

## GOD'S PURPOSE IN LAZARUS' DEATH

*When YAHSHUA received the news that Lazarus was sick, He was staying in Perea beyond Jordan with His disciples, which was more than a day's journey. By the time the news arrived, Lazarus had died. YAHSHUA knowing that, He remained there two more days, before He went to see Lazarus. He said, Our friend Lazarus is at rest and sleeping; but I am going there that I may awaken him out of his sleep. The disciples answered, Lord, If he is sleeping, he will recover. However, YAHSHUA had spoken of his death. So, then He told them plainly, Lazarus is dead (John 11:4-14). That happened at the time when the Jewish Passover was at hand, (11:55). Lazarus death and resurrection coincided two weeks before YAHSHUA'S death and resurrection. According to the Restored Vision book by A.E Ware the death and resurrection of Lazarus took place exactly two weeks before that of our Lord YAHSHUA, and precisely the same days of the week. The messenger sent by the two sisters must have left Bethany on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> and reached our Lord on Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Lazarus died on Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, and rose on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>; our Lord died on Friday, May first and rose on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> of May, in exact fulfillment of every statement He had made upon the subject. Lazarus death was not an isolated case, without a significant meaning that of connecting him to a prophetic event to happen many years later in the life of the Jewish nation. Lazarus, was a type of the nation of Israel, which was destroyed A.D.70 and remained dead as a nation, until the time when it was reestablished in the year 1948. Lazarus' resurrection pointed to a time in history when his nation would arise from the ashes into life.*

The urgency of the moment of Lazarus' sickness didn't concern our Lord, for He knew the perfect timing when He should go to attend to Lazarus' situation, fulfilling the Father's desire for that important moment in His life on earth, for it was the time when YAHSHUA'S messiahship would be brought to light. Lazarus' illness and death was for the glory of God. The burial of Lazarus for four days constituted a case of no doubt in the minds of the people that YAHSHUA was the Messiah, the Son of God. *The Sabbath on April 25<sup>th</sup> A.D. 33, was therefore the last day of the great Messianic time prophecy of the "seventy weeks" minus one or 483 of 490 years, as measured in Gentile time. (Dan. 9:24-27). However, that day, the Jewish nation showed their ultimate rejection, for settling their minds to kill YAHSHUA, their Messiah. Which happened two weeks later, but on God's calendar and purpose. Our Lord YAHSHUA Messiah from the very beginning experienced the hatred of the Jewish leaders and knew well that in spite of all His miracles and manifested grace they would reject and kill Him. One week after our Lord was in Jericho He was crucified and six of the seven weeks of years (483 Of 490) were completed in A.D. 26 to 33, which would now have to be relived at the end of the Christian era as a period of retributive judgments, the desolating nature of which the Apostle John received by revelation from our risen Lord and recorded in the book of Revelation (Restored Vision, A.E Ware).*

We read that when YAHSHUA saw Mary sobbing, and the Jews who came with her sobbing, He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled; He then wept. (John 11:33-35). At that moment, YAHSHUA saw men's inability to fight death, a condition in which sin had held them under condemnation. That was beyond physical death. But He had come to free them from their

enemy. – death. “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?... But thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory through our Lord YAHSHUA Messiah” (I Cor, 15:55,57). Not long after Lazarus’ death, in the space of time of two weeks later, YAHSHUA, the Lamb of God would be sacrificed to atone for the sins of the world. He would sustain mental, physical and spiritual sufferings no one could ever imagine: *Despised, rejected, forsaken by men, a man of sorrows and pains and acquainted with grief and sickness, He was wounded for the transgression of men, bruised for their guilt and iniquities, he took our punishment in order to give us peace (Isaiah 53)*. He wept at the spiritual condition of men and had compassion on them. YAHSHUA presented Himself to Martha as the Resurrection and Life, a touch of hope in view of her dead brother. He wanted Martha to know that His power was greater than that of death itself. He showed Martha and her sister and all who had come to comfort them that He had power over death, even after Lazarus had been buried four days. The Author of life was not under the power of death.

Upon calling Lazarus out of the tomb with a powerful shout, with a loud voice, prophetically pointing to the future event when *YAHSHUA will descend from heaven with a loud cry of summons, with the shout of an archangel, and with the blast of the trumpet of God (to fetch His bride)*. *And those who have departed this life in Christ will rise first (I Thess. 4:16)*. At that time, I believe the dead in Christ will hear their names at the trumpet’s call. This is a mystery in a mystery, we do not understand completely, but all will be revealed to us at the right time.

Much was happening in the heavenlies that was veiled at the time of Lazarus’ resurrection. That was the time when heaven and earth were united; angels witnessed and celebrated Lazarus’ life, as the glory of God was revealed when YAHSHUA commanded Lazarus to come forth. Before then, He prayed, *Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. Yes, I know You always hear and listen to Me, but I have said this on account of and for the benefit of the people standing around, so that they may believe that You did send Me. When He said this, He shouted with a loud voice, LAZARUS, COME OUT!* As a result, *many Jews, who had come with Mary believed in Him (John 11:45)*. Unfortunately, not all believed in Him. Some took the matter to the authorities, who planned to kill Him. This was with certainty, the end of the sixth week given the Jewish people out of seven in order to *finish and to put an end to transgression, to seal up and make full the measure of sin, to purge away and make expiation and reconciliation for sin, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and prophet and to anoint a Holy of Holies (Dan.9:24)*.

Israel awaits now her time of judgment which will happen during her last week of seven years, called the tribulation, prophesied by Moses saying, *For I know that after my death you will utterly corrupt yourselves and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you and evil will befall you in the latter days, because you will do what is evil in the sight of the Lord to provoke Him to anger through the work of your hand (Deut. 31:29)*; and from the Prophet Jeremiah: *Alas! For that day will be great, do that none will be like it; it will be the time of Jacob’s trouble, but he will be saved out of it (Jer. 30:7)*; and from the Prophet Zechariah: *And in all the land, says the Lord, two-thirds shall be cut off and perish, but one-third shall be left alive; and I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined and will*

*test them as gold is tested,. They will call on My name, and I will hear and answer them. I will say, It is My people; and they will say, the Lord is my God! (13:8-9)*

The evidence of Lazarus' resurrection echoes throughout eternity concerning God's plan for the nation of Israel. The world will see, the remnant will rejoice. It shall be said in that day, Behold, our God upon Whom we have waited and hoped, that He might save us! This is the Lord, we have waited for Him; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation (Isa. 25:9)