

Easter 2015

"The Door is Open!"

The Easter Story... How Jesus came to earth in the fullness of time... To redeem what was lost in the Garden... To save the people that God loved so very much... To reverse the deathly desire of sin... The price would be high!

The Price... Laying down the relationship He had with His Father in heaven... Giving up His perfect spirit form to dwell in human flesh... Living a necessary perfect life for thirty three years... To lay down a sinless life, the only price God could accept, for sin riddled mankind!

The Passion... That drove Him to sinlessness... loving God, loving man, more than selfish sin... To endure the "contradiction of sinners" He was sent to save... To suffer the weakness of those who walked with Him day by day... To overcome the betrayals of the twelve... from the upper room to the Garden and temple courtyard...

The Persecution... The mocking and rough handling... The lashes of the whips... The treachery of the religious... The injustice of the crowds... The insults of the tongues and the insertion of the nails... Even the grating words of a man dying alongside Him...

How much can one man take? "The Lord laid on Him the iniquity *of us all!* **Isaiah 53.6** "The Lord made the sins and injustice *of us all* to meet together on Him! **Isaiah 53.6 [lit] He had to take all the sin, with all its crushing, bruising penalty!**

In Another World... Jesus was fulfilling a promise... Having become the Lamb of God, slain for the sins of mankind... He was taken by death into the "lower regions" where every living soul was held "captive..."

"Quickened by the Spirit, He went and preached unto the spirits in prison..." 1Peter 3.18-20

They had little idea of the Good News they would hear proclaimed!

"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believes in Me, though he were dead, yet will he live..."
John 11.25

And it obviously worked really well...

"When He came up from the lower regions to ascend up on high, He led the captives out of their captivity..." Eph 4.8-10

"HE HAS RISEN!" AND HE'S NOT ALONE! AND THE DOOR IS OPEN!

Open Door... No matter who you are, been, done... No matter how broken or scarred... No matter how many times you've tried to be good, turn over a new leaf... Hopes now broken, dreams shattered... Loved ones gone, people against you... EASTER IS THE PROMISE THAT LIFE BEGINS AGAIN!

What was once a door of a tomb holding Him in... has now become YOUR doorway into resurrection power!