

“Out Of Two Caves”

By Mrs. Sojourner

Let us think about one of the similarities of both the Christmas account, and the Resurrection account: the dwelling.

Historians have told us that the Christmas stable was a cave used to keep the animals. Scripture describes Jesus’ tomb in this passage:

⁵⁹Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. ⁶¹Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb. Matt. 27:59-61 (NIV)

Now I understand that Jesus’ tomb was a manmade “cave” and not naturally occurring as the stable’s cave likely was, but please consider the following: two of the greatest acts Jesus was involved in occurred from a cave. The first was his birth, the product of immaculate conception. Jesus’ birth in itself was a miracle. That miracle put hope on earth for the first time since Adam’s fall. Out of this simple cave stable came the hope of the



Notes:

[a]

world. Then, thirty-three and a half years later that hope was culminated when Jesus miraculously came out of a cave a second time through another miracle—the greatest miracle.

Take a few minutes during your Resurrection celebration and ponder—not condemningly dwell on—just ponder whether or not there is something that you have buried in a “cave” of un-forgiveness or shame instead of applying to it the grace and forgiveness that Jesus died and rose again to give you.

This is a victorious time for Believers in Jesus the Christ. Let us make sure we are doing our part to let him do ALL he wants to do in and through us instead of keeping part of our past in a cave. He came out of the cave, let us do the same.

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Sojourning

Vol. 7 No. 12 March 23, 2008

...with The Sojourner

“They Came Out With Jesus” (Teaching Sketch)

Matthew 27:45-53

Jesus was hanging on the cross and there was darkness over the whole land from the sixth hour ^(“6” the number of man) until the ninth hour. ^(“9” the number of Holy Spirit) It was about the ninth hour when Jesus cried out scripture. He quoted Psalm 22:1a, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?”—which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”^[a] Even in this dark hour, literally and figuratively, Jesus remained in the Word of God! Jesus was even taunted, in his misery, by the crucifixion attendants. You see the person taunting was a person in the grips of the world system doing what they saw as “all a part of a day’s work”.

Mankind Did Not Kill

Jesus was not killed by mankind but he did die for mankind. What do I mean? Well, look at verse 50 of our scripture. It says, “And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.” Jesus willingly came, lived, and died, by giving up his



spirit for mankind. There was only so much limited control delegated to mankind, but God had total control in the glorious plan to restore peace between mankind and God.

Notes:

[a]
My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

The Temple Curtain

“At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.” Yes, a thick heavy curtain was torn from top to bottom proving no person could have done it because it was several stories tall and there was no human access to the top of the curtain without scaffolding.

Earth And Rocks

“The earth shook and the rocks split.” Remember, it had only been a few days earlier, as Jesus entered Jerusalem, the religious leaders had attempted to stop the people from crying out regarding Jesus. Then we were told even the rocks would cry out if the people refused to do so. Now at his death the people were not crying out, but the earth and rocks did when Jesus finished his purpose for coming, the restoration of peace be-

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

Scripture:

Matthew 27:45-53^(NIV)

⁴⁵From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. ⁴⁶About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"—which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"^[a]

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

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

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

⁵¹At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split.

⁵²The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. ⁵³They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

[a]
Psalm
22:1

1 Corinthians 15:16-18
¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ^(NIV)

Other New Testament Resurrections

Girl Raised:

Matthew 9:23-26
Mark 5:38-43
Luke 7:11-15
Luke 8:51-56

Lazarus Raised:

John 11:38-44

Others raised at Jesus death on cross:

Matthew 27:45-53

Joyous Resurrection Day!
The blessings of our Lord on you and all that is yours by blood, adoption, or assignment!

"They Came Out With Jesus"^(Teaching Sketch)

Matthew 27:45-53

tween God and mankind!

The Bodies Of Saints

The bodies of many holy dead came back to life at this same time! Look carefully at these verses, ^{Mat. 27:51-53} The Apostle Paul made it very clear ^{1 Cor. 15:16} "For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost." This is very important. People could say there was resurrection in the Old Testament and there is resurrection in the New Testament but that does not show resurrection for the believer today. Oh, but it does show us we are to be resurrected just as Jesus and the others were resurrected. It cannot be said others were not resurrected because they were and they were seen by many. We are made alive in Christ as new creatures, just as the dead holy ones were, but they did not return to Jerusalem until an appointed time when Jesus came out of his tomb three days later! We, like they, have been raised to a purpose: that of proving the Christ ^{The Anointed} until he returns to catch us away. We, like they, are to be witnesses of resurrection.

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

