

EASTER, GOD'S CURE FOR THE HUMAN DILEMA ©

By Jack E. Albright

Easter, the day Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, is the ultimate revelation of God's love and willingness to save sinful humans.

God created our universe and placed Adam and Eve in the garden as the overseers of the universe. Every created thing was in perfect harmony and balance with every other part of the universe. It was created to be perpetually and eternally in harmony with God, humans, every creature, plant and star in the solar system

God gave Adam and Eve the responsibility to use their creativity to explore, create and develop new things in their perfect world. Their freedom to make choices tempted them to question God's only "thou shall not," and make it into a, "let's try it." Their disobedience brought sin and imperfection into their heavenly environment. Sin began its insidious contamination and today our world is suffering from a poisoned and polluted environment. The Bible says that even nature groans and longs for the restoration of the universe.

Easter is God's great love story. The story assures us that he has provided forgiveness of our past failures; salvation and strength for our present struggles: and assurance of final salvation in the future.

Humanity as a whole is guilty of causing wars and degradation in every generation since Adam and Eve. Humans have polluted, ravaged and denuded everything we have touched. Wars and rumors of war, rape, murder and inhumanity to man, is not a prediction—it is a present reality.

The good news of Easter is that the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus provides forgiveness for every sin that we have committed. All of us have skeletons in our closet. We have failed others, and ourselves. We are haunted by our failure to be good stewards of our relationships with humans and the ravaging of our natural resources and environment. All our failures and wrong deeds find forgiveness and cleansing through the resurrection of Jesus. Our sins are the reason he died.

God remains with us as we journey through life. Jesus is alive and becomes our constant traveling companion. He is present in the form of the Holy Spirit.

A friend told how the Holy Spirit gave him strength when he was asked to give a eulogy at a funeral. Public speaking is not his forte and he was extremely apprehensive. He asked the Holy Spirit to speak through him and give him courage. His prayer was answered and those who heard him speak said that his eulogy was excellent.

What about the future? Once again our nation is in turmoil. We have been at war for over five years. Over four thousand of our military personnel have been killed in Iraq. Mortgage companies are failing. Thousands of homeowners are losing their homes. Unemployment is a growing monster. Global warming threatens to defrost the glaciers.

Easter reassures us that God created our universe and has never relinquished control. Governments rise and fall. Political parties promise that they can save our nation from the consequences of poor judgment and poor stewardship of our resources.

While Jesus was in the tomb it looked as if Satan had won a victory. On Easter Sunday morning God gave the world the final proof of his invincible power. Satan had bruised Jesus' heel, but Jesus crushed Satan's head. Gen. 3:15. Saint Paul declares in 1 Corinthians 15: 25 "Christ must reign, till he has put all enemies under his feet."

The risen Christ forgives our past sins. He lives with us to provide power to face present challenges. He promises ultimate salvation in the future.