

MESSAGE

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WILL THE

REAL

TERRORIST

PLEASE

STAND UP



THE REAL DANGER IS COMING

FROM A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PLACE



GOD'S NAME IN THE LAST DAYS

BY L. DAVID HARRIS • PART 3

“IF JESUS COULD RAISE A DECOMPOSING DEAD MAN FROM THE GRAVE, CAN HE NOT ALSO DELIVER THOSE THAT ARE DEAD IN SIN? IT IS OUR PRIVILEGE IN THE LAST DAYS TO WORSHIP A PERSONAL GOD WHO CREATED US WITH PURPOSE AND LOVES TO DELIVER US FROM SIN.”

It is a compelling story. Jesus' friend Lazarus was so sick that he was about to die. His sisters sent for Jesus, saying, "Please come and help. The one you love dearly is about to die." One day passed and then two. At least by the third day the loving Savior would show up, right? Can you imagine the sadness and utter confusion that must have seized the minds of Lazarus' sisters when it appeared that Jesus was not coming? As the story continues, we discover that Jesus does not come until the fourth day. What took Him so long? Now, Lazarus is dead.

In the last issue, we discussed God's unique and exclusive role as Creator. We discovered that in the last days one of the most critical realizations that we must come to is that God created us with a definite purpose in mind. If we can truly understand our origin and why we are here, we are well on the road to fulfilling our destiny.

IT'S ABOUT TIME In Bethany, many are sorrowful about the death of Lazarus, and Jesus finally appears on the fourth day. There are so many questions in the minds of the mournful onlookers. I can hear it now, "What took You so long, Jesus? If You were here, Lazarus would not be dead!"

Have you ever felt like Jesus took too long to appear in your distressful situation? Jesus says, "And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him" (John 11:15). Soon after, Jesus tested the faith of Lazarus' sister Martha by saying that he would rise again. Martha said that yes, he would rise on resurrection day. "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (verse 25). Jesus was saying to all generations that when our hopes are decomposing quickly like Lazarus' body, and as a result, the terrible odor of doubt and apparent impossibilities overwhelm us, He is the resurrection and brings life to the dead.

What happens next is amazing. "And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go. Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him" (verses 43-45).

God's role as Creator is closely aligned with His role as Redeemer. The same God who created us with purpose also came in human form when we were most in need and continued His re-creative process of saving us from sin (see Romans 5:6-8). If Jesus could raise a decomposing dead man from the grave, can He not also deliver those that are dead in sin? It is our privilege in the last days to worship a personal God who created us with purpose and loves to deliver us from sin. What a wonderful God He is!

In the next three issues we will continue to discover how God's name reveals His ability to take us to our ultimate victory over sin. Remember, God loves you.

L. DAVID HARRIS is assistant registrar and Veteran's certifying official at Columbia Union College, in Takoma Park, Maryland.