



By Moses Gbenu

HE HAS RISEN, JUST AS HE SAID!

By Abimbola Adewumi Alabi

“He is not here; He has risen, just as He said! Come, see the place where He lay.” Matthew 28:6(NIV)

Right from creation, everything happened, just as He said.

God said let there be in *Genesis 1*, and it has been so till today.

In the scriptures, God has taught us in so many ways that we have to say what we believe in our hearts, and we see it come to pass.

It’s significant to remember in this season of celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus that this Resurrection happened:

He has risen, just as He said!

What are you saying today, Especially about your destiny?

Jesus spoke about what His purpose in life was about.

At every point, He confessed what HIS Father had said about Him.

Again, the great takeaway from the just-concluded Easter season is:

It all happened as HE said it would.

Say words that are in line with your purpose in life.

No matter the challenges you face.

Say only His words that line up with your life.

Never speak negatively about your purpose in life.

Always make positive confessions.

Remember the Shunammite woman? (*2Kings 4*)

She experienced the Resurrection of her son.

Jesus, Himself said positive words about the dead Lazarus.

He was brought back to life.

Whatever appeared dead in your situation, speak life to it in Jesus’s name.

The path to the cross was filled with purposeful challenges.

At each point, Jesus spoke precisely what was required.

During the temptation:

He told satan that man shall not live by bread alone but by the word of God.

He emphasized and encouraged us to speak to our destiny.

No matter the area of your life, look for the word of God and say it over the situation.

In healing, say By His stripes, you are healed.

He wishes above all that you are healthy and prosperous.

That’s what you should always say to yourself.

“He is not here; He has risen, just as He said! Come, see the place where He lay.” Matthew 28:6(NIV)



IN THIS EDITION:

He has risen, just as He said!

Like others ?...

On the Third Day, I Will Rise Again

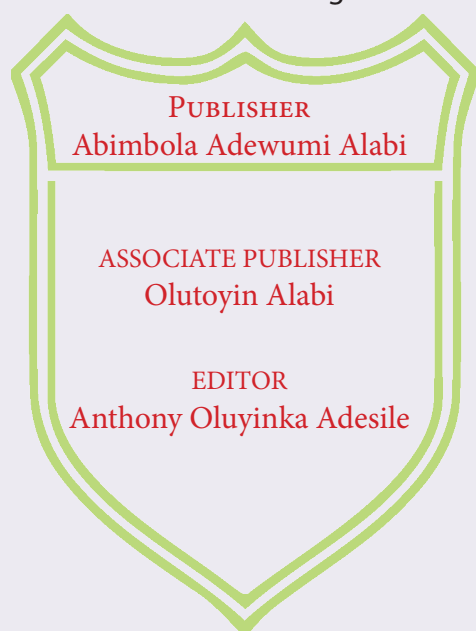
The Power of Resurrection

Destiny is in your hands
Be a Daniel; Not a Joseph!

Welcome to Panoplia.

The mission of Panoplia is to help believers develop a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. It emphasises spiritual growth and leadership.

It is published quarterly by City Of Refuge Ministries Inc. and is distributed free of charge.



Most quotations in this newsletter are from the **Holy Bible, King James Version.**

Feel free to write to us if you have comments, contributions, observations or reactions to articles published in this journal.

All correspondence should be directed to:

The Editor
Panoplia, P.O. Box 53277,
Falomo, Ikoyi,
Lagos, Nigeria.

The Editor Panoplia,
P. O. Box 110808 Cambria Heights,
New York, NY 11411.

For Free subscription
email us at :
info@destiny-empowerment.org

Designed and Produced by
Deetee Consulting

Copyright © 2012
Deetee Consulting

Like others ?...

**“And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.”
1 Sam. 8:5. (KJV).**

God initially chose the Israelites as a model nation.

However, they wanted to be like the other nations. They wanted a king.

God allowed their wish:

The result was that the Israelites became like the other nations.

They turned their backs on God.

They served other gods.

God rejected them.

Do you want to be like other people?

Do you want to live like other people?

Jesus Christ is the accurate model for all.

Be like Christ in all areas of your life.

Who do you choose daily to be like?

You are unique in your purpose and calling.

The Church is not to copy the Hollywood.

The Church has a unique role in modeling God.

Don't be like others

Follow Jesus Christ:

The Author and Finisher of our Faith...

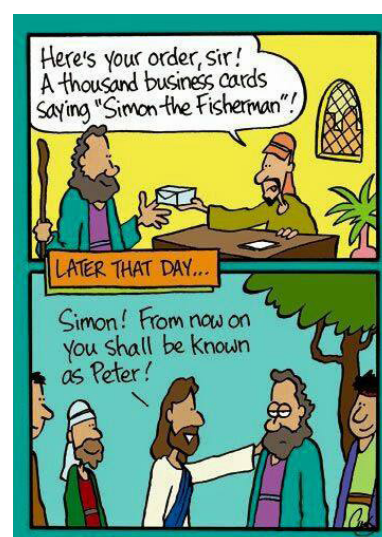
Application to the Christian life:

Remain under the protection of God.

Live Daily to please Him.

Honor Him.

By Abimbola Adewumi Alabi



ON THE THIRD DAY, I WILL RISE AGAIN

By Moses Gbenu

Mark 10:33-34:

****"Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death; and shall deliver him to the Gentiles;***

****"And they shall mock him, and shall scourge Him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him, and the third day he shall rise again"***

One of the reasons why Jesus came as man is to identify with some human sufferings, give solutions to human sufferings, and ultimately bring the redemption of man from the cause of human misery (sin).

Jesus said in the course of doing this, He would experience mockery, shame, scourging, being spat upon, and finally death.

Death is the ultimate and greatest weapon any enemy can use on man.

After death, they can do nothing more. But Jesus said He would allow His enemies to do their worst. Then on the third day, he would rise again.

There is a Third Day for every son of man that is connected to the divine Son of Man.

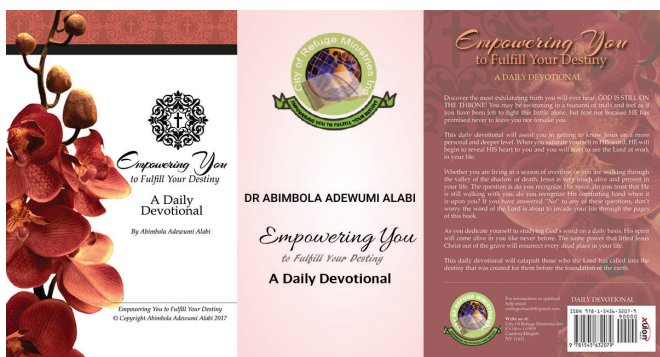
David wrote that for a child of God, weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

For every child of God, there is a morning for every night of mourning or weeping.

The enemy cannot stop a day from rising because the rising or the breaking of a new day is determined by the rotation of the Earth around the sun. This takes 24 hours and the speed is estimated to be about 30km per second; that is 110,000km per hour! An average aircraft travels at 800km/hr. The speed of the Earth's rotation is therefore over 137 times the speed of an average aircraft. It is like the speed of an aircraft that flies from Lagos to London in 10 mins or from London to New York in about 15 minutes - a journey of about 8 hours!

The earth is massive and yet it is moving at such a great speed continuously. As the Earth moves, it is carrying all of us along round the sun every day! We are all daily cruising round the Sun!

Fortunately, there is no incantation or invocation that can stop this movement of the Earth round the sun and its revolution on its own axis. No herbalist can stop this movement; no demon, no witches, no occult man can stop this.



The books are available at Amazon.com, Barnes and Nobles
and other leading Christian bookstores

#1. Since it is this unstoppable movement of the Earth that determines the rising of a new day, therefore, no human being and no demon in the waters or in hell can stop my tomorrow from coming and my sun from rising. Halleluiah!

#2. If they cannot stop my tomorrow, they cannot stop my Third Day from coming.

For a child of God, the Third Day is the day when God starts a new beginning after the enemies might have done their worst in bringing shame, mockery, death, etc.

#3. Because I was crucified with Jesus Christ and was buried with him, and rose with Him in resurrection, I declare that whatever the enemy has been attempting in my life, I will rise again.

#4. From all my afflictions, this is my Third Day. I will rise again.

#5. From all the shame and mockeries I have suffered, this is my Third Day. I will rise again.

THE FEAR OF THE ENEMY IS YOUR THIRD DAY

The enemies eventually did their worst to Jesus. And they believed they had silenced and stopped Him forever. But they had a fear.

Matthew 27:62-66.

62 Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,

63 Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, "AFTER THREE DAYS, I WILL RISE AGAIN."

64 Command therefore that the sepulcher be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

65 Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make [it] as sure as ye can.

66 So they went, and made the sepulcher sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

After killing Jesus, the enemies suddenly remembered there was a prophecy of the Third Day that Jesus had given. And they felt this must not be allowed to happen. Many other prophecies had come to pass when Jesus was on earth and even at His death. But the resurrection prophecy must not come to pass.

Is there a prophecy about your life that the enemies are aware of that they are working to stop its manifestation?

Usually, most of the attacks we face in life are because there is a prophecy at stake in the air waiting for fulfillment.

Joseph faced his travails because of the prophecies in the air - the prophecies the enemies heard about.

Certain people or forces may have heard some prophecies and declarations about what you want to become.

They may have eavesdropped on your prayers and may have been working against them.

Sometimes, it may even be your prayer partner that picked certain prophecies or dreams of what you will become tomorrow and begins to work against them.

To stop the prophecy of the Third Day, the enemies of Jesus received a military command to stop it.

They said they would use the military and police might to secure the sepulcher of Jesus until the Third Day expires without fulfillment of that prophecy.

#6. In the name of Jesus, God's plans for my life will not expire.

There are four levels of death: Disease (gradual death), Death itself (cessation of physical life), Decay and Disintegration.

When death reaches the level of decay, smelling begins and all the parts of the body begin to break to pieces until everything is scattered or consumed.

Lazarus had reached decay and disintegration had started after third day.

Jesus got there on the fourth day! When Jesus got there, Mary said, the third day had passed. Decay had started and he was already smelling.

For her, the third day has passed. It was now too late.

But Jesus said, *"I am The Resurrection and the Life."* He stopped the process of decomposition and reversed the whole thing. Lazarus came back to life and stood up!

When Jesus died, the enemy said they would supervise His decomposition. They didn't know there was a prophecy already in the air over a thousand years before this time when David said, *"Thou shalt not allow Your Holy One to see decay..." (Psalm 16:10b)*



YOUR DESTINY MARRIAGE
Find Your Soul Mate

Your Destiny Marriage believes in the God ordained marriage, where the man and woman come together to become one. And for the man and woman seeking for a spouse, there is a God-ordained person for you. The challenge for you is how to find your partner. That is where this platform comes in, to facilitate your search. As you interact on this platform, you will be able to locate that special person. And together, you can start building that enduring and fulfilling home that will meet your needs as well as be a blessing to the world.

www.yourdestinymarriage.com

They would stay in front of the sepulcher that is tightly locked up and they would make sure they begin to smell the decay before they can be sure they have finally finished the destiny of Jesus.

For them, killing Jesus on the cross was not enough. He must smell in their presence before they can feel a sense of accomplishment.

Unfortunately, they could not prevent the Third Day from coming. They wanted to be sure that even if Jesus came back to life in the sepulcher, he would not be able to come out. The grave was so sealed he would have suffocated to death even if he rose up; He would have died again by hunger and suffocation. But Jesus rose and left them there!

#7. This year, I will rise and leave my enemies behind!

#8. In the name of Jesus, I am coming out of my sepulcher.

Have you been experiencing mockery?
This is your third day.

Your reputation and honor and dignity will rise again - in the name of Jesus.

Have you been scourged in life?

This is your third day.

You will rise again.

Has the enemy killed an aspect of your life?

This is your third day.

You will rise again.

Has a good relationship died in your life?

This is your third day. It will rise again.

Is any organ of your body dying?

Speak to it.

Before the enemy put Jesus in a sepulcher, David had spoken on behalf of Jesus several years back: Thou shalt not suffer (allow) your holy one to see corruption (decay). (Psalm 16:10).

#9. You my body, you will not see corruption. Every decay going on in my body, let the power of resurrection reverse the process in the name of Jesus.

#10. I will not die mentally or intellectually.

#11. I will not die financially. This is my Third day. Financially, I will rise again.

#12. Matrimonially, I will rise again.

#13. Those who think I will die in the sepulcher of bachelorhood or spinsterhood, this is my third day. I am rising from this sepulcher - in the name of Jesus.

#14. My business, you will rise again.

The enemies said they must sit down at the sepulcher of Jesus so that He would start decomposing in their presence. They waited in vain.

My enemies will wait in vain.

On the Third Day, God commissioned a mighty Angel from heaven to help in the fulfillment of that prophecy.

#15. Father, I ask that you commission a mighty Angel from Heaven to supervise my rising again.

CAVEAT

The Bible says, “But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken (activate or make alive) your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.” (*Romans 8:11*).

The promise of “The Third Day” is guaranteed only “if the Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in you...”

Do you have that Spirit in you?

That is the Spirit that adopts a sinner to become a child of God.

If want this today, now down your head and pray that God will forgive your sins and say you believe Jesus came and died as a sacrifice for you, so that you might be made a child of God. He rose up to demonstrate His power over death and the devil.

Invite Jesus to come into your heart.

Get a copy of the Bible or download one and begin to study the life and teaching of Jesus.

#16. (Give God quality praise. He is powerful.

Only He can control the rising of my sun, my tomorrow, my Third Day. Glory!)

(*This is an excerpt from the book *NEW LEVEL PRAYER HANDBOOK* by Moses Gbenu, available on Amazon and other major online bookstores worldwide*).

THE POWER OF RESURRECTION

By Emmanuel Akawu



As a young boy way back in the 70s, I had a crisis of faith. Being a young Christian boy, living amongst a majority of people that were not of the same faith, brought this dilemma. Whenever I listened to the radio, as well as went through print media, the stories often carried portrayed majorly Christian or English-related names being involved in a number of social and economic vices. At the time, I was ignorant of the depth of the other religion. But the religious devotion, outward morality, and awesome trust of the adherents of the other faith were always obvious and at the same time inviting. These were in the days some of the current realities of today were absent.

This struggle kept occurring over some time and was made worse by poor or shallow discipleship and scarcity of mentors. However, amid all the temptations and doubts, the reality of the empty tomb of Christ kept me going. The phenomenon of resurrection did not only steady my feet but has been the reason for my contented disposition and unshakeable hope. I am of the opinion that a deep and appropriate grasp of the resurrection will eliminate certain unfortunate doctrines ravaging the Church today and eliminate suicide to zero level.

Besides the temptation to drift away from my faith early in life, in my over 50 years of life, I have also had challenges that tended to bring offense in my heart towards God and contemplated suicide. But through all of these, the knowledge of resurrection made every challenge in my life appear as a child's play. I learned to look unto the Author and Finisher of my faith:

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds (Hebrews 12:2-3).

It is a reality that death is the worst of all challenges and the end of life. Mary's encounter with Jesus was a notable testimony. How many often conclude that their situation is even beyond God to reverse, forgetting that even death is not the last bus stage? Jesus, the resurrection, and the life reversed Mary's life-threatening situation. He is able to reverse ours as well.

With this knowledge, I tend to crack uncomfortable jokes at the moments when one should be frozen because of fear, apparent danger, hopelessness, etc. I remembered facing the end of my life in 2013 at the Lagos University teaching hospital in Nigeria. I had been evacuated from my duty post outside the country into Nigeria and after about 11 tests ordered by medical specialists, a professor looked at me, with apparent discouragement and confusion written all over her face, and asked, "how are you, young man?" My response made her ask again, "Are you aware you are not well? Are you aware we have conducted a series of tests on you? Are you aware that we are losing health professionals through this same condition that you have?" My further confident response made her conclude that perhaps, I was already a 'goner'. One thing she never knew was that God was able to use medicine, medical procedure, a surgical table, and the cool air condition of the morgue to bring me back to life and totally restore me. The knowledge of the power of resurrection gave me a confident

assurance that couldn't be threatened by any condition. My faith was without wavering. I was certain.

I strongly believe that if the clergy could teach the power of resurrection, most Christians would not commit suicide, cheat in the office or in the exam hall, cut corners in search of jobs/contracts, sell their birthrights, etc. The reason is that the darkest of situations is equally a great moment for God to fulfill His divine purpose in the life of a believer.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28)

In those days, I learned that a good picture could only be printed in the dark using a negative. We must teach the beauty of negative situations (like death), especially when sin is not the cause, and encourage people to rejoice still (Paul said, I boast in my infirmities) and not see it as a sign of failure, defeat, etc.

The death of Jesus and his resurrection separated history into two. Same with us, death or dark moments could bring a remarkable separation or change in our lives. The scriptures also reckon how the resurrected Christ was more glorious. How something more glorious awaits us and our generation after a dark moment cannot be overemphasized - as long as you live, not to harvest any glory to yourself but to the Maker of your soul.

But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you (Romans 8:11)

The empty tomb of Christ for me - which should be for you too - is a sign of victory, hope, liberty, and assurance. This reality should make us be like firemen, daring situations that scare others away. Like it's written, 'loving Him even unto death and counting our lives like nothing'.

The reason why local thugs - 'area boys' as they are called on the streets of Lagos, Nigeria, as well as die-hard terrorists are dreaded is that they attached zero value to their lives, perhaps for a morsel of bread or '72 virgins' respectively. How more glorious would it be should believers not value their lives, like their Master, for a greater glory awaiting them. I, therefore, dare to call you to become a "fireman", an "area boy" and a "terrorist" for Jesus. As a 'fireman', you will be saving men that are perishing; as an 'area boy', you will be helping people to obtain the bread of life that does not perish; and finally, as a 'terrorist', you will not be responsible for taking the lives of people for the promise of '72 virgins', but rather working to help men obtain eternal life. These are noble causes that do not cause grief, pain or anguish of heart but allow for peace and joy, and an expectation of a heavenly eternal home.

The resurrection story is a reality that reminds us of the hope that is set before us in order to continue our race with fear and trembling. It further challenges us not to be weary or slack in our role as laborers in God's vineyard, working to deliver many from the burden of sin and death. May the grace of our God keep us to the end. Happy resurrection.

Emmanuel Akawu
Akawus2@yahoo.com

DESTINY IS IN YOUR HANDS

Be a Daniel; Not a Joseph!



By Dr. Olutoyin Alabi

Let's draw a comparison between these two notable men in the Bible.

Life's Calling

Both were Great men, chosen for a National Destiny. This is where they share something in common, God being at the center of their life's purposes

Excellent / Entitlement Spirit

Daniel had an *excellent spirit* in him and always looked to the Lord for direction in ALL his ways. Joseph on the other hand had an *entitlement spirit*; an 'I have been betrayed' kind of spirit that made him complain about half of his life.

Personal Disposition

Let's appraise this in the context of what Oxford's dictionary refers to as a person's inherent qualities of mind and character'. Daniel's life was quiet and smooth with not so much drama or entertainment as that of Joseph. However, Joseph's life was full of drama because rather than wait on God or release himself to the plans and ways of God, he struggled through the process. Daniel took each step and phase with the Lord. So rather than have struggles, he had promotions till he got to his highest assignment.

Sense Of Judgment

Both Daniel and Joseph faced challenges from the enemy, but we see how Daniel sailed through his, complaining to no one but always seeking God's face first for answers and directions. Joseph, on the other hand, had so much drama because he often looked to man for Justice first and not to God. Psalm 105:19 later tells us how the Word of the Lord tried his character. Until Joseph was ready, then the king opened his prison doors. This was the prison door of character building. Daniel too was in the prison, but he was put in by man's connivance, not for his lack of character.

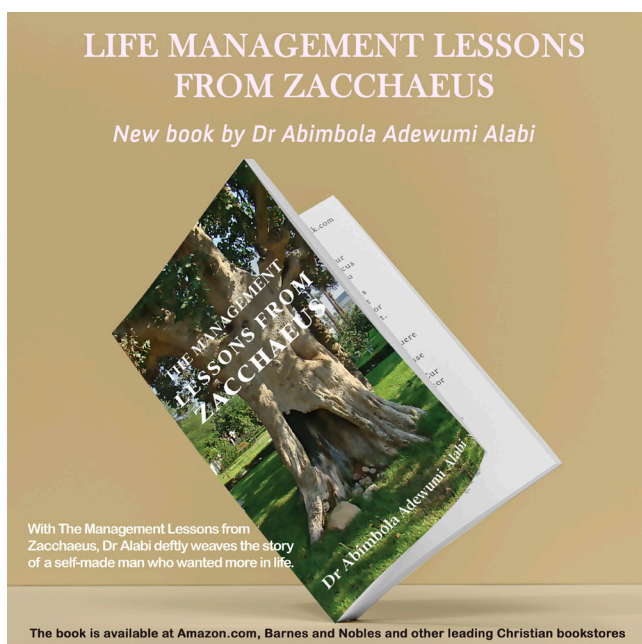
God, on the contrary, stood up for Daniel, by shutting the Lions' mouth and opening his prison door.

Summarily, the more we struggle with God's process or plan, the more dramatic and stressful our journey will be. But the more we release ourselves to God's process, the higher we go climbing through life's obstacles, effortlessly. Just like Daniel; just like Jesus Christ.

- In essence, our Life is about God. Never about us.
- If we want God to step up, we have to step out of the way!
- Life is not about going in laps or vicious circles but in spirals of circles going upwards to an end goal! This explains the life of Joseph. He went through many layers of training by God through life occurrences till he was ready to do the one thing he was really created to do - be the Prime Minister: *powerful*, prosperous, forgiving, and *accommodating*. It was when he was ready that the Word of the Lord came to him! To release him!!
- Life is Not ups and downs but a pair of railroads where both good and evil happen simultaneously.

Let us, therefore, be more circumspect in our ways, walking with and trusting God all the way, just like Daniel. And like Daniel, our lives will have a glorious outcome, without the dramatic upheavals that Joseph experienced.

DARE TO BE A
DANIEL



EMPOWERING YOU TO FULFILL YOUR GOD GIVEN DESTINY



'How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.'

ACTS 10v 38

Olutoyin and Abimbola Alabi,
City Of Refuge Ministries Inc,
P. O. Box 110808
Cambria Heights,
New York, NY 11411.

"EMPOWERING YOU TO FULFILL YOUR DESTINY"
Phone: 1-646-496-5046
Please visit: www.destiny-empowerment.org
[counseling window-Understanding The Throne](http://www.destiny-empowerment.org/counseling-window-Understanding-The-Throne)
Email: cityofrefugechurch8@gmail.com
City of Refuge Ministries Inc