

**BETWEEN 6:00 AM—9:00 AM: HE IS RISEN — DESPITE THE SKEPTICS.**

If you were to take a large excavator and dig under the cornerstone of the Jefferson Memorial in Washington D.C., you'd find a trove of documents, including a copy of the Declaration of Independence and a strange book called *The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth*. What is it?

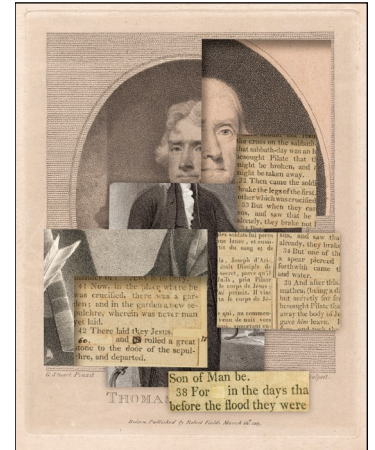
It's Thomas Jefferson's own Bible, but it's not like the one we read each week in our worship services, small groups and Joel Moment. It's much shorter and cuts out important parts of Jesus' story. Here's the background. In the eighteen-tens, after Jefferson left the White House, he edited the Bible to comport with his own view of reason. This meant taking sharp scissors to the supernatural elements. (You can read more about this "Bible" in this week's issue of *The New Yorker* in a book review called "Personal Jesus." Its free online.)

Consider that the third president of the United States claimed to be a Christian but he didn't believe in the miraculous elements. As Peter Manseau concludes in his recently released *The Jefferson Bible: A Biography*,



Jefferson put his faith elsewhere. The author writes: "In a real and profound way, the Enlightenment seems to have been the creed in which Jefferson most deeply believed." So, it's no surprise then that Jefferson's Bible ends before the Resurrection. What a tragedy.

Many people carry the equivalent of "The Jefferson Bible" in their minds. They don't believe that our King truly rose. But he did. It's a fact. And later today in Joel Moment, Leonard Brunk will give evidence for why we must believe the Gospel writers. Then Leonard will pass the baton to Frank Chen who will share why we're wasting our time with this whole Christian thing if Jesus didn't really stand up on his feet again after his three-day sojourn in the tomb. Take time to read Matthew's resurrection account in Matthew 28. Be amazed at an emotional level. Also, notice the many details that Kierra Jones captures in her wonderful piece on the next page. Go back and forth between the text and the picture, making connections between the two.



**Matt. 28:1** Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

**Matt. 28:2** And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.

**Matt. 28:3** His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.

**Matt. 28:4** And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.

**Matt. 28:5** But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.

**Matt. 28:6** He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.

**Matt. 28:7** Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you."

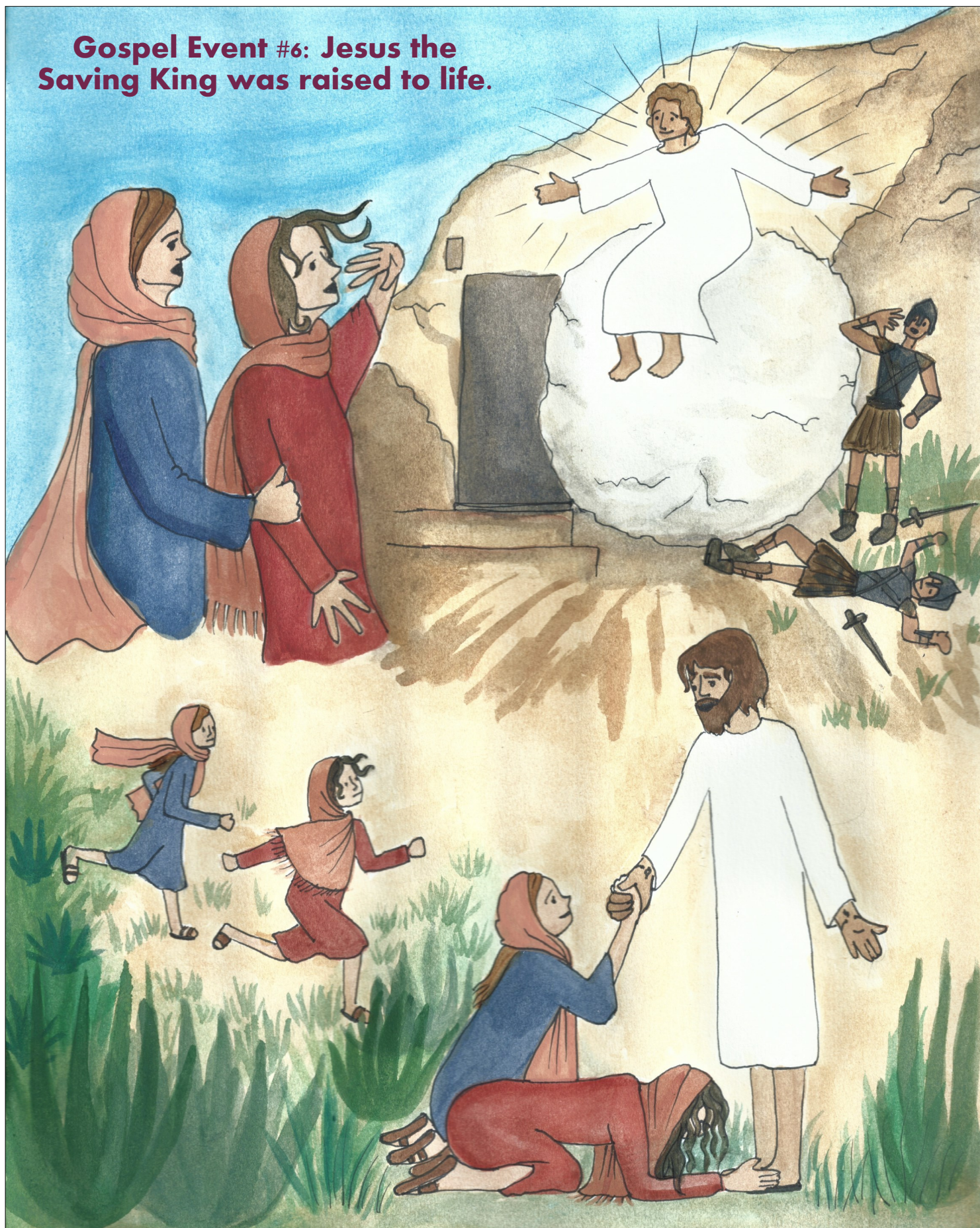
**Matt. 28:8** So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

**Matt. 28:9** And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him.

**Matt. 28:10** Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."



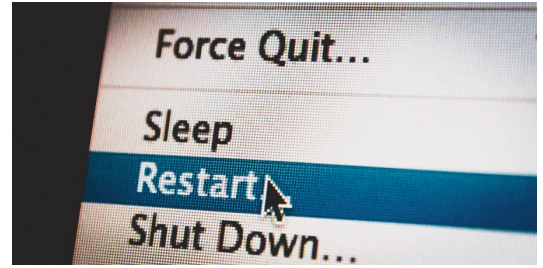
**Gospel Event #6: Jesus the  
Saving King was raised to life.**





**BETWEEN 9:00 AM-12:00 PM: A DIVINELY PROGRAMMED RESTART**

Last Sunday we launched a new sermon series called “Poised Together: Journey through 1 Peter.” The letter starts with a burst of praise for someone very special. He’s described in a nine-word chain (“*the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ*” — 1 Pet. 1:3). Why specifically does Peter pile on the honors for our Creator? Because rather than doing a shut down, God re-started our failed and corrupt existences (“*he has caused us to be born again to a living hope...*” — 1 Pet. 1:3). How did God give us this undeserved do-over? What means did he use?



His method of regenerating us into people who would happily offer obedience is the theme of today’s Joel Moment. After his Son died for sins that weren’t his own (Gospel Event #5), God raised him in middle of our present space-time history (“*through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*” — 1 Pet. 1:3).

So, if we’re buckled to Jesus by belief, his resurrection pulls us out of spiritual death and into significance and enthusiasm for every minute between now and his Son’s “*day of visitation*” (1 Pet. 2:12). This co-resurrection with King Jesus is both a present reality and a future one. Our present lives are animated by resurrection power, even though our bodies languish. But someday our physical bodies will be unstoppable forces enjoying our King and his gift of a new world. So, let’s say “Blessed be God” in our own words and native languages. This means affirming him verbally. If you need an emotional jolt, sing along with Chris Tomlin’s “Resurrection Power” video. Just Google it. Or if you’re more traditional, open your hymnbook to “Christ the Lord is Risen Today.”

**BETWEEN 12:00 PM-3:00 PM: WE PRIESTS MUST STAY POISED AND PRAY FOR THE POISE OF OTHERS IN TURBULENT TIMES.**

*Poise: noun / poiz*

1: *marked by balance or equilibrium.*

2: *easy self-possessed assurance of manner: gracious tact*

3. *ready or prepared for something*

4: *in a situation that is between two different or opposite things.*

Hopefully because you’re walking with God and taking in his Word, your heart is marked by balance and equilibrium. In other words, you’re poised like the Apostle Peter himself. Hopefully this calmness makes you gracious towards others who might not be feeling so tranquil. What’s more, YOU, New Covenant Priest, are always ready and prepared for personal ministry. So, please write down the name of one person on the line below who might be teetering on the edge.



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Ask God’s Holy Spirit to stabilize the person who is on your heart.

Then, call, text or email that person words of reassurance and hope. You might recite 1 Peter 1:1-9 to him/her or cut and paste the passage into your email or text message.

**BETWEEN 3:00 PM—4:00 PM: Join the Joel Moment Prayer Gathering. Go to Zoom.com and enter Meeting ID and Password.**



**LEONARD BRUNK** [He'll give his testimony in a few broad brushstrokes and then defend the bodily resurrection of King Jesus as an actual historical event.]

**1Cor. 15:3** *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,*



**FRANK CHEN** [He'll share why the resurrection is a non-negotiable requirement of our salvation and why it speaks volumes about Jesus' three-part identity.]

**1Cor. 15:14** *And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>15</sup> We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. <sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.*





**GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #1 (7 min.): Eph. 1:3** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,*

Let's start by exalting the God of all honors and titles. Because Jesus was raised, we too who are joined to him will be raised from the grave to be physical and powerful forever. We won't float on a cloud, but we'll be living, dining, touching and being touched. Tell him how much you treasure the resurrection.

**GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #2 (7 min.): Eph. 1:19** *and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might<sup>20</sup> that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead...*

God is always just waiting to act on our behalf with the same power that he used to raise his Son. Ask God to empower every member of our church to live holy and productive lives. Mention specific names.

**GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #3 (7 min.): Eph. 6:18** *praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication...for all the saints."*

Hey Saints, please stop for a minute and share with each other. We can't ask God to meet needs if we don't know about the issues our brothers and sisters are facing. Share with each other and try to remember to pray for your group mates later in the evening.

**BETWEEN 5:00 PM-10:00 PM:** [Committing our kids to our Heavenly Father.]



Pray for those who were in your prayer group today. Then, let's remember our Valley Church kids as we go off to sleep. They "ski" through life in this modern world on slippery slopes with crevasses and ditches on each side of a narrow and challenging run.

*Oh God, make them:*

- *Firm in belief*
- *Increasingly knowledgeable about the Scriptures;*
- *Wise with respect to salvation*

By the way, the skiers in this picture are Valley Church kids. They're bundled up, but can you identify them and their location? I'll scramble the answer: SEMJA and VAE CNSAOR