

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

Healing Miracles of Christ

CORINNE HELINE

The Resurrection of Lazarus

Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

(It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)

Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.

When Jesus heard that, he said, this sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.

When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was.

Then after that he saith unto his disciples let us go into Judea again. His disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again?

Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world.

But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.

These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.

Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.

Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.

Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead;

And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.

Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellow-disciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.

Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already.

Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off:

And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house.

Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

But I know, that even now, whatsoever

thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.

Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last 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.

And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

She said unto him, Yea, Lord; I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

And when she had so said, she went her way, and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Master is come, and calleth for thee.

As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly, and came unto him.

Now Jesus was not yet come into the town, but was in that place where Martha met him.

The Jews then which were with her in the house, and comforted her, when they saw Mary, that she rose hastily and went out, followed her, saying, She goeth unto the grave to weep there.

Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit and was troubled.

And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord come and see.

Jesus wept.

Then said the Jews, Behold, how he loved him!

And some of them said, could not this man, which openeth the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?

Jesus therefore, again groaning in himself, cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.

Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he has been dead four days.

Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldst believe, thou shouldst see the glory of God?

Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou has sent me.

Then 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.
—*John 11:1-44.*

The nine Lesser Mysteries, also called the Lunar Mysteries, have been given in some form throughout the history of man. The advent of the Christ introduced the new or Solar Initiations to the world and it is to these higher truths, destined to serve humanity during the Great Sidereal Year beginning with the Sun's last precessional passage through Aries, that these Mysteries pertain. The religion of the Lamb bears a deeper and more far-reaching significance than is at the present time generally understood.

Lazarus was the most spiritually advanced of all the disciples who were under the tutelage of Christ Jesus. (The others did not reach this attainment until the Day of Pentecost.)

Exoteric religionists are puzzled to account for Christ's delay of two days before going to the aid of Lazarus. The esotericist knows that Christ was aware that only the body of Lazarus was in the tomb, whereas his Spirit was on the inner planes receiving the initiatory work that gives entrance into the deeper Christian Mysteries. The Master Jesus was initiated into these Mysteries in the Rite of the Baptism, and Lazarus, the next in spiritual attainment, at the time of his supposed death.

Christ Jesus described this Initiation in the words, "This sickness is not unto death but for the glory of God." In other phraseology, Lazarus now becomes a more perfect channel for receiving and disseminating the glories of God upon Earth.

Mary and Martha, the two sisters of Lazarus, were among the highest in development of the women disciples of Christ. They were thus able to take part in the initiatory or Resurrection Rite of their brother, as did the father and mother of Jairus's daughter. Mary symbolizes the mystic path, or the faith of

the heart; Martha, the occult path, or the reasoning of the mind. The union of heart (love) and head (understanding) produce *Wisdom*, the true essence of the soul. Lazarus represents this two-fold blending, which lifts the neophyte to a state of consciousness far transcending that possessed by ordinary humanity.

"Martha went out to meet Him, but Mary sat still in the house." Martha, the mind, is ever seeking light through externalities. Mary, the heart, in stillness turns within to find the kingdom of heaven.

Christ Jesus said unto Martha: "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth on me, though he die, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth on me shall never die. Believest thou this?"

And Martha made reply, "Yea, Lord: I have believed that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, even He that cometh into the world."

And when she had said this, she went away and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, "The Teacher is here, and calleth thee."

These words of the Master to Martha have been called the human passport to immortality. They are not words addressed only to Martha, the sister of Lazarus; they are the call of the Christ to the reasoning or concrete mind of all humanity. "Be ye transformed by the renewing of the mind." This is accomplished by linking the mind with the "I AM" consciousness wherein dwells the realization of resurrection into eternal life.

The glorious message of occult Bible interpretation is that this consciousness can be awakened here and now; it is not necessary to await death to work this transformation. "He that believeth in me, though he were dead (in materiality) yet shall he live again" — in renewed body, environment, and concept of life — a resurrection into a new being on every plane of consciousness. Truly a human passport to Immortality.

Referring to verses 38-39, 41-44: All higher birth must take place in a cave or stable; the Christ can be born within only through regenerative work upon the lower man. In Capricorn the Christ is born in the cave of the lower nature by purification. In Virgo he is born in the cave of the heart through transmutation. "Lazare deuro exo — Lazarus hither out! Loose him and let him go." These mystic words bear the message of the spiritual victory of Lazarus.

The Pharisees and priests were cognizant to some extent of the Mystery Teachings. Indeed, Arthur Weigall, the world-renowned Egyptologist, now deceased, declares that his researches in ancient religions have convinced him that the New Testament describes a ritual in which a condemned criminal was executed as a sacrifice, as in ancient Babylon, and that Jesus, when condemned to death was crucified in accordance with the ritual demands.

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CHRISTIAN TEACHINGS FOR WESTERN PEOPLES

Considering the fact that the Aryan race is to evolve reason, it is not at all surprising that we analyze everything, religion included. Religion, like all else, is in a state of growth and becoming, and as the present work of the Western World is principally along material lines, its religious teachings are not yet so clearly enunciated as in some of the Eastern religions. The result is that some of the investigators scoff at the Christian teachings, and others have been led to forsake the Christian religion and have adopted Eastern systems.

From the occult standpoint this is a retrogression. The Great Recording Angels who have charge of our present evolution give to each nation the religions best suited to its stage of growth, and we may rest assured that those Great Intelligences make no mistakes. They have given to us the Bible containing both the Jewish and the Christian Religions. One would not have been enough; both are absolutely necessary to our evolution.

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The mission of the race religions was to prepare mankind for the universal religion of the Sun Spirit, Christ, who manifested among us without an intermediary as the light which comes direct from the Sun, and "we beheld His glory as the *alone begotten* of the Father," when He taught the gospel of Love. The Christian Religion gives no laws, but preaches love as the fulfillment of the law. Therefore no debts of destiny are generated under it, and Christ, who was under no necessity to be born in the first place, will not be drawn to rebirth under the Law of Causation as were the founders of the lunar race religions, who must bear from time to time the sins of their followers.

—Max Heindel