

Easter Service - 2024

@ Ignite - Pastor Paul & Rose Korabandi

Prem & Amy Saganti

with Mom Navamani Thomas

Remembering our Parents:

Rev. (Dr.) Edward Thomas and Dr. & Mrs. PPD and

Dedicated to Uncle - Suresh Pallapati (March 11, 2024)

March 31, 2024

Few Thoughts to Ponder

“Friday was Good for Today is Easter-Sunday”

He became **servant** that we might become **sons** (Phil 2:7, Gal 4:6,7)

He was **forsaken** that we might be **forgiven** (Mt. 27:26, 28:20)

He was **sad** that we might become **glad** (Is. 53:3, Phil 4:4)

He was **stripped** that we might be **clothed** (Mt. 27:28, Gal. 3:27)

He was **made sin** that we might be made **righteous** (2Cor. 5:21)

He was **bound** that we might go **free** (Mt. 27:2, Jn. 8:32-36)

He was **thirsty** that we might be **satisfied** (Jn. 19: 26)

He **died** that we might **live** (Jn. 5:24, 25)

= Larry Farthing (adapted from his poem)

Joseph and Pilate

Matthew 15:43-45 (NIV)

⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. ⁴⁴ Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. ⁴⁵ When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph.

John 19:38 (NIV)

³⁸ Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away.

Also, in
Mark 15 and Luke 23

The Burial

Mark 15:46-47 (NIV)

⁴⁶ So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.

Also, in
Mathew 27 and Luke 23

John 19:39-42 (NIV)

³⁹ He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. ⁴⁰ Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. ⁴¹ At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴² Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

High Priests - Requested Pilate for Guards

Matthew 27:62-67 (NIV)

⁶² The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. ⁶³ “Sir,” they said, “we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ ⁶⁴ So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first.”

⁶⁵ “Take a guard,” Pilate answered. “Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.” ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

Details of the Tomb Location and Archeological Depictions (1/2)

So Joseph **bought some linen cloth**, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it **in a tomb cut out of rock**. Then he rolled **a stone against the entrance of the tomb**. **(Mark 15:46)**

and placed it **in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock**. He rolled **a big stone** in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. **(Matt 27:61)**

Three kinds of tombs in 1st Century –

Shaft, Loculus, and Arcosolium (near Calvary)

Of the 900 known tombs in that quarry area only 4 are known with rolling stone. After 70 AD destruction it is all different.

Details of the Tomb Location and Archeological Depictions (2/2)

At the place where Jesus was crucified, **there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb,** in which no one had ever been laid. **(John 19:41)**

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary **were sitting** there opposite the tomb. **(Matt 27:60)**

Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. **Bending over,** he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened. **(Luke 24:12)**

Crucifixion and the Relics (1/2)

- Many relics currently displayed result from the journey of Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great, to Syria Palaestina in the 4th century.
- **The Scala Sancta**
 - The stairs from Pontius Pilate's praetorium, ascended by Jesus during his trial, were brought to Rome by Helena of Constantinople in the 4th century
- **The Holy Coat:**
 - The possession of the seamless garment of Christ (Latin: tunica inconsultilis; John 19:23), for which the soldiers cast lots at the Crucifixion, is claimed by the cathedral of Trier, Germany.

The Scala Sancta Now in Rome, Italy



The Holy Coat

John 19:23-24 (NIV)

²³ When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

²⁴ “Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.”

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said,
“They divided my clothes among them
and cast lots for my garment.”

So this is what the soldiers did.

Psalms 22:18 (NIV)

¹⁸ They divide my clothes among them
and cast lots for my garment.



According to legend, [Helena](#), mother of [Constantine the Great](#), discovered the seamless robe in the [Holy Land](#) in the year 327 or 328 along with several other relics, including the [True Cross](#).

Wikipedia – (accessed on 30 Mar 2024)



Crucifixion and the Relics (2/2)

- **The Church of the Holy Sepulchre:**
 - The crucifixion site called Golgotha, is the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Inside the church the crucifixion site.
- **The Holy Lance**
 - is the spear used by the Roman soldier Longinus to pierce Jesus' side when he was on the cross.
- **The Holy Sponge**
 - is reported to be in church Santa Croce in Gerusalemme in Rome.
- **The Column of the Flagellation,**
 - which Jesus was tied to during the Flagellation of Christ, is reportedly in the Basilica of Saint Praxedes in Rome.

Mary, Mary, and Salome

Mark 16:1-2 (NIV)

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. ²Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb

Luke 24:1 (NIV)

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb.

Also, in
Matthew 28 and John 20

John 20: 1-10 (NIV)

The Empty Tomb

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

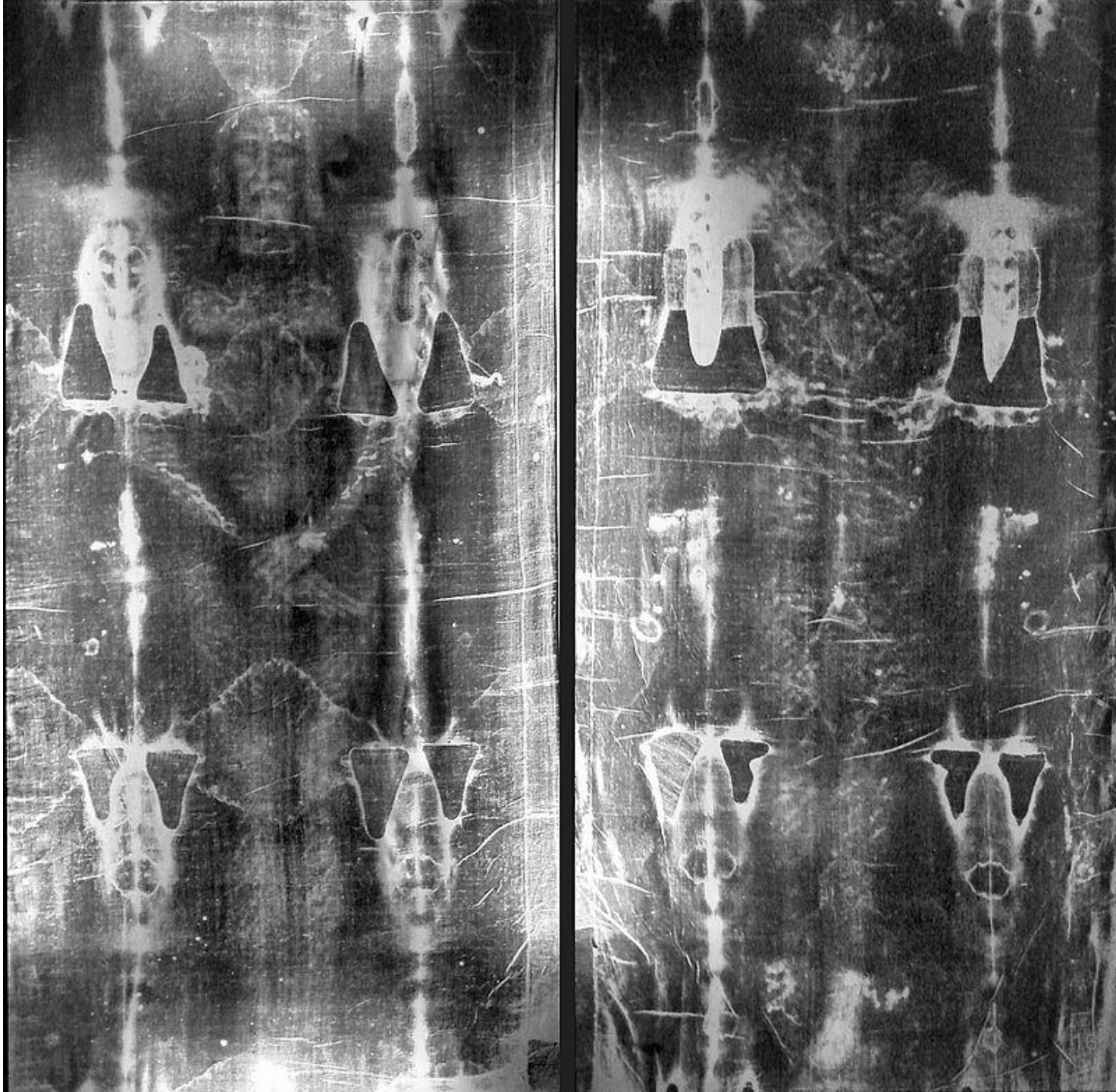
The first Photograph of the Shroud (1898): *Secondo Pia*



Secondo Pia was an Italian lawyer and amateur photographer. He is best known for taking the first photographs of the Shroud of Turin on 28 May 1898 and, when he was developing them, noticing that the photographic negatives showed a positive image of the man in the shroud in addition to a clearer rendition of the image. The image he obtained from the shroud has been approved by the Roman Catholic Church as part of the devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus.

The Shroud of Turin

Linen Material (4.4 m x 1.1 m)
(one piece covered back and front)
The Chapel of the Holy Shroud, Turin, Italy
(Accessed from Wikipedia 30 Mar 2024)



John 20: 11-18 (NIV)

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

¹⁷ Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

John 20:19-21 (NIV)

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

John 20:24-29 (NIV)

Jesus Appears to Thomas

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus^[a]), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

²⁸ Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Where in the World is My Lord? (1/4)

Premkumar B. Saganti, Ph. D., © 2000

- It was Easter of 1985, and more than three thousand postgraduate students were packed in the Assembly Hall at the Andhra University and to my knowledge about 5% of them are from the Christian families. For the first time a team of evangelical students ($\ll 0.01\%$ on that campus) arranged this event. The recollection of my memory from that event brings some simple but profound explanations about the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Rev. Dr. David V. Daniel (DVD) was the invited presenter and his challenge to the students started with an unusual opening sentence. *‘Let us assume that Jesus never rose from the dead and let me try to prove such a scenario, if we can not convince ourselves with that hypothesis, let us consider the facts and verify the obvious.’* His presentation included several illustrations and stories.
- One time Rev. DVD was in Sri Lanka, an island country near the southern tip of India and was in line for more than an hour to get into a temple called, ‘The Tooth of Buddha Temple’. *“I thanked my God for that opportunity to admire the architecture of the building and the remaining tooth of Buddha, that is being acclaimed by the many visitors from around the world. I started to wonder where I could find a place in the whole world that I can see a piece of my God.”*

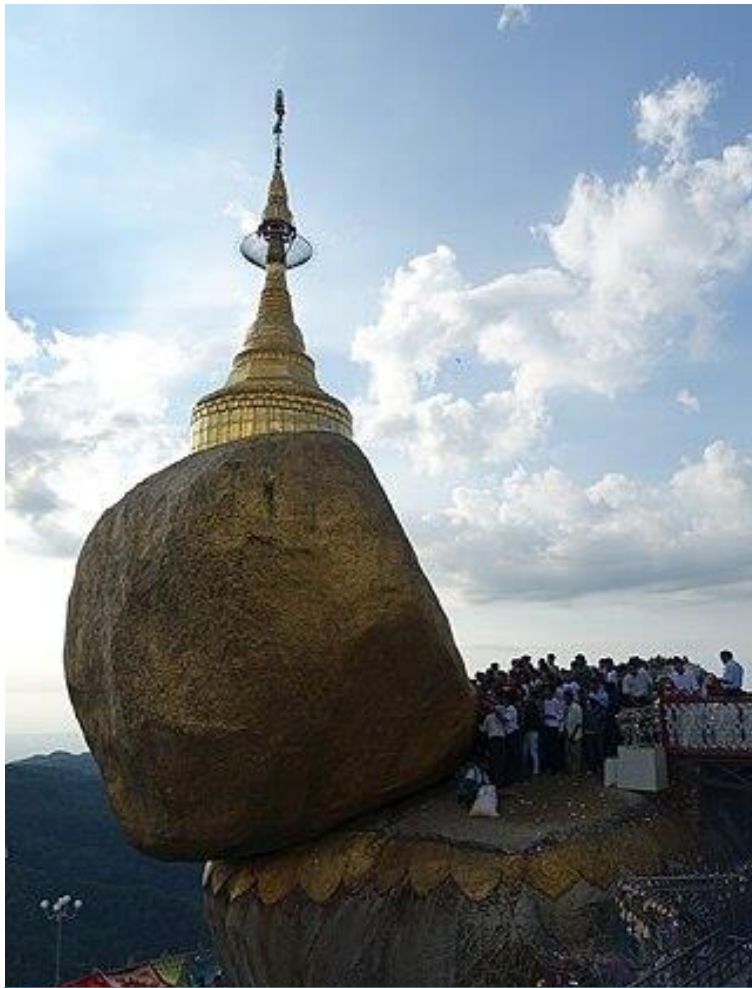


Temple of the Tooth of Buddha, Kandy, Sri Lanka
Wikipedia (accessed on 30 Mar 2024)

Where in the World is My Lord? (2/4)

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- The other time Rev. DVD was in Rangoon, another neighboring country to India and was in a much longer line to get a glimpse at the famous remainder of Buddha in a place called the “*The Hair of Buddha Temple*. I pondered about my other visits in that country and several other places that I visited in India of several gods of this world. I wondered in my heart; how and where can I point the intellect in today’s gathering here for at least a small piece in any part of the world that can point to the physical reminder of my God. I can not find even one place; I am sorry my friends.” He continued with that thought, “*Maybe we all had the opportunity to witness more than one hundred physical places that are of a physical memorial to many of the gods that we know about. Yes, indeed that is the uniqueness of my God that I know, and we recognize Him as the resin savior, Jesus Christ.*”



Kyaukse Pagoda (Myanmar):

The Golden Rock itself is precariously perched on a strand of Lord Buddha's hair.

Wikipedia (accessed 30 Mar 2024)



Where in the World is My Lord? (3/4)

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- Rev. DVD continued his presentation, *“I can not confirm on any place in the world that claims part or whole of the body of my God, Jesus Christ. All praise to God Almighty and all glory to His name. No one in the world for the past 2000 years claimed any place or any remaining part of Jesus and He is the foundation of the faith for Christianity. Without Jesus there is no plan of salvation for my life or as a matter of fact for any one you here. Without the proof of resurrection power of Jesus there is no basis for Christianity. The fact of today’s gathering is the accumulated proof of two thousand years that Jesus Christ rose from the dead victoriously and it is the hope of every Christian that He will come back to us to receive and take us to a place prepared for us. I am ready for that glorious day, and I pray that you consider the truth of this Jesus who called Himself, ‘I am the truth and the life’.”*

Where in the World is My Lord? (4/4)

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- The thoughts in that meeting continued as follows: *If indeed His followers stole and hid the body and created this anxious moment, why the body was not found even until now? If they are part of this lie, can any of the disciples be willing to die for that reason. Most of them were brutally killed and became first martyrs for Christ. Thank God one of the disciples, St. Thomas, reached India and brought the good news of the offering of love and grace by Lord Jesus Christ. I am here because of the experience of that grace and His love. Will anyone be willing to die for the lie that they themselves created? We know that the disciples were ready to flee for a simple question and reasoning. They are already scattered and gone by that Friday night. Some people, ready to die even in a foreign land, I define that as the transformation power of the resurrection. From the known history, we validate that James was the first disciple to be killed. Simon and Judas (not the Iscariot) were killed in Persia. Andrew was killed in Greece. Peter pleaded that he be placed upside down on the cross, lest he brings dishonor to Savior Jesus Christ who died on a similar cross.*



**Prophet Muhammad's Burial Place -
The Green in Medina, Saudi Arabia
Wikipedia (accessed 30 Mar 2024)**

Where in the World is My Lord? (FINAL)

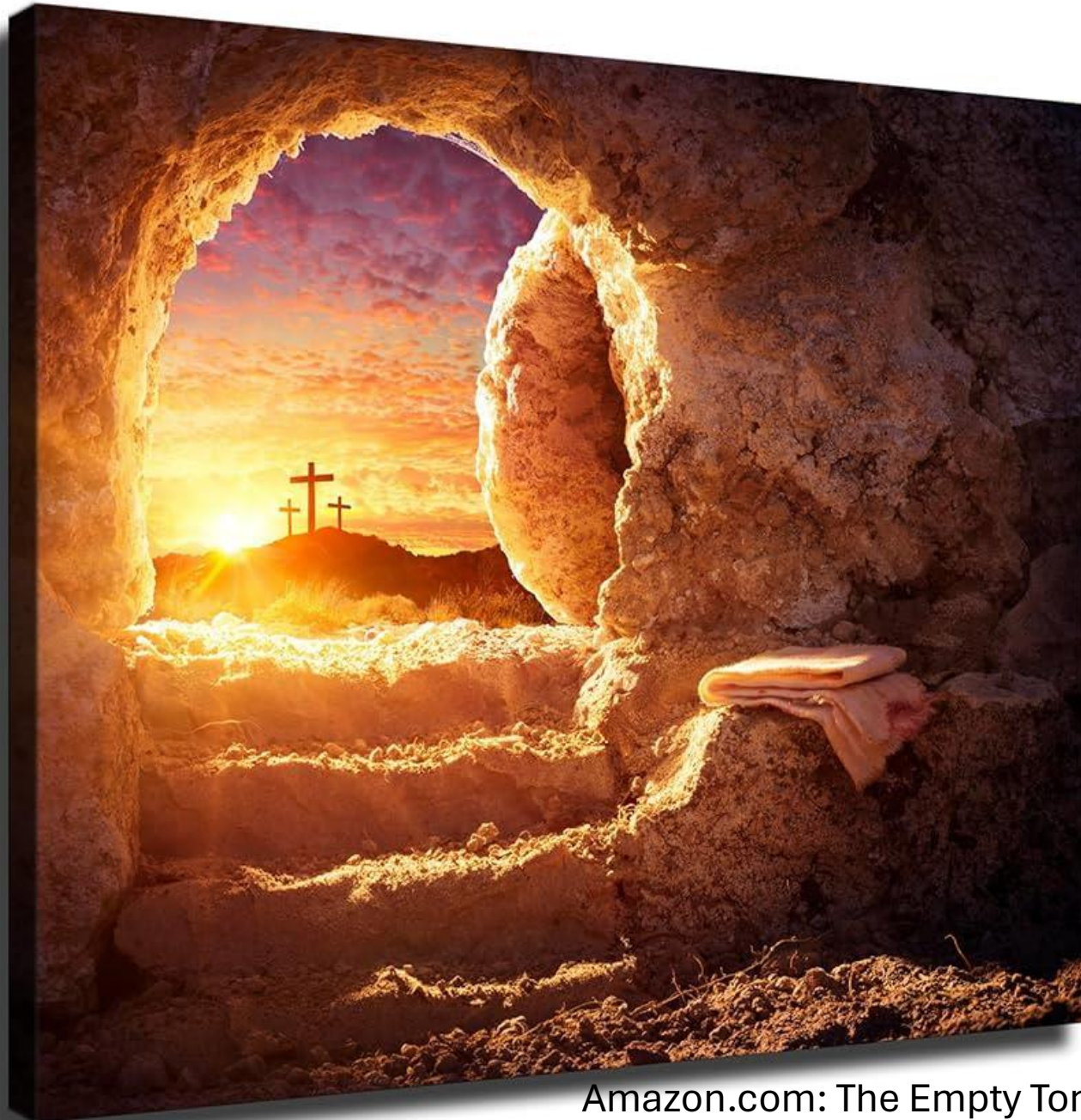
Premkumar B. Saganti, Ph. D., © 2000

- *Yes, it is about Jesus. Do you want to know more proof about the resurrection, or do you want to know more about the power of resurrection? Any way you choose today, you will have an answer! ...*

Are you ready for His 2nd Coming

John 20:6-7 (NIV and NKJV)

- ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. **The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen.**
- ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying *there*, ⁷ and the ^[a]handkerchief that had been around His head, **not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself.**



Amazon.com: The Empty Tomb Matte Jesus
Resurrection "He Has Risen"²⁹

There is a Redeemer -

Keith & Melody Green (1982)

There is a redeemer

Jesus, God's own Son

Precious Lamb of God, Messiah

Holy One

Jesus my redeemer

Name above all names

Precious Lamb of God, Messiah

Oh, for sinners slain

Thank you, oh my father

For giving us Your Son

And leaving Your Spirit

'Til the work on Earth is done

There is a redeemer

Jesus, God's own Son

Precious Lamb of God, Messiah

Holy One

When I stand in Glory

I will see His face

And there I'll serve my King forever

In that Holy Place

Thank you, oh my father

For giving us Your Son

And leaving Your Spirit

'Til the work on Earth is done