

“The Last Days: How to Get Resurrected This New Year”

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□ One dramatic story—John 11:1-44

- Craig Keener: “Lazarus’s sickness and raising also lead to and prefigure Jesus’ own death and resurrection. . . . [And so] the promise of Jesus’ glorification through Lazarus’s death constitutes a double entendre: Jesus is glorified because Lazarus’s raising leads directly to Jesus’ arrest and passion, by which he is glorified (12:23-24).” (*The Gospel of John* 2:839)
- Elizabeth Talbot: “How strange! It doesn’t make sense to say, ‘He loved—so He delayed.’ Or does it? Obviously it isn’t the lack of affection that delayed the Son of God. So what was it? I have come to trust God’s timing even though I usually don’t understand it. I have a motto that has helped countless times: ‘Delays are designed to show the _____ of the miracle.’” (*Jesus 101: John—God Made Flesh* 47)
- *Desire of Ages*: “To all who are reaching out to feel the guiding hand of God, the moment of greatest discouragement is the time when divine help is _____. They will look back with thankfulness upon the _____ part of their way.” (528)
- John 11:9-14—To the Word made flesh what is death but a _____.
- Cliff Goldstein: “Whether Abel, the first recorded dead man, or whether the last saint to perish before probation closes, or whether the untold number of deceased in between . . . as far as they are concerned, Jesus comes _____. Our eyes close in death, and our next sensation (whether after five millennia or five minutes) is Christ’s return. Abel’s experience will be the same as everyone else’s who has died in faith.” (*Adventist Review* June 16, 2011)
- William Blake:
Till our grief is fled and gone
He doth sit by us and moan
- *Desire of Ages*: “But it was not only because of His human sympathy with Mary and Martha that Jesus wept. In His tears there was a sorrow as high above human sorrow as the heavens are higher than the earth. . . . The weight of the grief of ages was upon Him. He saw the terrible effects of the transgression of God’s law. He saw that in the history of the world, beginning with the death of Abel, the conflict between good and evil had been unceasing. Looking down the years to come, He saw the suffering and sorrow, tears and death, that were to be the lot of men. His heart was pierced with the pain of the human family of all ages and in all lands. The woes of the sinful race were heavy upon His soul, and the _____ of His tears was broken up as He longed to relieve all their distress.” (533, 534)
- “Lazarus is set free, and stands before the company, not as one emaciated from disease, and with feeble, tottering limbs, but as a man in the prime of life, and in the vigor of a noble manhood. His eyes beam with intelligence and with love for his Saviour. He casts himself in adoration at the feet of Jesus. The beholders are at first speechless with amazement. Then there follows an inexpressible scene of rejoicing and thanksgiving. The sisters receive their brother back to life as the gift of God, and with joyful tears they brokenly express their thanks to the Saviour. But while brother, sisters, and friends are rejoicing in this reunion, Jesus withdraws from the scene. When they look for the Life-giver, He is not to be found.” (Ibid 536)

□ Two fascinating facts

- Fascinating Fact #1—A miracle at the beginning—a miracle at the end—because when Jesus is in your story, a _____ is in store for you.
- Fascinating Fact #2—Archaeologists discovered a burial cave in Bethany . . .

“I am the Resurrection and the Life”