but even so, the blowflies were hanging around the stone at the entrance to the tomb, searching for the smallest crack to squeeze through, so they could gorge themselves on the decaying flesh.

A small crowd was gathering. They had been too late for the funeral, but the mourning was still in process. Tears were flowing. Lazarus had been a much-loved brother and best friend to those who had gathered.

Jesus, the leader of the group of people that had arrived, was known to be a miracle worker. He could have cured Lazarus from his sickness before he had died. Jesus was a good friend of Lazarus and his sisters, Martha and Mary.

Mary had met him on the way to the tomb. Through her tear-filled eyes, she looked into his eyes. “If you had been here, my brother would not have died.” There was both sadness and accusation in her voice. But what was done, was done.

“Your brother will be raised up again,” Jesus replied.

“I know he will be raised at the resurrection at the end of time,” she said.

“I am the resurrection and the life. Do you believe me?” Jesus asked.

“Of course I do.”

Mary’s sister, Martha arrived a short time later. With eyes red from weeping, she also accused, “If you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

Standing in front of the tomb, weeping and heavy with emotion for their dead friend, Jesus asked that the stone be rolled away. They looked at him in shock. “But he’ll stink!” they cried. No one wanted to do it, but since Jesus insisted, the great rock was moved. A swarm of blowflies crazed around the entrance to the tomb, and the putrid smell of decay made them all reel back.

Jesus looked toward heaven. “Father, I am grateful you have listened to me.” Then he shouted, “Lazarus, Come out!”

A high-pitched scream echoed around the valley graveyard: one of the women standing near Jesus. More screams. Someone fainted. Some started to run away, others stood and gaped. But Jesus looked up to heaven and smiled.

The body, wrapped head to foot in bandages, emerged from the tomb as if it was being carried by invisible hands. The mummified body was placed gently on its feet in front of Jesus, Martha and Mary.

“Unwrap him and let him loose.” Lazarus was alive!

Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Just as he raised Lazarus, he will raise the dead at the end of time. The one who believes in him, even if he dies, will live again.

RAISED UP

Lazarus had died. He had been dead four days.

Jesus had arrived, but he was too late.

"I am the resurrection and the life," he stated.

Do you believe?



Published by

Thinky Things

www.thinkythings.com