

THE STORY OF JESUS OF NAZARETH, FOUNDER OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION

—A READING OF THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS, MATTHEW MARK AND LUKE,
BY RON NEWSOME, A NON-BELIEVER EASTER—SUMMER SOLSTICE, 1977

JESUS CHRIST, FROM WHOSE BIRTH THE MODERN EUROPEAN CALENDAR DATES, WAS THE SON OF MARY, WIFE TO JOSEPH, A JEWISH CARPENTER OF PALESTINE IN THE TIME OF AUGUSTUS, THE FIRST ROMAN EMPEROR. JOSEPH WAS DESCENDED FROM DAVID, FOUNDER OF THE NATION OF ISRAEL WITH ITS CAPITAL AT JERUSALEM, AND JESUS WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM, THE CITY OF DAVID, BUT HE WAS CONCEIVED IN MARY BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. AN ANGEL SAID THAT SHE WOULD GIVE BIRTH TO THE SAVIOR PROMISED IN SCRIPTURE, AND TO NAME HIM JOSHUA, WHICH IS RENDERED IN GREEK JESUS AND MEANS "GOD IS SALVATION." THE BIRTH WAS ATTENDED BY PROPHECY AND LIGHTS IN THE HEAVENS. HE WAS RAISED BY MARY AND JOSEPH IN NAZARETH, IN GALILEE.

WHEN JESUS WAS ABOUT THIRTY AN ASCETIC NAMED JOHN BEGAN PREACHING IN THE DESERT OF JUDEA. GREAT CROWDS, MANY FROM JERUSALEM, CAME TO HEAR HIS EXORTATIONS TO REPENT AND BE BAPTISED IN THE RIVER JORDAN FOR THEIR SINS. JOHN PROPHESED THE COMING OF ONE MUCH GREATER THAN HE WHO WOULD IMMERGE PEOPLE NOT IN WATER BUT IN THE SPIRIT. ALSO HE CONDEMNED THE UNION OF HEROD, RULER OF GALILEE, AND HIS BROTHER'S WIFE HERODIAS. FOR THIS JOHN WAS IMPRISONED, BUT NOT BEFORE HE HAD BAPTIZED JESUS. HE WAS LATER BEHEADED.

UPON JESUS'S BAPTISM HEAVEN OPENED AND THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME DOWN IN THE FORM OF A DOVE AND SETTLED ON HIM AND A VOICE FROM HEAVEN DECLARED, "MY OWN DEAR SON, WITH WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED." THE SPIRIT GUIDED HIM INTO THE WILDERNESS: **HOW HE LIVED** THERE THE DEVIL TEMPTED HIM BUT JESUS DID NOT SUCCEED.

HE BEGAN TO PREACH REPENTANCE AND PROPHECY THE KINGDOM OF GOD. HE MOVED TO THE TOWN OF CAPERNAUM ON THE NORTHERN SHORE OF LAKE GALILEE, AND GOT A FEW FISHERMEN TO FOLLOW HIM, PROMISING TO TEACH THEM TO CATCH MEN. IN THE SYNAGOGUES HE SPOKE WITH AMAZING AUTHORITY. HE CALLED OUT DEMONS FROM THOSE POSSESSED AND THEY SCREAMED OUT THAT HE WAS OF GOD. MANY SICK AND CRIPPLED CAME AND WERE CURED BY A WORD OR TOUCH FROM HIM. SOON HE HAD ATTRACTED SO MANY FOLLOWERS THAT HE HAD TO HIDE FROM THEM. AND HE TOLD PEOPLE THAT THEIR SINS WERE FORGIVEN.

FOR THIS LAST HE WAS ACCUSED OF BLASPHEMY BY THE PHARISEES (A POPULAR SECT WHICH, LIKE JESUS, BELIEVED IN ANGELS AND THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD—AS OPPOSED TO THE PRIESTLY SADDUCEES WHO BELIEVED ONLY IN THE LAW). THEY ALSO CRITICISED HIM FOR FAILING TO FAST AND WASH ACCORDING TO TRADITION, AND CONSORTING WITH WICKED AND IMPIOUS PEOPLE, LIKE ROME'S TAX-COLLECTORS. HE REPLIED THAT THEIR PIETY WAS HYPOCRITICAL, THAT SOME OF THEIR PRACTICES HAD NO BASIS IN SCRIPTURE WHILE OTHERS WENT AGAINST IT, THAT HIS OWN PRESENCE REQUIRED CHANGES IN RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE. HE SAID THAT A MAN WAS POLLUTED NOT BY WHAT WENT INTO HIS MOUTH AND THROUGH THE STOMACH BUT BY WHAT CAME OUT OF HIS MOUTH FROM THE HEART. HE SAID THAT IT WAS PRECISELY THE SINFUL WHO NEEDED HIS CALL. WHEN, AS THE SON OF MAN AND BY EXAMPLE OF KING DAVID, HE A QUESTION CLAIMED MASTERY EVEN OF THE SABBATH, OF AUTHORITY THE PHARISEES BEGAN TO PLOT AGAINST HIM. WHEN THEY SAID THAT HE WAS DRIVING OUT DEMONS BY THE DEVIL RATHER THAN THE HOLY SPIRIT, HE ANSWERED THAT WERE SATAN'S KINGDOM THUS DISUNITED IT COULD NOT LAST LONG, AND THAT WHOEVER BLASPHEMED AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT WOULD NEVER BE FORGIVEN.

JESUS WAS CONTINUALLY CHALLENGED BY RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND SCHOLARS BUT HE SEEMED ALWAYS ABLE TO ANSWER BY ASSERTION OF A HIGHER GOOD OR GREATER PRINCIPLE, WITH SCRIPTURE AND WIT. EVEN JOHN'S DISCIPLES HAD DOUBTS, AND HE WAS REJECTED BY HIS HOMETOWN NAZARETH. STILL HIS FAME GREW, AND REACHED JERUSALEM, AS MORE THOUSANDS CAME TO HEAR HIS TEACHING AND BE CURED.

FROM AMONG HIS DISCIPLES JESUS CHOSE TWELVE TO BE HIS CLOSE COMPANIONS AND SPREAD HIS MINISTRY. HE GAVE THEM SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE AND SOME OF HIS POWERS AND CALLED THEM TO A LIFE OF POVERTY, SIMPLICITY, FAITH, AND DEVOTION TO GOD'S WORD AND TO EACH OTHER. WHEN RIVALRY BROKE OUT AMONG THEM HE DECLARED THAT WHOEVER WOULD BE GREAT MUST BE THE SERVANT OF ALL.

JESUS SAID THAT HIS MISSION WAS TO FOLLOWING THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, BUT A FEW GENTILES OF GREAT FAITH BENEFITED BY IT, AND HE DID MAKE JOURNEYS INTO HEATHEN COUNTRY TO THE NORTH AND ACROSS THE JORDAN. MOST OF HIS FOLLOWING WAS OF THE COMMON PEOPLE, BUT HE RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM A FEW MORE INFLUENTIAL. HE DECLARED THAT WHOEVER DID GOD'S WILL WAS HIS MOTHER AND BROTHER AND SISTER.

JESUS TAUGHT THE PEOPLE IN PARABLES WHICH ANYONE COULD HEAR BUT NOT EVERYONE COULD UNDERSTAND. ONCE, NEAR HIS HOME BY LAKE GALILEE, A CROWD STOOD ON THE

GIVEN. LATER, WHEN DISCIPLES NEEDED MORE BREAD, HE WARNED THEM AGAINST THE PHARISEES AND REPROACHED THEM: "DO YOU NOT YET UNDERSTAND ABOUT THE LOAVES AND THE THOUSANDS AND THE BASKETS WHICH WERE FILLED?"

"WHO DO THE PEOPLE SAY I AM?" JESUS ASKED THE DISCIPLES. "JOHN THE BAPTIST OR ELIJAH OR ONE OF THE PROPHETS," THEY REPLIED. "AND YOU—WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?" SIMON PETER, FIRST AMONG THE DISCIPLES, ANSWERED: "YOU ARE THE MESSIAH." JESUS WARNED THEM NOT TO TELL THIS TO ANYONE, AND EXPLAINED THAT THE SON OF MAN WOULD BE HANDED OVER TO MEN, TO SUFFER UNDER THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND BE KILLED, AND RISE TO LIFE AGAIN ON THE THIRD DAY. THE DISCIPLES WERE AFRAID AND DID NOT UNDERSTAND. "SOME HERE NOW," SAID JESUS, "WILL NOT DIE UNTIL THEY SEE KINGDOM COME."

ABOUT A WEEK LATER HE WENT UP ON A MOUNTAIN ACCOMPANIED ONLY BY THE DISCIPLES PETER, JOHN AND JAMES, AND WAS TRANSFIGURED. HIS FACE CHANGED AND HIS CLOTHES SHONE BRILLIANT WHITE. THEN MOSES AND ELIJAH APPEARED, TALKING WITH JESUS. THE DISCIPLES WERE CONFUSED AND AFRAID. A CLOUD OVERSHADOWED THEM AND A VOICE FROM THE CLOUD SAID, "THIS IS MY SON: LISTEN TO HIM."

ONE TIME, THE DISCIPLES WONDERED WHO WAS GREATEST AMONG THEM. JESUS TOOK A CHILD AND HELD IT BY HIM. "THE GREATEST IS THE LOWLIEST, LIKE THIS LITTLE CHILD," HE SAID, "AND WHOEVER RECEIVES ONE SUCH CHILD IN MY NAME RECEIVES ME, AND HIM WHO SENT ME." THEN JOHN SAID, "MASTER, SOMEONE WAS DRIVING OUT DEMONS IN YOUR NAME AND WE FORBID HIM BECAUSE HE WAS NOT ONE OF US." "DON'T," SAID JESUS. "WHO IS NOT AGAINST US IS FOR US."

SHORE WHILE HE SAT IN A BOAT AND TOLD THEM A PARABLE OF A SOWER WHOSE SEED FALLS, SOME TO BE EATEN IMMEDIATELY BY BIRDS, SOME TO SPROUT ON ROCKY GROUND AND WITHER FOR LACK OF MOISTURE, SOME AMONG THORNS WHICH CHOKE OUT THE PLANTS BEFORE THEY MATURE, AND SOME ON GOOD SOIL TO GROW AND BEAR FRUIT. AFTERWARD HE EXPLAINED TO HIS DISCIPLES: GOD'S WORD IS SOWN, BUT SNATCHED UP BY THE DEVIL OR GIVEN UP UNDER TRIALS OR STIFLED BY CONCERNS OF THIS LIFE AND WEALTH AND PLEASURE, BUT SOME HEAR AND ACCEPT IT AND YIELD MANYFOLD.

THEY SET OFF ACROSS THE LAKE IN THE BOAT. JESUS FELL ASLEEP. THEN A TERRIFIC SQUALL BEGAN TO BLOW AND THE BOAT WAS TAKING WATER SO THE DISCIPLES, IN FEAR, WAKE JESUS. HE COMMANDED THE WIND AND WAVES TO BE STILL, AND THERE WAS CALM. "WHY WERE YOU AFRAID?" HE SAID. "WHERE IS YOUR FAITH?" THEY WERE FRIGHTENED AND AMAZED AND ASKED EACH OTHER, "WHO IS THIS MAN? THE VERY WIND AND WATER OBEY HIM!"

ON THE OTHER SIDE, IN THE REGION OF GERASA, HE PERFORMED A POWERFUL EXORCISM, SO FRIGHTENING THE PEOPLE THERE THAT THEY ASKED HIM TO LEAVE.

UPON HIS RETURN, AN OFFICIAL OF THE SYNAGOGUE BEGGED HIM TO COME SAVE HIS TWELVE-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER WHO WAS AT THE POINT OF DEATH. IN THE CROWD ON THE WAY WAS A WOMAN WHO HAD SUFFERED FROM HEAVY BLEEDING FOR TWELVE YEARS. "IF I CAN JUST TOUCH HIS CLOTHES," SHE THOUGHT WILL BE WELL." SO SHE TOUCHED THE EDGE OF HIS GARMENT AND THE BLEEDING STOPPED AT ONCE. WHEN JESUS FELT WHAT HAD HAPPENED HE SAID, AS HE OFTEN DID, "YOUR FAITH HAS MADE YOU WELL." AT THE HOUSE, PEOPLE SAID THE GIRL HAD DIED, BUT JESUS SAID, "SHE IS NOT DEAD, BUT SLEEPING." THEY LAUGHED AT HIM, BUT HE TOOK HER BY THE HAND AND SHE GOT UP. THEN, AS HE OFTEN DID AFTER A CURE OR EXORCISM, HE FORBID THEM TO TELL ANYONE ABOUT IT. (IN LUKE HE RAISES ALSO A WIDOW'S GROWN ONLY SON.)

ANOTHER TIME, WHEN JESUS WAS TEACHING AND HEALING IN A LONELY PLACE BY THE SHORE THE DISCIPLES WERE WORRIED ABOUT WHAT THE CROWD WOULD EAT. THEY HAD ONLY A FEW LOAVES AND THERE WERE SEVERAL THOUSAND IN THE CROWD. SO JESUS SAT EVERYONE DOWN, SAID GRACE, AND BROKE AND GAVE OUT THE BREAD, AND EVERYBODY ATE THEIR FILL. THEN THE DISCIPLES PASSED AROUND AND FILLED BASKETS WITH THE LEFTOVERS.

THEN THE DISCIPLES GOT INTO THE BOAT TO CROSS THE LAKE IN ADVANCE WHILE JESUS DISMISSED THE CROWD AND WENT UP ON A HILL TO PRAY. COME EVENING, ALONE ON THE SHORE, HE SPIED THEM A FEW MILES OUT, STRUGGLING AGAINST THE WIND AND WAVES. IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS HE CAME TO THEM, WALKING ON THE WATER. THEY SAW HIM AND SCREAMED, "IT'S A GHOST!" BUT HE SAID, "COURAGE! IT IS I. DO NOT BE AFRAID." HE GOT INTO THE BOAT AND THE WIND DIED AND TOGETHER THEY REACHED THE OTHER SIDE.

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IT WAS DURING THE REIGN OF THE EMPEROR **TIBERIUS**, AND PERHAPS THREE YEARS AFTER JESUS WAS BAPTIZED, THAT HE LEFT GALILEE FOR A FINAL JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM. THERE WERE CROWDS, AS USUAL. AND SOME PHARISEES TESTED HIM: THEY ASKED IF **DIVORCE** WERE PERMISSIBLE. JESUS ANSWERED THAT, THOUGH THE LAW OF **MOSES** ALLOWED IT—BECAUSE MEN ARE SO HARD TO TEACH—**DIVORCE** WAS AGAINST SCRIPTURE, AND THAT TO DIVORCE OR BE DIVORCED AND THEN REMARRY WAS **ADULTERY**. [EXCEPT THAT ACCORDING TO MATTHEW (THE PUBLICAN) HE ALLOWS A MAN TO PUT AWAY HIS WIFE FOR FORNICATION AND TAKE ANOTHER, AND ENDORSES CELIBACY—PERHAPS TO THE POINT OF SELF-CASTRATION.]

THEN PEOPLE BROUGHT HIM CHILDREN TO TOUCH. THE DISCIPLES SCOLDEN THEM FOR BOOTHERING THE MASTER, BUT HE SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME, FOR OF SUCH IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD." **THE WAY TO JERUSALEM**

A MAN SAID TO JESUS, "GOD MASTER, WHAT MUST I DO TO GAIN ETERNAL LIFE?" "WHY CALL ME GOOD?" SAID JESUS. "ONLY **GOD** IS GOOD. YOU KNOW THE COMMANDMENTS: OBEY THEM." "I HAVE DONE SO SINCE I WAS A CHILD," SAID THE MAN. "YOU LACK ONE THING," SAID JESUS. "SELL ALL YOU HAVE AND **GIVE** THE MONEY TO THE POOR AND YOU WILL HAVE **RICHES** IN HEAVEN. THEN FOLLOW ME." THE MAN WENT AWAY VERY **SAD**, BECAUSE HE WAS VERY RICH. JESUS OBSERVED HOW HARD IT WOULD BE FOR ONE ENCOMBERED WITH WEALTH TO ENTER THE KINGDOM, AND THE DISCIPLES WONDERED WHO THEN COULD BE **SAVED**. JESUS SAID IT WAS POSSIBLE ONLY FOR GOD, BUT THAT ANYONE WHO LEFT HOME OR BROTHERS OR SISTERS OR MOTHER OR **FATHER** OR CHILDREN OR PROPERTY [KING JAMES VERSION ADDS "**WIFE**" IN ALL THREE GOSPELS, BUT THE MODERN ENGLISH HAS IT ONLY IN LUKE] FOR HIM OR THE GOSPEL OR THE KINGDOM WOULD RECEIVE MANY TIMES MORE IN THIS **TIME**, AND IN THE TIME TO COME **ETERNAL** LIFE.

SO THEY CONTINUED TOWARD DISCIPLES, THE SON OF MAN WAS TO THREE DAYS RISE AGAIN.

HOW HE DIED

JERUSALEM WHERE, JESUS AGAIN CONFINED TO HIS BE RIDICULED, INSULTED, FLOGGED AND KILLED, AND IN

THEY CAME TO **JERICO**. A BLIND BEGGAR SHOUTED, "SON OF DAVID! MERCY!" SO JESUS HEALED HIM SO THAT HE COULD **SEE** AGAIN, AND HE FOLLOWED HIM.

SO JESUS RODE INTO JERUSALEM, THE CROWD BLESSING HIM AS **KING**.

THE NEXT DAY HE WAS **HUNGRY** AND TRIED TO FIND FIGS IN A FIG TREE WHICH HAD ONLY LEAVES. SO HE CURSED THE TREE AND IT WITHERED. THE DISCIPLES WERE AMAZED, BUT HE TOLD THEM THAT IF ONE WITH FAITH AND NO **DOUBT** TELLS A MOUNTAIN TO THROW ITSELF INTO THE SEA, IT WILL HAPPEN.

SO HE WENT INTO THE **TEMPLE** AND DROVE OUT THE MONEY-CHANGERS AND BEGAN TO TEACH. THE TEMPLE AUTHORITIES COULD NOT GET RID OF HIM BECAUSE THE PEOPLE WERE SO TAKEN WITH HIM. WHEN THEY ASKED HIM HIS AUTHORITY AND ITS **SOURCE** HE REFUSED TO SAY UNLESS THEY WOULD SAY WHETHER **JOHN'S** AUTHORITY TO BAPTIZE WAS FROM **GOD** OR MEN, WHICH THEY COULD NOT DO BECAUSE, THOUGH THEY HAD REJECTED **JOHN**, THE PEOPLE TOOK HIM FOR A **PROPHET**. SO HE COMPARED THE CHIEF PRIESTS TO TENANTS WHO HARVESTED, AND THEN REFUSED TO PAY THE ONE WHO HAD PLANTED AND OWNED, A **VINEYARD**; AND ACCUSED THE SCRIBES OF DEVOURING WIDOWS' HOUSES WHILE AFFECTING PIETY IN PUBLIC. THE PHARISEES AND HEROD'S PARTY TRIED TO TRAP HIM BY ASKING IF IT WERE LAWFUL TO PAY TAXES TO THE EMPEROR; BUT HE POINTED TO A COIN WITH THE EMPEROR'S NAME AND FACE ON IT AND INSTRUCTED THEM TO GIVE **CAESAR** WHAT WAS **CAESAR'S** AND **GOD** WHAT WAS **GOD'S**. THE **SADDUCEES** ASKED HIM, OF A WOMAN SEVERAL TIMES MARRIED AND WIDOWED AND LEFT CHILDLESS, WHICH OF **THE** SUCCESSIVE HUSBANDS SHE WOULD BE WIFE TO ON THE DAY THE DEAD WERE RAISED. JESUS ANSWERED THAT THERE WAS NO MARRIAGE AMONG THE **RESURRECTED**, WHO ARE LIKE THE ANGELS IN HEAVEN. IN DEFENSE OF THE DOCTRINE OF **RESURRECTION** ITSELF, HE CITED **GOD'S** WORDS TO **MOSES**: "I AM THE **GOD** OF **ABRAHAM**, THE **GOD** OF **ISAAC**, AND THE **GOD** OF **JACOB**," WHICH HE TOOK TO MEAN THAT THESE **PATRIARCHS** WERE STILL ALIVE AND NOT DEAD. [LUKE HAS JESUS ASCRIBE TO **MOSES** HIMSELF AS AUTHOR OF THE TORAH—THE ASCRPTIONS "GOD OF **ABRAHAM**, ETC." EXODUS 3:6, IN THE KING JAMES, READS: MOREOVER HE SAID, I AM THE **GOD** OF THY FATHER, THE **GOD** OF **ABRAHAM**, THE **GOD** OF **ISAAC**, AND THE **GOD** OF **JACOB**. AND **MOSES** HID HIS FACE; FOR HE WAS **AFRAID** TO LOOK UPON **GOD**.] **GOD** IS NOT **GOD** OF THE DEAD BUT OF THE **LIVING**, SAID JESUS. AND SO A SCRIBE CALLED HIM **MASTER**, THE **TEACHING** AND ASKED WHICH **COMMANDMENT** WAS GREATEST. JESUS

ANSWERED, "**LOVE** THE **LORD** YOUR **GOD** WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND SOUL AND MIND," AND SECOND IS "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." THEN JESUS ASKED HOW THE SCRIBES COULD SAY THE MESSIAH WAS A SON OF **DAVID**, WHEN **DAVID** HIMSELF, IN A **PSALM**, CALLS HIM **LORD**.

RICH PEOPLE WERE DROPPING THEIR OFFERINGS IN THE **TEMPLE** TREASURY. A **POOR WIDOW** CAME ALONG AND PUT IN TWO **COPPERS**. JESUS OBSERVED THAT SHE HAD GIVEN MOST, SINCE THEY HAD GIVEN OF THEIR SURPLUS, WHILE SHE HAD PUT IN HER WHOLE **LIVING**.

AS HE LEFT THE **TEMPLE** HE PREDICTED THAT EVERY STONE OF IT WOULD BE THROWN DOWN. ASKED WHEN, AND WHAT WOULD PORTEND THE TIME, HE

AND THE **CROWD** DEMANDDED THAT HE GIVE THEM **BARABAS**, AN INSURRECTIONIST ACCUSED OF MURDER, AND **CAUCIFY** JESUS. SO **PILATE** ORDERED THIS TO BE DONE. ROMAN SOLDIERS FLOGGED AND MADE **GRUEL** SPORT OF HIM AND IN THE MORNING TOOK HIM OUT TO BE EXECUTED. THEY FORCED A **PASSER-BY** **SIMON** OF **CYRENE**, TO CARRY HIS **CROSS** TO A PLACE CALLED THE **SKULL**, AND THERE THEY NAILED HIM TO THE **CROSS**, BETWEEN TWO **ROBBERS**, WITH A NOTICE OF HIS OFFENSE: "KING OF THE **JEW**," AND GAMBLED FOR HIS CLOTHES.

PASSERS-BY, AS WELL AS THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND SCRIBES, JEERED AT HIM: "IF YOU ARE SO POWERFUL, SAVE YOURSELF." AT NOON THE SKY TURNED DARK AND REMAINED SO UNTIL THREE O'CLOCK. JESUS SHOUTED, "MY **GOD**! MY **GOD**! WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?" THEN WITH A **LOUD** CRY HE DIED.

IN THE **TEMPLE** THE CURTAIN WAS TORN IN TWO FROM TOP TO BOTTOM. A ROMAN OFFICER NEAR THE **CROSS** SAID, "THIS MAN REALLY WAS THE **SON** OF **GOD**!"

A NUMBER OF **WOMEN** WHO HAD COME WITH JESUS FROM GALILEE WERE WATCHING ALL THIS FROM A DISTANCE. THEY CONTINUED TO FOLLOW AND WATCH AS A MAN FROM **ARIMATHEA** NAMED **JOSEPH**—A **JEW** OF CONSIDERABLE STATUS WHO WAS EXPECTING THE KINGDOM OF **GOD** TO COME—TOOK CHARGE OF THE **BODY**: HAVING GOT PERMISSION FROM **PILATE** HE TOOK THE **BODY** FROM THE **CROSS**, WRAPPED IT IN A SHEET AND PUT IT IN A **TOMB** CUT FROM **ROCK** AND ROLLED A **LARGE STONE** OVER THE ENTRANCE. IT WAS THE EVENING BEFORE THE **SABBATH**.

THE DAY AFTER THE **SABBATH**, AT **DAWN**, THE **WOMEN** WENT TO THE **TOMB**. THE **STONE** HAD BEEN ROLLED AWAY AND THE **BODY** WAS GONE. AN **ANGEL** TOLD THEM THAT HE HAD BEEN **RAISED** AND WOULD MEET THE DISCIPLES IN GALILEE, AND THEY WENT AND TOLD THE DISCIPLES. LATER JESUS APPEARED TO THE DISCIPLES AND INSTRUCTED THEM TO PREACH THE **GOSPEL** THROUGHOUT THE **WORLD**. THEN HE WAS TAKEN UP TO **HEAVEN**.

ONCE JESUS TOLD HIS DISCIPLES: "YOU ARE **SALT** FOR THE **WORLD**. BE GLAD TO SUFFER FOR THE **GOOD** WORD. IF YOUR HAND MAKES YOU DO WRONG, CUT IT OFF. BUT THINK NOW: YOU MUST **GIVE** UP EVERYTHING. **SALT** IS **GOOD**."

BUT IF THE SALT HAVE LOST HIS SAVOR, WHEREWITH SHALL IT BE SALTED?"

—MATT 5:13, KING JAMES