



water from rock

## Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – April 16, 2022

The Lord be with you.

Well, it's spring time and where I live, we have that wonderful fragrance of Orange blossoms, there's Jasmine budding, and there's the dazzling yellow blooms of paloverde trees. It's just really beautiful. And for Christians, Easter is well, it's the high point of the year. And Easter is more than a spring celebration, Easter is more than sap rising in the trees. Easter is a celebration that our Lord Jesus Christ lives, and that by His death, He defeats death, and Jesus opens the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers.

Now, today, I'm a little betwixt and in between, as there are so many beautiful scripture passages that we could look at for Good Friday and Easter, but I've settled on one particular verse found in the Apostle Paul's letter to the Roman Christians, Romans Chapter 4 verse 25, I read "Jesus was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification." And that is the Gospel in a few words. That's the Gospel in a nutshell. Jesus Was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification. Well, that's Good Friday and Easter summed up for us...

First, it tells us what Good Friday is about. Jesus was handed over to death for our trespasses. Then it tells us what Easter Sunday is all about, and Jesus was raised for our justification. And I wanna jump in here with just a little bit of New Testament Greek grammar that all has to do with the Greek word that is translated as for F-O-R the Greek word is dia... That is D-I-A which means because of or on account of. So, Jesus was handed over to death, dia or for, because of on account of our trespasses, and Jesus was raised dia, for, on account of because of our justification. Let me see if I can illustrate...

Imagine going into the post office and you see there a wanted poster, and it has a picture of a man and his name, and it says that he is wanted for mail robbery. Now, obviously, the Post Office is not advertising for someone to go out and to do mail robbery, but they were saying that the person is wanted for that as that person is wanted on a count of, because of mail robbery. So that's like the use of the word for here, this verse what it says, Jesus was handed over to death for that is on account of because of our trespasses, and Jesus was raised for, that is on account of because of our justification. That means that Jesus' resurrection, that Jesus' empty tomb is God's proof. It is God's evidence of our justification. It is proof that the cross of Jesus put us right with God, and the gospel good news, that if just one, just one of your sins was not atoned for by Jesus' death, then Jesus would still be dead in the tomb. Jesus was raised on account of because of our justification, because he did through his death put us right with God. It's been rightly said that the empty tomb... The empty tomb is God's amen to Christ's words, it is finished.



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Jesus was handed over to death for on account of because of our trespasses, and Jesus was raised for on a count of because of our justification, because of our having been put right with God.

And that is good news.

The Apostle Paul says much the same thing, a little differently in 1 Corinthians Chapter 15 verse 17 where he says, "If Christ has not been raised, then you were still dead in your sin, but Christ has been raised, and so God no longer sees you and me and our sins, as Jesus has been raised because of our justification, on account of Jesus putting us right with God." So ponder the empty tomb this Easter and see written there God's guarantee that Jesus was handed over to death because of our sins, and Jesus was raised because of our justification.

He is risen, He is risen indeed.

I close with that beautiful prayer of Richard of Chichester from the 13th century, "thanks be to Thee, my Lord Jesus Christ for all the benefits Thou has given me, for all the pains and insults Thou has born for me. Oh most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may I know Thee more clearly, love Thee more dearly, and follow Thee more nearly day by day. Amen."

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thank you for listening. Until next time.