

### ~LAZARUS 1 (324)

(Laz'a-rus) [probably the Greek form of the Hebrew name Eleazar, meaning, God Has Helped]

- The brother of Martha and Mary, his resurrection was one of the outstanding miracles performed by Jesus Christ.
- Now there was a certain man sick, **Lazarus** of Bethany, of the village of Mary and of Martha her sister. (**John 11:1**)
- It was, in fact, the Mary that greased the Lord with perfumed oil and wiped his feet dry with her hair, whose brother **Lazarus** was sick. (**John 11:2**)
- Jesus had a deep love for this family living at Bethany, about two miles from Jerusalem on the road to Jericho.
- Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and **Lazarus**. (**John 11:5**)
- Now Bethany was near Jerusalem at a distance of about two miles. (**John 11:18**) **Footnote**
- He had been entertained at their home, perhaps frequently.
- Now as they were going their way he entered into a certain village. Here a certain woman named Martha received him as guest into the house. (**Luke 10:38**)
- This woman also had a sister called Mary, who, however, sat down at the feet of the Lord and kept listening to his word. (**Luke 10:39**)
- Martha, on the other hand, was distracted with attending to many duties. So, she came near and said; Lord, does it not matter to you that my sister has left me alone to attend to things? Tell her, therefore, to join in helping me. (**Luke 10:40**)
- In answer the Lord said to her; Martha, Martha, you are anxious and disturbed about many things. (**Luke 10:41**)
- A few things, though, are needed, or just one. For her part, Mary chose the good portion, and it will not be taken away from her.

**(Luke 10:42)**

- The two sisters sent word to Jesus, who was at that time across the Jordan River, that their brother **Lazarus** was very sick. Doubtless they entertained the hope that Jesus would cure him.
- Therefore his sisters dispatched word to him, saying; Lord, see! the one for whom you have affection is sick. (**John 11:3**)
- Martha therefore said to Jesus; Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died. (**John 11:21**)
- And so Mary, when she arrived where Jesus was and caught sight of him, fell at his feet, saying to him; Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. (**John 11:32**)
- However, instead of going to Bethany immediately, or curing **Lazarus** from a distance, as in the case of the manservant of an army officer
- When he entered into Capernaum, an army officer came to him, entreating him (**Matthew 8:5**)
- And saying; Sir, my manservant is laid up in the house with paralysis, being terribly tormented. (**Matthew 8:6**)
- He said to him; When I get there I will cure him. (**Matthew 8:7**)
- In reply the army officer said; Sir, I am not a fit man for you to enter under my roof, but just say the word and my manservant will be healed. (**Matthew 8:8**)
- For I too am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me, and I say to this one, Be on your way! And he is on his way, and to another, Come! And he comes. And to my slave; Do this! And he does it. (**Matthew 8:9**)
- Hearing that, Jesus became amazed and said to those following him; I tell you the truth, With no one in Israel have I found so great a faith. (**Matthew 8:10**)
- But I tell you that many from eastern parts and western parts will come and recline at the table with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of the heavens. (**Matthew 8:11**)

- Whereas the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the darkness outside. There is where their weeping and the gnashing of their teeth will be. ([Matthew 8:12](#))
- Then Jesus said to the army officer; Go. Just as it has been your faith, so let it come to pass for you. And the manservant was healed in that hour. ([Matthew 8:13](#))
- Jesus stayed where he was for two more days. Upon his arrival in the vicinity of Bethany he was met by Martha and then by Mary. **Lazarus** had expired and had been dead for four days.
- However, when he heard that he was sick, then he actually remained two days in the place where he was. ([John 11:6](#))
- Consequently when Jesus arrived, he found he had already been four days in the memorial tomb. ([John 11:17](#))
- Therefore Martha, when she heard that Jesus was coming, met him, but Mary kept sitting at home. ([John 11:20](#))
- Jesus had not yet, in fact, come into the village, but he was still in the place where Martha met him. ([John 11:30](#))
- Therefore the Jews that were with her in the house and that were consoling her, on seeing Mary rise quickly and go out, followed her, supposing that she was going to the memorial tomb to weep there. ([John 11:31](#))
- And so Mary, when she arrived where Jesus was and caught sight of him, fell at his feet, saying to him; Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ([John 11:32](#))
- When speaking to Martha, Jesus took the occasion to stress the resurrection.
- Jesus said to her; Your brother will rise. ([John 11:23](#))
- Martha said to him; I know he will rise in the resurrection on the last day. ([John 11:24](#))
- Jesus said to her; I am the resurrection and the life. He that exercises faith in me, even though he dies, will come to life.

**(John 11:25)**

- And everyone that is living and exercises faith in me will never die at all. Do you believe this? **(John 11:26)**
- She said to him; Yes, Lord, I have believed that you are the Christ the Son of God, the One coming into the world. **(John 11:27)**
- He was soon to give added meaning to his words. Upon arriving at the tomb or cave where **Lazarus** was interred, Christ ordered that the stone sealing its entrance be taken away.
- Then in prayer to his heavenly Father, Jesus showed that one reason these events were taking place was in order, that they, the crowd present, might believe that you sent me forth.
- Hence Jesus, after groaning again within himself, came to the memorial tomb. It was, in fact, a cave, and a stone was lying against it. **(John 11:38)**
- Jesus said; Take the stone away. Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to him; Lord, by now he must smell, for it is four days. **(John 11:39)**
- Jesus said to her; Did I not tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God? **(John 11:40)**
- Therefore they took the stone away. Now Jesus raised his eyes heavenward and said; Father, I thank you that you have heard me. **(John 11:41)**
- True, I knew that you always hear me, but on account of the crowd standing around I spoke, in order, that they might believe that you sent me forth. **(John 11:42)**
- Jesus then called the dead **Lazarus** out of the tomb, and he emerged, undoubtedly to the astonishment and joy of those present.
- And when he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice; **Lazarus**, come on out! **(John 11:43)**
- The man that had been dead came out with his feet and hands bound with wrappings, and his countenance was bound about

with a cloth. Jesus said to them; Loose him and let him go.  
([John 11:44](#))

- This miracle moved many to put faith in Jesus, but it also caused the chief priests and Pharisees to plot his death. The anger of the chief priests was further aroused when a great crowd of Jews came to see not only Jesus but also the resurrected **Lazarus**.
- Because of **Lazarus**, many Jews were putting faith in Jesus, and so the chief priests took counsel to kill Lazarus also.
- Therefore many of the Jews that had come to Mary and that beheld what he did put faith in him. ([John 11:45](#))
- But some of them went off to the Pharisees and told them the things Jesus did. ([John 11:46](#))
- Consequently the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the Sanhedrin together and began to say; What are we to do, because this man performs many signs? ([John 11:47](#))
- If we let him alone this way, they will all put faith in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation. ([John 11:48](#))
- But a certain one of them, Caiaphas, who was High Priest that year, said to them; You do not know anything at all. ([John 11:49](#))
- And you do not reason out that it is to your benefit for one man to die in behalf of the people and not for the whole nation to be destroyed. ([John 11:50](#))
- This, though, he did not say of his own originality, but because he was High Priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was destined to die for the nation. ([John 11:51](#))
- And not for the nation only, but in order, that the children of God who are scattered about he might also gather together in one. ([John 11:52](#))
- Therefore from that day on they took counsel to kill him. ([John 11:53](#))

- Accordingly Jesus, six days before the Passover, arrived at Bethany, where **Lazarus** was whom Jesus had raised up from the dead. (**John 12:1**)
- Therefore they spread an evening meal for him there, and Martha was ministering, but **Lazarus** was one of those reclining at the table with him. (**John 12:2**)
- Mary, therefore, took a pound of perfumed oil, genuine nard, very costly, and she greased the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet dry with her hair. The house became filled with the scent of the perfumed oil. (**John 12:3**)
- But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples, who was about to betray him, said. (**John 12:4**)
- Why was it this perfumed oil was not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor people? (**John 12:5**)
- He said this, though, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief and had the money box and used to carry off the monies put in it. (**John 12:6**)
- Therefore Jesus said; Let her alone, that she may keep this observance in view of the day of my burial. (**John 12:7**)
- For you have the poor always with you, but me you will not have always. (**John 12:8**)
- Therefore a great crowd of the Jews got to know he was there, and they came, not on account of Jesus only, but also to see **Lazarus**, whom he raised up from the dead. (**John 12:9**)
- The chief priests now took counsel to kill **Lazarus** also. (**John 12:10**)
- Because on account of him many of the Jews were going there and putting faith in Jesus. (**John 12:11**)
- However, there is no Biblical evidence to the effect that these religious foes carried out their evil plans against **Lazarus**.

- John's account of the resurrection of **Lazarus** has been assailed by some critics of the Bible. They point to the silence of the other Gospel accounts regarding this event.
- A consideration of the various Gospels will show, however, that even the writers of the synoptic Gospels did not each recount every deed of Jesus. For example, only Luke reported the raising of the son of the widow of Nain.
- Closely following this he traveled to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd were traveling with him. (**Luke 7:11**)
- As he got near the gate of the city, why, look! There was a dead man being carried out, the only-begotten son of his mother. Besides, she was a widow. A considerable crowd from the city was also with her. (**Luke 7:12**)
- And when the Lord caught sight of her, he was moved with pity for her, and he said to her; Stop weeping. (**Luke 7:13**)
- With that he approached and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still, and he said; Young man, I say to you, get up! (**Luke 7:14**)
- And the dead man sat up and started to speak, and he gave him to his mother. (**Luke 7:15**)
- John did not customarily repeat what others had recorded. The resurrection of **Lazarus** is a notable instance of this.
- This miracle of **Lazarus** resurrection served well as part of Jesus ministry, both to illustrate the power of the Son of God and to increase faith in him and the resurrection.
- But when Jesus heard it he said; This sickness is not with death as its object, but is for the glory of God, in order, that the Son of God may be glorified through it. (**John 11:4**)
- Therefore they took the stone away. Now Jesus raised his eyes heavenward and said; Father, I thank you that you have heard me. (**John 11:41**)
- True, I knew that you always hear me, but on account of the crowd standing around I spoke, in order, that they might believe

that you sent me forth. (**John 11:42**)

- It evidently occurred near the beginning of the year **33 C.E.** The Scriptures do not furnish information as to the circumstances, place, or time of **Lazarus** death after his resurrection.

**See Also RESURRECTION (Resurrections before ransom was given)**

- There is no Biblical statement nor any reason to link the historical **Lazarus** with the beggar of Jesus illustration of the rich man and Lazarus.