

The Death of Lazarus

G. The death of Lazarus – John 11:1-16

1. John 11:1a – Lazarus is the Greek transliteration of the Aramaic name *Eleazar*, which means God helps. This Lazarus was not the one in Jesus' earlier story about the rich man.
 - a. John 11:1b – Bethany was about two miles east of Jerusalem on the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives.

The Death of Lazarus

- b. John 11:1c – By recording Jesus' resuscitation of Lazarus, John continued the theme that Jesus is the Light.

The Death of Lazarus

2. John 11:2-3 – The Lord could heal from a distance (John 4:46-54) so His decision to not heal Lazarus was part of a deliberate plan.
3. John 11:4 – Jesus said Lazarus died not so he would remain dead but so God would be glorified.
4. John 11:5 – Lazarus' sisters, Mary and Martha, expected Jesus to come immediately, but He deliberately delayed His arrival.

The Death of Lazarus

5. John 11:6 – Chronologically, Lazarus died the same day the messenger delivered the news to Jesus. Jesus delayed going to Bethany for two more days. On the fourth day after Lazarus' death, Jesus arrived at his home.
6. John 11:7 – The religious leaders who sought to murder Jesus lived in Judea.

The Death of Lazarus

7. John 11:8 – Because the disciples were concerned about their own safety, they reminded Jesus of the danger to Him in going to Judea.
8. John 11:9 – Jesus is the Light of the world. The disciples needed to go with him everywhere while He, the Light, was still with them.

The Death of Lazarus

9. John 11:10 – A believer does not stumble when he walks in the Light of the Word of God because the Word illuminates his path through life. Psalm 119:105
10. John 11:11 – Jesus used *sleep* to refer to the death of Lazarus, a believer.
11. John 11:12 – When Jesus said that Lazarus was asleep, the disciples understood Him to mean that Lazarus had literally fallen asleep and, therefore, would recover.

The Death of Lazarus

12. John 11:13 – John’s commentary makes it clear that believers in Christ do not die but rather fall asleep in Him. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

- a. That does not mean that believers are in “soul sleep” after death as some teach.
- b. When a believer dies, the soul and spirit remain conscious and are immediately taken into the presence of the Lord to await the resurrection of the body at the Rapture.

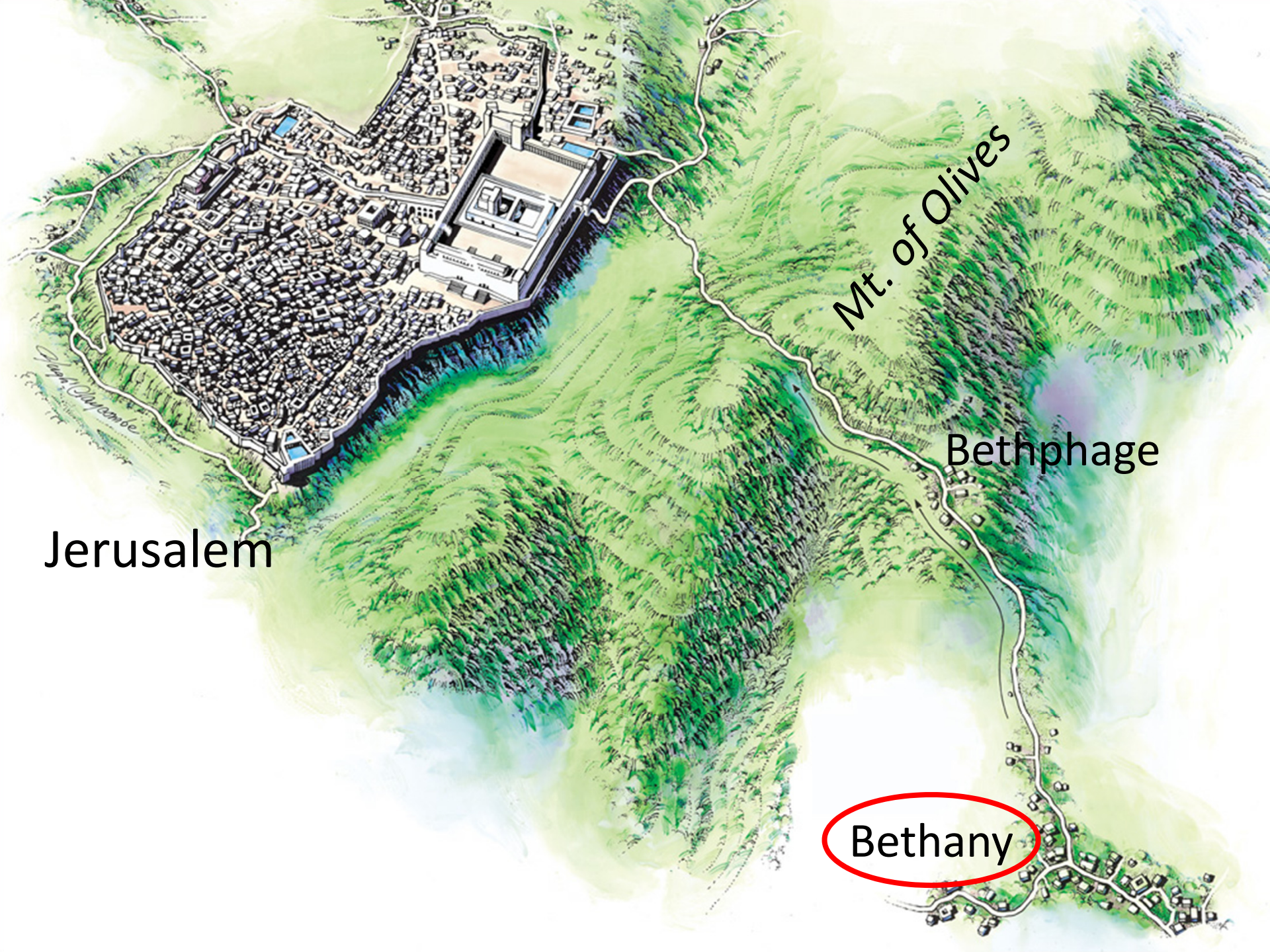
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13. John 11:14 – Since the disciples failed to understand this spiritual metaphor, Jesus clearly stated its meaning. Lazarus was dead.

14. John 11:15 – Lazarus' death provided a unique opportunity for the Lord to not only give more evidence of His Messiahship but also to strengthen the disciples' faith. 2 Corinthians 10:15

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15. John 11:16 – Thomas' sarcasm mirrored his doubts after Jesus' resurrection. John 20:25-28



Jerusalem

Mt. of Olives

Bethphage

Bethany

Lazarus' Resurrection

H. The resurrection (resuscitation) of Lazarus – John 11:17-46

1. John 11:17 – Four days in the tomb was significant because Rabbinic teachings claimed that a person's spirit hovered above his dead body for three days, making it possible for him to come back to life; however, on the fourth day, a return to life was impossible.

Lazarus' Resurrection

2. John 11:18-19 – Professional mourners came from Jerusalem to mourn Lazarus' death, an indication of his family's prominence and wealth.
3. John 11:20-22 – Martha was disappointed with Jesus but at the same time recognized His power and close relationship with the Father.

Lazarus' Resurrection

4. John 11:23-24 – Jesus emphatically stated that Lazarus would rise. Martha expressed a correct eschatological position concerning the future resurrection from the dead; however, the Lord meant that Lazarus would be alive and with her soon.
5. John 11:25-26 – Jesus stated a proposition (plan) that if believed brought salvation. Faith must have an object. The object of faith can be clearly expressed to others.

Lazarus' Resurrection

6. John 11:27 – Martha acknowledged her faith and declared that Jesus was Messiah.
7. John 11:28-29 – Martha discreetly informed Mary of Jesus' arrival. She may have been trying to keep the religious leaders from knowing.
8. John 11:30-31 – Jesus avoided the crowds. When Mary left to meet Him, the professional mourners thought she was going to the tomb to weep and followed her.

Lazarus' Resurrection

9. John 11:32 – Mary expressed her faith at the feet of Messiah. Luke 10:39, John 12:3
10. John 11:33 – Unlike the professional mourners, Jesus was *greatly agitated* (Greek: *EMBRIMAOMAI*) and *deeply troubled* (Greek: *TARASSO*) in His inner being.
11. John 11:34 – Jesus wanted to know the location of the tomb, indicating He was not using His omniscience.

Lazarus' Resurrection

12. John 11:35 – The Creator of the universe wept, probably because death was not part of the plan for creation. Death is abnormal.
13. John 11:36-37 – John pointed out the different opinions concerning Jesus' actions.
John 7:43, 9:16, 10:21
14. John 11:38-39 – When Jesus commanded that the stone be removed, Martha cautioned Him against being defiled (becoming unclean) by death.

Lazarus' Resurrection

15. John 11:40 – The disciples' faith was strengthened because just as Jesus had declared in John 11:4, His glory was manifested in this miracle.

16. John 11:41a – No one had ever opened the tomb of a dead person and resurrected him. Tension mounted as the stone was removed.

Lazarus' Resurrection

17. John 11:41b-42 – Jesus prayed to the Father so those listening would understand that the purpose of the miracle was to show Him to be Messiah.

18. John 11:43-44 – Jesus spoke directly to Lazarus. Immediately, by the power(Word) of God, Lazarus was alive.

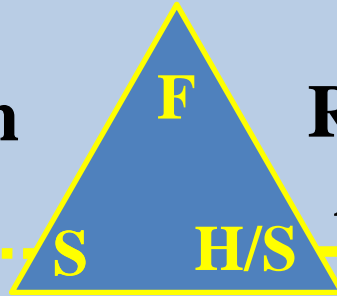
19. John 11:45-46 – Jesus' revelation of His glory always produced one of two responses, faith or rejection. Acts 17:32-34

God the Holy Spirit's Role in Revelation



**General
Revelation**

Ps 19:1-6



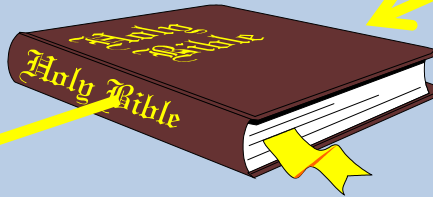
**Special
Revelation**

Ps 19:7-14



God exists

*Romans
1:18-20*



Inspiration
2 Peter 1:20-21

Convicting
John 16:7-11

3 Responses
Acts 17:32-34

Reaction to Lazarus' Resurrection

I. Conspiracy reaction to Lazarus' resurrection— John 11:47-54

1. John 11:47 – From this time forward, the chief priests took the lead in trying to kill Jesus.
2. John 11:48 – The religious leaders operated in self-interest and, therefore, wrongly interpreted Jesus, His healings, and His message.

Reaction to Lazarus' Resurrection

- a. Their plans resulted in the wrong decision to reject Jesus as the promised Messiah.
- b. Their decision to reject Jesus led to the very destruction they were trying to avoid. In 70 AD, the Romans came and destroyed both Jerusalem and the temple.

Reaction to Lazarus' Resurrection

3. John 11:49-50 – When Caiaphas spoke of Jesus dying on behalf of (Greek: *HUPER*) the people, he spoke in political terms. He did not realize he was prophesying.
4. John 11:51-52 – Caiaphas is an interesting example of God moving men, including prophets, to speak prophetically. 2 Peter 1:20-21

Reaction to Lazarus' Resurrection

5. John 11:53 – Sadly, the Pharisees and Sadducees finally agreed on something, that Jesus must die.
6. John 11:54 – Since Jesus knew their evil plans, He avoided public appearances until the Father's time for His death (Passover).

Cleansing and Instruction

J. Cleansing the ten lepers and instructions on gratitude – Luke 17:11-19

1. Luke 17:11a – In the context of Luke, Jesus had been teaching on humble service, a fact that must be remembered when examining this miracle and His instructions.
2. Luke 17:11b – Note that Luke reminded the reader of Jesus' goal in going to Jerusalem, which included going through Samaria.

Cleansing and Instruction

3. Luke 17:12 – The Law required lepers to live outside the community because they were unclean. Leviticus 13:46
4. Luke 17:13 – These lepers recognized Messiah's authority and asked for mercy.
5. Luke 17:14 – Jesus commanded them to go and show themselves to the priests. As they obeyed, they were cleansed. (See Mark 1:40-45 for notes on leprosy.)

Cleansing and Instruction

6. Luke 17:15-16 – The Samaritan leper was the only one who returned to thank Jesus for his healing.
7. Luke 17:17-19 – The Jewish lepers' failure to show gratitude for being healed illustrated the attitude of the entire Nation of Israel at the time of their visitation by Messiah.
8. Luke 17:20-18:8 – This material is similar to that found in Matthew 24-25 and will be harmonized with that section later.

Instruction Regarding Self-Righteousness

K. Instructions on self-righteousness – Luke 18:9-14

1. Luke 18:9 – Jesus addressed the problem of prideful self-righteousness with a descriptive parable.
2. Luke 18:10 – Jesus contrasted the religious leader with one of the most despised members of society, the tax collector.

Instruction Regarding Self-Righteousness

3. Luke 18:11-12 – The Pharisee listed the deeds that made him feel justified before men and to himself; however, his good deeds did not justify him before God.
4. Luke 18:13 – The humility of the tax collector starkly contrasted the self-righteousness of the Pharisee. His prayer showed that His faith was in God's mercy and grace, not in his own works.

Instruction Regarding Self-Righteousness

5. Luke 18:14 – Only those who believe in Jesus Christ are justified before God.
Romans 3:22, 26, 28

Instruction Concerning Divorce

L. Instructions on divorce – Matthew 19:1-12, Mark 10:1-12

1. Matthew 19:1-2 – Still headed to Jerusalem, Jesus entered Judea with crowds following Him.
2. Mark 10:1 – Mark emphasized that Jesus continued teaching as He traveled.
3. Matthew 19:3 – In order to challenge and trap Jesus, the Pharisees asked a question.

Instruction Concerning Divorce

4. Matthew 19:4-5 – Jesus answered them from Scripture.
 - a. His response unified the creation of man in Genesis 1:26-28 (a summary) with the details in Genesis 2:18-25, proving they did not record two different events.
 - b. Genesis 1:26-28 gave a general overview of Day Six's creation of man while Genesis 2 gave more details of that same day.

Instruction Concerning Divorce

5. Matthew 19:6 – God designed marriage. Divorce not only destroys God’s design for those created in His image but also the oneness between husband and wife.
6. Matthew 19:7 – The Pharisees’ follow-up question reflected their failure to understand the passage.
 - a. Deuteronomy 24:1a – Moses did not command divorce but made an allowance for *some indecency*.

Instruction Concerning Divorce

- b. Deuteronomy 24:1b – God allowed divorce, but the one seeking to fulfill God's plan would see restoration of his marriage.

Instruction Concerning Divorce

7. Matthew 19:8 – Jesus emphasized that divorce does not reflect the Creator's design but the plan of rebellious man.
8. Matthew 19:9 – Jesus said that the *indecent act* involved sexual sin. If the husband and wife could not repent and/or forgive, divorce was permitted.

Instruction Concerning Divorce

9. Matthew 19:10 – The disciples' question indicated their failure to understand God's purpose for marriage. They suggested marriage was more appealing if easily dissolved.
10. Matthew 19:11-12 – Jesus indicated that most people need to marry, but those born celibate or those who choose to be celibate for a higher calling do not need marriage.

Divine Institutions

- 1. Volition** – Personal Responsibility – *Genesis 2:15-17*
- 2. Marriage** – One man and one woman with the husband in the position of authority – *Genesis 2:22-24*
- 3. Family** – Parental authority – *Genesis 4:1*
- 4. Human Government** – Ruling authority – *Gen. 9:1-17*
- 5. Nationalism** – No internationalism – *Genesis 11:7-9*