

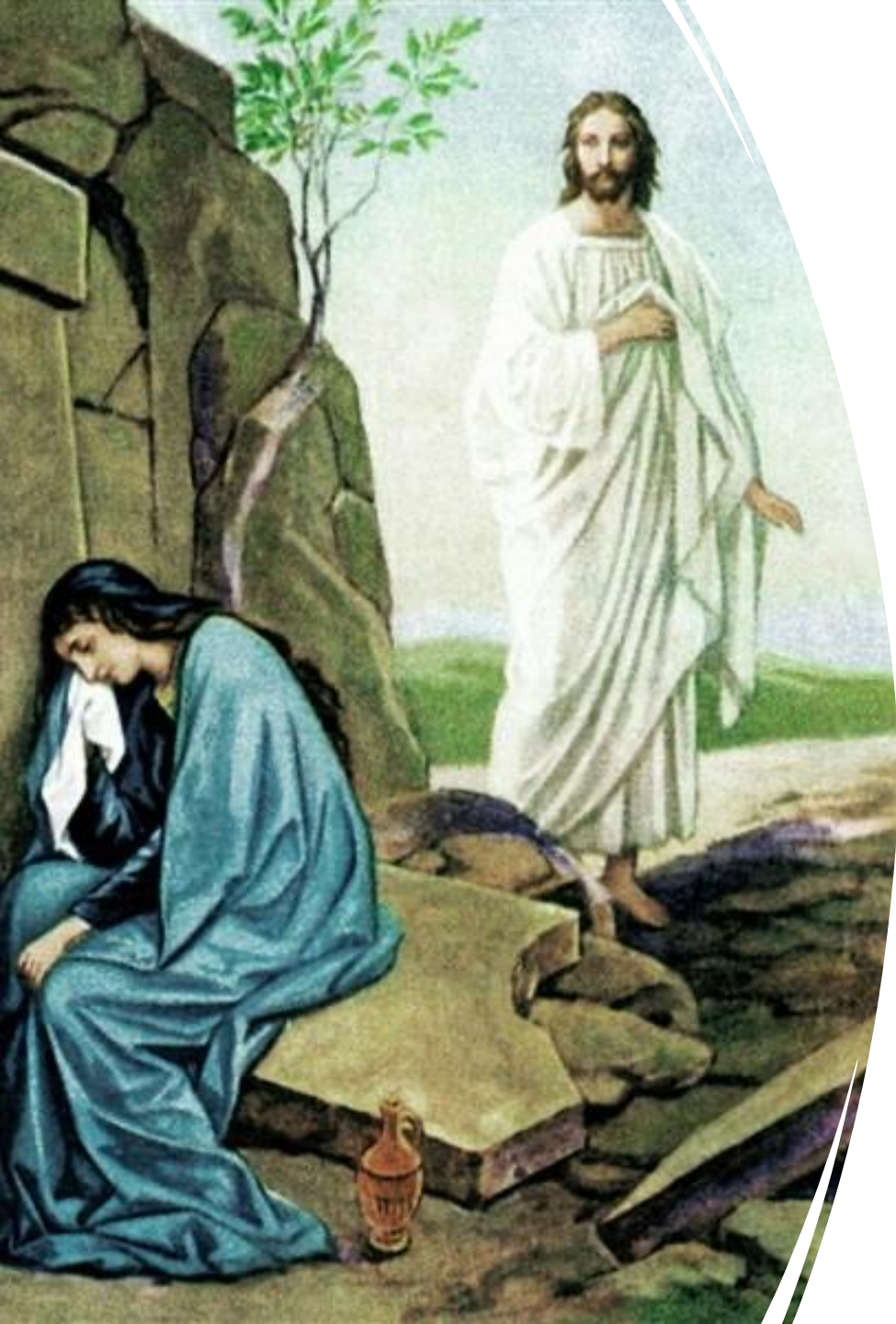
“Now the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.”
– John 20:1



A photograph of the empty tomb of Jesus, showing the rolled-away stone and the white burial cloth inside the tomb. The scene is dimly lit, with a bright light source from the left creating a strong contrast and highlighting the textures of the stone and the cloth. The title "Death in Light of the Resurrection" is overlaid in white text, centered in the upper half of the image.

Death in Light of the Resurrection

Resurrection Feast 2025



Introduction:

- “Now the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.” (Jn. 20:1)
- "If Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!" (1 Cor. 15:17)
- "Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." (1 Cor. 15:20)

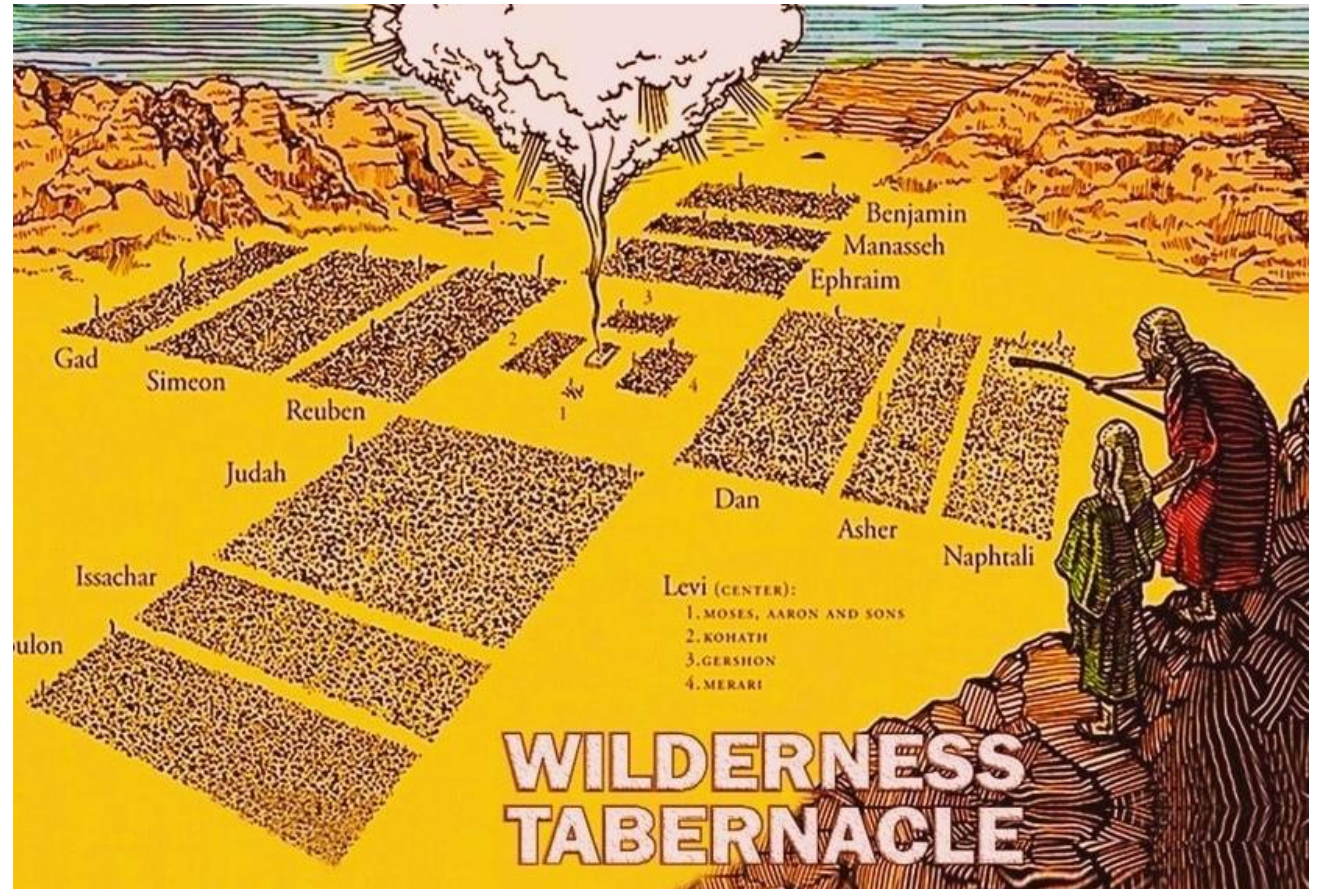
1. Only Through Death is There Resurrection

- "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." (Jn. 12:24)
- "...buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses..." (Col. 3:22-24)



2. Death is a New Beginning

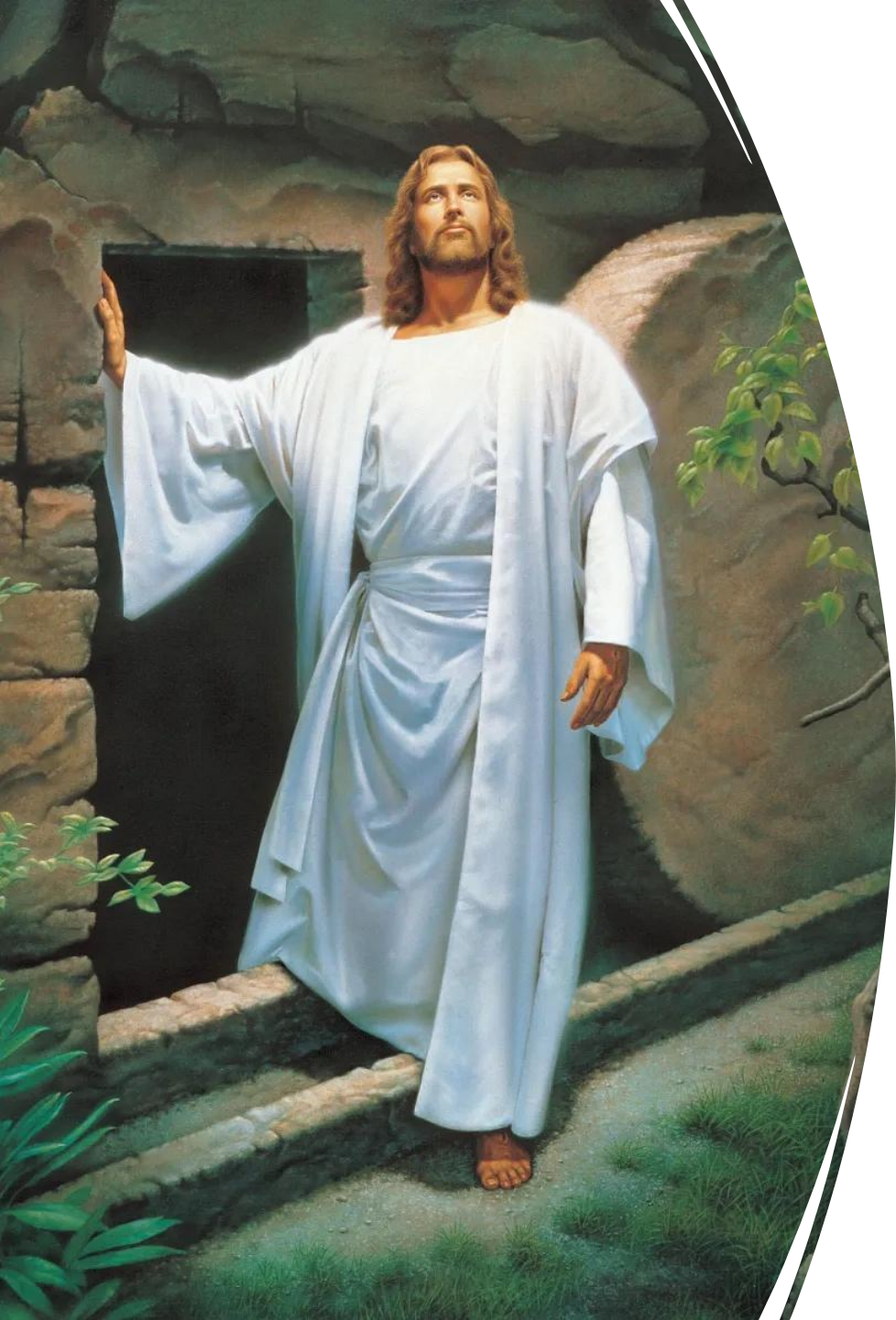
- Death is a passageway, the beginning of eternal life with Christ.
- “For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” (2 Corinthians 5:1)
- “In My Father's house are many mansions...I go to prepare a place for you.” (Jn. 14:2)



2. Death is a New Beginning

- EX: Crossing the Red Sea
- *"It is better for me to die on behalf of Jesus Christ, than to reign over all the ends of the earth. 'For what shall a man be profited, if he gain the whole world, but lose his own soul?' Him I seek, who died for us: Him I desire, who rose again for our sake. (St. Ignatius of Antioch)*





3. The Dead Body Will Rise Again

- The body will rise again
- "So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption." (1 Corinthians 15:42)
- *"Despise not the body; for though it be now subject to decay, yet it shall rise again in glory."* (St. Cyril of Jerusalem)

4. Death is No Longer Something to Fear

- "Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." (Hebrews 2:14-15)
- EX: St. Peter



5. Balanced Scales

- All injustices and sufferings will find resolution and reward.
- EX: Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus
- “So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried.” (Lk. 16:22)





6. Death in and for Christ is Praiseworthy

- EX: King Saul
- Death endured faithfully and courageously for Christ is honorable and praiseworthy.
- IN CHRIST:
 - "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." (Jn. 11:25-26)
 - "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me." (Jn. 6: 56-57)

6. Death in and for Christ is Praiseworthy

- FOR CHRIST
- Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." (Acts 21:13)
- *"All the disciples of Christ despise death; they take the offensive against it and, instead of fearing it, by the sign of the cross and by faith in Christ trample on it as on something dead." (St. Athanasius)*
- *"I bless You, Father, for deeming me worthy of this day and hour, that I may be counted among the martyrs, sharing the cup of Christ." (St. Polycarp)*

Conclusion:

- The Lord's resurrection is our hope.
- Death is...
 - The beginning of a new life
 - Not the end of the body, but a beginning to the resurrected body
 - No longer something to be feared
 - The end of unbalanced scales
 - Praiseworthy for those who depart in Christ and for Christ

