

# IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE

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First of all, I want to thank the Lord once again for the beautiful day. I was looking on the news yesterday and also a couple of days ago and they showed a photograph. It was a photograph of New York City.

We know that today New York has been leading the way as far as being against God and against the things of God. This picture is from 1956. I believe that's the same year that Brother Branham preached the message *I Indict this Generation*.

At that time we know there were still the effects, and to a certain sense, the fire of Christianity in this nation. As they were approaching Easter or maybe it was on Easter, at night they lit up certain offices of three of the skyscrapers. There were three buildings and each one had a cross.



I just think: New York, a city really so central to the nation, at that time showing that not only were we a nation that recognized God, there were other places where they said they honoured God or they recognized God, but here we were also specifically showing our honour of the Lord Jesus Christ. We were still at that point, we could say, officially a Christian Nation.

At that time on Easter Sunday, people couldn't hardly find a place to sit in the church house because even those who maybe were not as dedicated as they should be throughout the year, they were *there* on Easter morning. I'm not saying that to speak against anybody who is not here this morning. There is one I know of who is very sick and the Lord knows the rest.

My point is: that was a time when the nation, at least in principle, still honoured the Lord Jesus Christ. I have to say that was a beautiful time. Praise the Lord. We know that today is as well, in a certain sense it's even more beautiful today but not for the nation as a whole.

The world, it seems like they are running so hard to turn their back on God. Even the movies that used to be made, whenever it was talked about that death was imminent, we would see people speak about how they were getting ready or being prepared to go to heaven. We know not everybody goes to heaven but my point is: they would recognize that there was a life after this life.

Now it seems like they just want to portray: that's just where everything stops. Then we wonder: why do we have the things we have today? Why do people not value life? Why is it so easy for them to kill one another? Well if this life is all there is, then there is no account to give. It's just whatever satisfies them because once it's over, it's over.

It's a sad thing that there are youths today who are raised really without the knowledge that they have a Creator and that He desires to have communion with them. And that there is a way they can obtain that and that is by the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank God by his mercy and grace that there is still a people on the earth today who are true certified seed. Praise the Lord. I say it that way because, yes, we can look over in this nation and we still see hundreds and thousands who say they are Christians. I'll say it like this: it's a good thing they say it because for most of them that's the only way we would know that they even make that profession.

When we look at their lives, they want to make it that Jesus died and he forgave them of their sin, but they want to make it where they can just continue sinning. They have forgiveness, but I have to say: Jesus Christ did not die to make you a better sinner. Praise the Lord.

When they wanted to stone the woman, remember at the very end Jesus said *neither do I condemn you*. It seems like that's where everybody wants to stop, but he said *go and sin no more*. [John 8:11] Praise the Lord.

So yes He forgives but there's a point: the *purpose* is that we can be *holy before Him*. Today you speak of being holy, and the whole world thinks: oh you all really think you're something. No, that's not the truth at all. We are what we are by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

If I am able to live a life that is clean before Him, it's because He has given me His Holy Spirit that does the work in my life to clean me up. Praise the Lord. It's *His work* but I've got to have the desire.

For the man who is out in the world or for the man who is still the servant of sin, they shouldn't be offended when they hear the minister say that the Lord wants us to leave that life of sin. It's not something to get offended about, it's something to realize: I want to please Him.

Jesus died, he suffered, he shed his blood, and he rose on the third day to give us life. Praise the Lord. I want to do all that I can to please Him. Praise the Lord. He paid the price that I could not pay. It was my debt. I was the one who was supposed to pay it but I couldn't. Even if I had given my life, it was contaminated, it would not account. But the Lord Jesus Christ, he paid the debt so that I could live a life like him. Praise the Lord.

Today we speak about sin and they think: oh those Christians, all they want to do is lift themselves up above everybody else. No, that is *not* the truth. I want to walk pleasing to my Lord. And I thank God for every true soul that is saved.

But I am a liar if I look at somebody who does not live the life, and just because they go to a church somewhere, I look at them as: praise the Lord, they're serving the Lord. No, we have to truly be crucified together with Christ. Praise the Lord.

Yesterday we had a nice meeting with the Chandlers in Australia. I remember Brother Fred saying once: they'll keep you on your toes. I have to say: it's a good thing that we are listening, paying attention and thinking on what is said.

Let's go to the book of John this morning.

John 20:1

*The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.*

Every one of the writers of the gospels recorded the resurrection. Not everyone was there that day at the sepulchre but they wrote from what they heard and from what they witnessed afterward.

We know that John was there, we're going to read about it. Peter was also there. There are certain Bible students who say that basically Peter dictated to John, not *this* John but I mean John Mark, and from that the book of Mark was written. So Mark also gave the account.

The reason I'm saying this is: if you read John, and you read Mark, and you read Matthew, and you read Luke, you might be scratching your head a little bit: here it says it was dark, in other places it says the sun had just risen, and different things. Here it says there was one angel, there it says there were two, and another place it doesn't mention any. There was only *one* resurrection. Amen. But what it is: there were certain things that stood out to different ones as they either witnessed or heard.

It's just like the blind men, if you've heard the story of the blind men and the elephant: one walks right into the side of the elephant and he says: the elephant is like a wall. Another one feels its leg and says: no an elephant is like a tree. Another one feels the trunk and says: an elephant is more like a snake. And another one feels the tail and says: no an elephant is more like a rope. So they all observed the elephant.

The Lord Himself, knowing that certain ones would pick up certain details and leave others out, He allowed those four to each give their account. At the end of the day, if we were to study it enough we could put the entire picture together. And there are probably some who have done that.

It says here:

John 20:1

*and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.*

John 20:2

*Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved,*

That's John, the one who's writing this book.

John 20:2

*and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.*

John 20:3

*Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.*

Here's a little bit where we can see that John did not always write everything in chronological order. He says *they came to the sepulchre*. We have them now at the sepulchre, right? But in the next verse he says:

John 20:4

*So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter,*

Now he's going back to when they were running to the sepulchre. They wanted to know what happened.

John 20:4

*and came first to the sepulchre.*

Before we read any further, let's remember that you and I are looking back on this. Most of us have heard the gospel story since we were children. We know that Jesus rose, so it's very difficult for us to put ourselves in the mindset that they were in.

The disciples, they had walked with the Lord Jesus Christ for up to three-and-a-half years, depending on when they came into contact with him. They were convinced: *this is the Messiah*. Praise the Lord. He's the one who will redeem Israel. He's the one who is going to set up that Davidic Kingdom. Praise the Lord.

Now he has been slain. They did not expect that. How many times had they themselves been witnesses when he had escaped? The people had tried to grab on to him but he had been hidden from their view, and he had been able to escape.

But this time he did not escape. This time he was crucified. He suffered, shed his blood, and he died on that cross. I can't imagine how their whole world came crashing down. And now they were going to the sepulchre and he was not there.

It says here:

John 20:6

*Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie,*

This is interesting: they had wrapped him in this linen. Now the linen is there but he is not.

John 20:7

*And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.*

John 20:8

*Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.*

Praise the Lord.

John is not looking at this as: where's the body. But from what he's able to see, and most likely he had also been pondering some of the words that Jesus had spoken: now he begins to believe.

John 20:9

*For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.*

When it says *they knew not the scripture*, first of all: this was not a scripture in the New Testament, right? Amen. The New Testament had not been written yet. So this refers to a scripture in the Old Testament.

Now if we ask somebody who has read the Old Testament, maybe even many times, where is the scripture that says the Messiah must rise again? It may not be that easy to know.

When it says *they knew not the scripture*, it doesn't mean that they didn't know *that* scripture. I can assure you: they knew Psalm 2, they knew Psalm 16, they knew Psalms 22 and 23, and they knew Isaiah 53. Just because many of them had been fishermen, we must not think that they did not know Scripture. They were reading and listening every chance they got. Praise the Lord.

They knew Scripture but when it says they knew it not: *it had not yet been revealed to them*. As Jesus rose and then they received the gift of the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost, it began to open up. They could look back with the scripture that they had, and God would shine the light on it: then they could *understand*.

To see a little bit of that, let's go to Acts 2. This is on the day of Pentecost. I will start more or less halfway through Peter's sermon. Peter says:

Acts 2:22

*Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God*

Look at how he words this: in first place, he doesn't say Jesus the Christ. Peter knew Jesus was the Christ, but right now he's explaining to get to that point at the end of his message. The people knew him as Jesus of Nazareth, so here he says *a man approved of God*. He does *not* say God took the form of a man and came down and lived among us, a manifestation of God himself, but he says *a man approved of God*.

How was he approved of God? It was not just the fact that he was the only begotten Son of God, but Jesus purposed within himself that his desire was to do the will of his Heavenly Father. He had a *dedication* and a *consecration* to do the will of his Heavenly Father. He was tested on that. He was tempted. And he passed the test.

Today we live in a world that can really pull on this flesh. Just because we have come to know this beautiful truth, I have to say, yes that's a wonderful thing, but we must not think that this materialistic age can't still pull on the flesh. It can. If we are not careful, we can let it distract us and before long we won't be giving the Lord the time that we should be giving Him.

Let's look to Jesus as the perfect example. Praise the Lord. He was *approved by God*. We need to desire that one day our Lord Jesus can look at us and say *well done*. Praise the Lord.

Now he says here:

Acts 2:22

*a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you,*

God did the works through the Lord. Amen.

Acts 2:22

*as ye yourselves also know:*

In other words: you have been witnesses, you've heard of this.

Acts 2:23

*Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:*

Acts 2:24

*Whom God hath raised up,*

Praise the Lord. That's what we are honouring today.

They entered that tomb and this is what they saw:



Early in the morning, there were the linen clothes, there was the stone that had been rolled out of the way. But the Lord Jesus was not there.

In other accounts, the angels told the women directly: *He is not here. He is risen.* [Matthew 28:6] Praise the Lord.

It was not possible that he should be held of death.

Acts 2:24

*Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.*

Now the natural mind would say: it was impossible for him to rise again. Amen.

We can go all the way back and we can look at Elijah. We know there was a young boy who had died. I believe he had been dead twelve hours. I have to say: after twelve hours, someone won't be brought back just because they put the shockers on their heart. That boy was dead but by the power of God, he was brought back. [1Kings 17:22]

There was also the young girl whom Jesus raised from the dead. [Mark 5:41] In both cases, it was a time of hours.

Then there was Lazarus. Yes Jesus could have gone and prayed for him that he would not even have died. But Lazarus died, he was buried, and days went by. Corruption began to enter in. The Bible uses the word *corruption* but we use a different word. The more common word we use today is the body began to *rot*.



When the tomb was open, they said *his body stinks already*. [John 11:39] I'm speaking here of Lazarus. Amen. But Jesus Christ said *Lazarus come forth*. [John 11:43] Praise the Lord.

How many there were witnesses to it? We would say that *all of Israel* should have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, amen, because it was *impossible* that a body that was rotting could be brought back to life. But at the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ that's exactly what happened. Lazarus was brought back to life. [John 11:44]

Jesus had said just a week or two before: *even though somebody is brought back from the dead, the unbeliever is not going to believe*. [Luke 16:31] That's the truth. A couple weeks after Lazarus had risen, everybody just went back to the way things were.

In another place, they were eating together with Lazarus, the one whom Jesus had raised. [John 12:2] I have to say: for the believer that would still be such a wonderful and amazing thing.

Then we have the Lord Jesus Christ, his body did *not* see corruption. We're going read about that. Nobody had been beaten like the Lord: his body was lacerated, his blood had spilled. Lazarus still had his blood: yes it had corrupted but his blood was still there. Jesus, *his* blood had spilled out. Amen.

Again, from the natural we would say: it was impossible for him to have risen. But God raised him from the dead early that Sunday morning. Since then, every year on this day, Christians come together to honour the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the opportunity that we have, this year once again. Praise the Lord. And we are going to continue until he comes back. Praise the Lord.

Peter said *it was not possible that he should be holden of it*. [Acts 2:24] Why was it impossible? It was impossible because of the Word of God. We go all the way back: the books of Moses, the prophets, the Psalms, they *all* speak of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In another place Peter said *the holy men of old, they wrote as they were moved by the Holy Ghost*. [2Peter 1:21] It was not that Moses was a great writer, that David was a great writer, and Isaiah, and Jeremiah, and Daniel. It was not that they could put words together in such a beautiful way. But the Holy Ghost *inspired them* to speak what God had in His heart. Praise the Lord.

From the beginning we have the types: a deep sleep fell on Adam. We know Adam was the first Adam, but in this sense he *typed* the second Adam: that sleep signifying death. It's the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. A rib was taken from the side of Adam, right? From that rib, God made the woman. In fact, let's read it. Let's go to Genesis.

Genesis 2:21

*And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam,*

This was not just a normal day's rest.

Genesis 2:21

*and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;*

Who was that? That was God. *He* took the rib from Adam. Let's read:

Genesis 2:22

*And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.*

What is that? That's a *type*: by the Lord Jesus Christ shedding his blood for you and for me, that would pave the way so there could be a Bride Church. Praise the Lord. And this Church, one day, will be brought up to meet *her* Lord. Praise the Lord.

Genesis 2:22

*and brought her unto the man.*

Genesis 2:23

*And Adam said, This is now bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.*

This was not the case with any other of the animal kingdom. God created the male, and God created the female separately. But now with man, she is taken *from* him. Notice he says *she will be called Woman because she was taken out of Man*. We see that the word *man* is in the word *woman*, right?

Now when we look at us, the Church, we take on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are baptized in his name, and then we are called Christians, which means we are Christ-like or we are *of* Christ. Praise the Lord.

Let's go back now to the book of Acts. Let's keep reading.

Acts 2:25

*For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:*

Acts 2:26

*Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:*

Acts 2:27

*Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell,*

David was speaking that he had confidence that his soul would not be left in hell.  
[Psalm 16:10]

Remember: hell was not a place of torment but it was divided. Part of it was a place of torment, what we would call *Hades* or *Gehenna*. Really *Gehenna* was the word that indicated torment.

The other part was known as *Paradise* [Luke 23:43] or also *Abraham's bosom*. [Luke 16:22] It was all the place of the dead in the interior of the earth. The souls of *all* the dead would go down, but the angels knew whether they were to be taken into Abraham's bosom or whether they were to be taken into Gehenna.

David said *you're not going to leave me in that place*. Then he said:

Acts 2:27

*neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.*

Praise the Lord.

Acts 2:28

*Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.*

Acts 2:29

*Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead*

In other words: that he died

Acts 2:29

*and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.*

Here Peter doesn't specifically say it about David, but what he's saying is: his flesh saw corruption. That is David's flesh.

In Acts 13, Paul amplifies the same explanation and specifically says *David saw corruption*. [Acts 13:36]

Acts 2:30

*Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;*

Acts 2:31

*He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.*

David had a hope: *because of the Holy One who is to come, my soul will not be left in hell.* But the Holy One: not only will his soul not be left in hell, but *his flesh will not see corruption.* [Psalm 132:11] [Psalm 16:9-10]

Acts 2:32

*This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.*

Praise the Lord. There was no atheist there on that day to stand and say: well I don't know, I want to argue with you about that. Even those religious Jews who had been against the Lord Jesus Christ, the Spirit of God was powerful that day to shut their mouths and give Peter the opportunity to preach the truth.

All those witnesses were there. There was *one hundred and twenty.* [Acts 1:15] Most likely each one of those hundred and twenty had already seen the Lord Jesus after he had resurrected. Praise the Lord. So he says:

Acts 2:32

*we are all witnesses.*

I'm going to stop here for now with this part. I got to the point to tell the title of the message, and that is: It Was Not Possible.

When we go back even to chapter one of Genesis, it says *And God said, Let there be light.* What happened? *And there was light.* [Genesis 1:3] Amen. When God says *let there be light*, there is no devil in hell, there is no wicked mankind, nor any force of nature that can hold it back. God said *let there be light and there was light.* Amen. Praise the Lord.

Now let's think about it: when God said that, it wasn't that He was here on earth as a man speaking words and someone else heard Him say it. But in that *spiritual realm*, you can say the angels heard it, but *God spoke it* and there was light. Praise the Lord. When *He* says it, it is finished.

Throughout the writings of Moses, the Psalms, and the prophets, there are scriptures pertaining to the resurrection of Christ. When it says *they knew not yet the scripture that he must rise again from the dead* [John 20:9] if we're going to look at one scripture that directly indicates this, it's the scripture in Psalm 16.

Now there is more that we could read, even in the types: Adam woke up from his sleep, right? [Genesis 1:21-22] Amen. That in itself is a type of the resurrection of Christ. There are other scriptures that even point at it more directly. If God has spoken it, there is nothing that can hold it back.

Peter, James, John, Paul, they could look back. God could shine light on the Word and show them what this was all about and why it happened that way.

Now we are living in a day when we're not always looking back. Sometimes we do, to know how we got to where we are, but *today* we are also looking *forward*. We have scriptures about the Bride Church. Praise the Lord.

We have scriptures that there is going to be a rapture. [1Thessalonians 4:17] Praise the Lord. We have scriptures that the Bride Church is going to prepare herself for that. [Revelation 19:7] And when we get to the other side, it will also be able to be said that *it was impossible that she would remain here*. Why? *Because it has already been recorded in the Word of God*.

Paul said *we speak this unto you by the Word of the Lord*. [1Thessalonians 4:15] That was not Paul's own word when he said *the dead will come forth first* [1Thessalonians 4:16] and *then those of us which are alive and remain will be changed*. [1Thessalonians 4:17] That wasn't Paul just saying: well I have a nice picture in my mind. But he said *we say this unto you by the word of the Lord*. Praise the Lord. So it is impossible that it will not have its fulfillment.

Now carnal man, they put it a hundred years down the road, a thousand years down the road, or they say: we really don't need to be looking at that right now.

But this same Jesus Christ that came out of the grave, praise the Lord, he has been the head of the church ever since he was lifted up. [Colossians 1:18] Praise the Lord. By the Holy Ghost, he has been the head of the church, he has been revealing His Word to the church, praise the Lord, and working in the church.

Now we are coming to the point that he is going to *return* for his church. Just as it was not possible that death would hold him back, *it is not possible that he would not return for his church*. It is a sure thing, established in the Word.

The question becomes: am I going to be sure to do my part? That on *that* beautiful day I can leave this world behind. Praise the Lord. *Because I believed His Word*, God has counted me *righteous* and I can be taken up in the rapture. This is just a little bit in front of us.

So as David looked forward, today we are looking forward as well. As far as our salvation, yes we do look back and we praise God. Amen. We rejoice on this day, marking the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. But we are also looking forward because we are just about to be gathered together unto him. Praise the Lord.

I don't want to miss that for anything in the world. Praise the Lord. I prefer to miss what's in the world. Praise the Lord. Let's go ahead and stand.