

# Easter 2020

## Intro Video: Jesus Is Alive

Today we celebrate the resurrection of our lord.

### **Matthew 28:1-10 New International Version (NIV)**

**28** After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

<sup>2</sup> There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. <sup>4</sup> The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

<sup>5</sup> The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

<sup>8</sup> So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

So, let's gather together to once again hear the good news that Jesus is alive and with our worship declare what so many others have shouted throughout the ages... He is risen. He is risen indeed!

Peters words about the resurrection seem so appropriate for us today

### **1 Peter 1:3-9 New International Version (NIV)**

**3** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, **5** who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

This morning let's worship The Lord with "inexpressible and glorious joy", even if it is virtually through the internet. Let us exalt his name together the name of our risen savior. Let us declare to the world that HE IS ALIVE!

Hallelujah - The Lord Almighty Reigns

Thank You for Loving Me

Thank You Lord for Saving My Soul

Intro Video: We Will Rise

I Stand Amazed in The Presence

## COMMUNION

Paul taught us concerning The Lord's Supper

### **1 Corinthians 11:23-24 New International Version (NIV)**

**23** For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, **24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

Early on in his ministry, after he fed the 5,000 and the people followed him to the other side of the lake; Jesus taught the crowds about the Bread of life

### **John 6:32-40 New International Version (NIV)**

**32** Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. **33** For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

**34** “Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”

**35** Then Jesus declared, “**I am the bread of life.** Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. **36** But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. **37** All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. **38** For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. **39** And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. **40** For my Father’s will is that **everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life**, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

So, as we take the bread together today, we remember that Jesus is the bread of life and that through believing in him we have eternal life and he will raise us up

Paul continued his instructions to the Corinthian Church

#### **1 Corinthians 11:25-26 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>25</sup> In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” <sup>26</sup> For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Today we proclaim the Lord’s death and hold on to the promises of the covenant of his blood. A covenant that continues to fulfill the words of Isaiah’s prophecy...

#### **Isaiah 53:4-6 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>4</sup> Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup> We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

I encourage you to take hold of those promises today. If you need forgiveness, if you need healing, if you need a miracle, His covenant still provides it for you today. So, as we sing this powerful reminder of who Jesus is, reach out to him right where you are. He will make a way for you today because He loves you and he has shed his blood for you.

**Way Maker**

# Shaken

A few months ago, I was praying about what God wanted me to share this Easter. The Holy Spirit drew my attention to the earthquakes surrounding the death and resurrection of Jesus. Matthew records two of them. One the day Jesus died and another on the morning of His resurrection.

Let's Read them together...

## **Matthew 27:45-54 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>45</sup> From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. <sup>46</sup> About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eli, Eli,*<sup>[a]</sup> *lema sabachthani?*" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>47</sup> When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah."

<sup>48</sup> Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. <sup>49</sup> The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

<sup>50</sup> And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

<sup>51</sup> At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. **The earth shook**, the rocks split <sup>52</sup> and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. <sup>53</sup> They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and<sup>[c]</sup> went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

<sup>54</sup> When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw **the earthquake** and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

## **Matthew 28:1-2 New International Version (NIV)**

**28** After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

<sup>2</sup> There was a **violent earthquake**, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.

From these passages, I felt like the Holy Spirit planted a seed in my heart with just one word – SHAKEN – The more I looked at those passages, the more I felt like He was saying sometimes I need to shake things up in order to get people to pay attention.

Little did I know that we would be experiencing a shaking of our own this Easter season as the Corona Virus Crisis has really shaken things up for all of us. And maybe, just maybe, what the Lord revealed to me about the shaking of the events of Jesus crucifixion and resurrection apply to our own shaking today.

## 1. Shaken that we might BELIEVE

### **Matthew 27:51-54 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>51</sup> At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. **The earth shook**, the rocks split <sup>52</sup> and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. <sup>53</sup> They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and<sup>[c]</sup> went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

<sup>54</sup> When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw **the earthquake** and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

Look, I am here... Look, I am the son of God... Look, I am the resurrection and the life, and no one comes to the father except through me... Look, I came to save you from your sins... Look, I died for you...

As John declared at the close of his gospel...

### **John 20:31 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Maybe God is allowing our world to be shaken right in order to draw people to Jesus... To believe in him for our salvation...

When Jesus told the parable of the one lost sheep, he said that God is not willing that any should perish. Peter reiterated these words in 2 Peter 3:9 when he said that...God is not willing that any should perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

## 2. Shaken that we might WAKE UP

Another purpose for shaking is to wake us up...

### **Matthew 26:36-46 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” <sup>37</sup> He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

<sup>39</sup> Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

<sup>40</sup> Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. <sup>41</sup> “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

<sup>42</sup> He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”

<sup>43</sup> When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy.

<sup>44</sup> So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

<sup>45</sup> Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup> Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

*I feel like the Lord is saying... It's time for my church to wake up... The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak... Watch and pray so that you will not fall... Are you still sleeping and resting? There is more going on than you think... The hour has come...*

### 3. Shaken that we might BE READY

In the parable of the 10 virgins, Jesus said the 5 foolish virgins were not ready. I think sometimes God allows us to be shaken in order to get us ready.

#### **Matthew 25:1-13 New International Version (NIV)**

**25** “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. <sup>4</sup> The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

<sup>6</sup> “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

<sup>7</sup> “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

<sup>9</sup> “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

<sup>10</sup> “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

<sup>11</sup> “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

<sup>12</sup> “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

<sup>13</sup> “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Church, we need to be ready for what is coming. If God is shaking us up right now it is so we can be prepared. We need to be wise about what is happening, we need to be full of the Holy Spirit, we need to be ready for the midnight cry, we need to know that it can happen at any time.

I Received the following word from one of our church members this week... You weigh it carefully and see if you hear the Holy Spirit’s voice.

*The Lord says: church COVID-19 will pass, the first of many. It WILL be followed by another and another and another.... You are now experiencing a new reality and you will see that which I told you would come is coming to pass.*

*May 2020 everything BEGINS to change. There will be natural and supernatural manifestations. Prepare NOW for the fulfillment of those things I prophesied. You are not prepared for the end of days because you do not believe. You shouted hallelujah and amen in the days of comfort but now that those days are passing you are allowing fear and torment to SET IN. You forgot I am your refuge, (Psalm 46). WATCH, LISTEN, PRAY. Volcano's, earthquakes, rising water levels, fires, meteor storms striking earth, famine and pestilence will cause panic and rioting. Tucson we are not exempt. Repent in humility, seek my face, soon I am calling those who believe home. Matthew 24 is especially important; Hebrews 9:28; Romans 14:23 ...for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.*

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:35-39*

*Without faith (expectation, anticipation, belief) it is impossible to please God.*

**Luke 12:35-40 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>35</sup> “Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, <sup>36</sup> like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. <sup>37</sup> It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. <sup>38</sup> It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. <sup>39</sup> But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”



#### 4. Shaken that we might BE PURIFIED

Finally, if we are being shaken right now, perhaps it is so the Lord can purify us. Have you ever heard the saying, “I’m gonna shake the ticks off you?” You would have to shake pretty hard to shake ticks off of someone.

But that’s what God wants to do... he wants us to be free from the entanglements of sin and this world.

#### **Titus 2:11-14 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. <sup>12</sup>It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup>who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.