

Psalm 130

[Worship]

¹ Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord; ² Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications. ³ If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? ⁴ But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared. ⁵ I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope. ⁶ My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning—yes, more than those who watch for the morning. ⁷ O Israel, hope in the Lord; for with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption. ⁸ And He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Consider:

[Think & Pray...]

When is "rising from the dead" not "resurrection"? If Lazarus' rising from the dead had been a resurrection, then what happened to Jesus on Easter day wouldn't have been unique; it would have been one of a number of events - such as the raising of the widow of Nain's son in Luke 7.11-16 - that, though rare, happened on more than one occasion. Although Lazarus was raised from the dead, we know that he will die again. His is only a temporary reprieve from death, whereas Jesus' resurrection is permanent. On Easter, Jesus arrives on the other side of death, where there is no more dying.

What is more, unlike Lazarus, Jesus' resurrection affects not just him but the whole of the world. Consequently, as Romans 8:10-11 tells us, if Christ is in us, the Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead will give us life. If the risen Christ is in us then we are a part of the new world order, a world order in which there is abundant life given by one who created the world and who re-created it in Christ.

It is, of course, no surprise that the God who raised Lazarus from the dead and who breathes new life into dry bones (Ezekiel 37) is a God who also raises Jesus from the dead. The God in whom we believe gives life and renews creation. Raising Jesus from the dead was not a



change of character on God's behalf, simply an extension of what God has always done. This God yearns to see abundant life flowing through the whole of the world and calls us to live out this vision in the world.

[The Scripture]

Romans 8.6-11

⁶ For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. ¹⁰ And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.