



## BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

**A2322 ~ "The Lord is Risen!"**

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*Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.*

It's a sad fact that some Christian churches are governed by church politics. Politics are a way of directing people's behaviour with a hidden agenda; somebody with personal desires and selfish motives wants something they communicate to the rest of the church as though what they want is a cause of Christ. This somebody may have been better educated, come from an influential family or be able to speak well in public. But when this person doesn't get the desired outcome they were wanting, he or she may gather together a group of like-minded people who pull away and be difficult to work with on many things in the life of the church.

Of course, all such behaviour is dishonouring to God and the name of the Lord Jesus, particularly when most local church politics are about small things that don't matter in the long term.

Although the Scriptures don't indicate the internal politics of today's *Bible Adventure* drama, the Bible does give the results. It was unheard of for a High Priest to visit and enter Governor Pilate's palace on a Jewish holy day, as this defiled himself for celebrating the Passover.

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Jesus taught His disciples in Mark, Chapter 8, that He would suffer many things, be rejected by the elders and chief priests, be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke this openly. In Chapter 10 of Mark, Jesus took His disciples aside and told them that they were going to Jerusalem, where He would be betrayed to the chief priests and scribes, be condemned to death and delivered to the Gentiles. The Gentile Romans would mock Him, whip Him, spit on Him and kill Him. Yet on the third day, He would rise again.

The Jewish leaders also knew that Jesus said that He would rise again. When Jesus cleansed the Temple in John, Chapter 2, they asked Him for a sign to show that He had the authority to clear the Temple of the animals and merchants. He replied to them, “Destroy this temple and in three days, I will raise it up.” Jesus was speaking about His body as being the Temple of God, but the Jews thought only of the huge building that they had called the Temple. After Jesus was raised back to life, His disciples remembered what He’d said and believed the Scriptures.

The Jews didn’t want to take any chances that Jesus might come back from the dead, so they sealed His tomb and placed a guard of soldiers around it. But the plans of the rulers and chief priests came to nothing. They didn’t accept that Jesus was the Son of God, but only viewed Him as a man. They expected Jesus couldn’t get out of the tomb unless He was aided by His disciples, so they made sure the disciples couldn’t come near.

But if Jesus really was the Son of God, what hope did a guard of soldiers have to stop an angel from heaven opening the tomb? This ignorance gives rise to the saying: Man proposes but God disposes. This means: God has the final say. In Proverbs, Chapter 16, it says: “A man’s heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.”

An angel rolling away the stone in front of the tomb where Jesus' body lay shows that spiritual power is much stronger than physical power. This is why a person possessed by a demon cannot get free of it using only human power. Only a higher power than Satan can order it out. This power of God comes from the Holy Spirit working through a believer in Christ.

The angel said: "He is risen!" Since the creation of the world, there has never been another event as important as Christ rising from the dead. If Christ hadn't risen, there would be no 'Christianity'. Neither would there have been any salvation for people. The whole course of history would have been totally different. When Jesus rose from death, He gave final and absolute proof that He was indeed God's very own and victorious Son. God Himself came to earth and overcame the last enemy, death while separated from God, and showed everyone the way to heaven.

Some atheists try to say that Christ never rose; that such was only a myth invented by Jesus' disciples. However, they're wrong. Jesus' resurrection is a fact of history. How do we know this?

The tomb was empty. No one denies this. If Jesus hadn't risen from the dead, then where did His body go? Roman soldiers were guarding the tomb. Some Jews to this day say that Jesus' disciples stole the body but this would have been impossible with Roman guards at the tomb's entrance. The Jewish leaders never tried to round up Jesus' disciples or bring charges against them. If they had, they would have found it hard to find them, because the disciples were hiding in fear of the Jews in locked rooms and were well away from public view.

The Jewish leaders wanted some means of disproving Jesus' resurrection; so what better way than to find His beaten body! But it was nowhere to be found. After Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to many people: at least 500 before ascending back to heaven. Many of those people were still alive at the time Paul wrote his letter to the Corinthians, which was about 25 years later. All such people were witnesses to Jesus' resurrection.

Another major proof of Jesus coming alive again was the way He affected His frightened disciples. When they saw the risen Jesus, the Bible records they became totally new men, filled with joy and empowered by His Holy Spirit. Their story throughout the world was consistent with Jesus' message of salvation; it had dramatically changed their lives and purpose for living. And not only theirs, but many others in history too!

What must Jesus rising from the grave have meant to the Roman soldiers guarding His tomb? They must have been very jittery when another earthquake took place. They would have talked among themselves about the hours of darkness in the middle of the day only a few days previously. These supernatural events must have had the soldiers wondering what could possibly happen next!

Let's check the Old Testament prophecies to see if Jesus fulfilled them as the expected Messiah.

There is a significant amount of Biblical evidence which leads us to only one conclusion: Jesus **is** the Messiah. He claimed it. Other people claimed it for Him. More importantly, He *demonstrated* it by His fulfilment of every messianic prophecy and this must leave us in no doubt. The mathematical probability that a person could fulfil even some of the prophecies Jesus did is huge, yet Jesus did them all.

One of the most amazing things God foretold was the date of the Messiah's birth. In Daniel, Chapter 9, we were told that 69 weeks of 7 years, or 483 years after Jerusalem and its wall were commissioned to be rebuilt, that the Messiah would be 'cut off' for our sins. The rebuilding of Jerusalem is thought to have been around 453 BC. Exactly 483 years after Jerusalem was rebuilt, Jesus was crucified outside its walls. We are given the historical information we need to accurately place Jesus' birth in the reign of King Herod, as stated in Matthew, Chapter 2.

In Matthew, Chapter 11, the Lord Jesus quotes from Isaiah, Chapter 35, describing a wonderful ministry of healing for any who need it. Over and over again, all throughout the gospels, Jesus *never* turned away anyone who needed healing, even when He knew some of them would not turn to Him. In His healing of 10 lepers, only one ever returned to give glory to God. Jesus offers us all healing for our hearts, at the cost of His own life. He loves people deeply, even though many never admit that He died for them.

In the Old Testament, there are many places where the character of Messiah is described. We can see the same character traits exhibited by Jesus in the New Testament. Isaiah describes Messiah as demonstrating tenderness and compassion; Matthew says the same of Jesus when he recorded in his book Matthew: "Great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all." The Apostle Peter goes farther and claims that Jesus is completely without sin in 1 Peter, Chapter 2, and that by quoting it, He fulfils Isaiah 53:9.

In Isaiah, Chapter 53, it also says that the Messiah would be buried with the rich in His death. Jesus' battered body was laid in Joseph of Arimathea's own expensive tomb. Furthermore, Psalm 16 speaks of Jesus' body as not being allowed to remain in the grave or to decay, instead, it would be raised to life from death.

From God's point of view, there is or was no other person good enough to pay the price of our sin. Only Jesus could unlock the gates of heaven and let us in by His perfect, sinless sacrifice. Come to Him in thanksgiving for what He's done. Choose Jesus' way to God every day, just as He chooses to accept you every day if you will believe in Him.

*The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.*

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