

**THIS TEMPORARY TOMB: (*Lesson 11 book*)
GOD'S PROMISE THROUGH THE EMPTY TOMB**

GOD'S PROMISE

**"Death has been swallowed up in victory."
1 Corinthians 15:54)**

MY PROMISE

I will entrust my death to the Lord of life.

Bible Reading: Luke 23:39-43

Everyone comes to the moment of surrendering. The moment in which we say that we can go do no more. At that very moment, every feeling of "shame", anxiety, pain, pressure, and no satisfaction is gone and the feeling of total peace is embraced. That is what happens when a believer ends his days on earth. Death has been "devoured" by the victory for those of us who are in Jesus Christ. That is the true victory for those who know that the death of Jesus was not in vain. It was victorious!

WE ALL LIVE HUNG – Luke 23:39-41

On the day of the crucifixion of Christ, there were two other people who were crucified. These two had been caught in some act of major crime. It is possible that they had committed a homicide or a physical abuse of another person. It is possible that due to the amount of committed crimes throughout their lives, they had finally gotten to the moment of paying for it all.

The interesting part of the story is the reaction of both as they faced death. One of them took on a cold challenging attitude. The Bible says that he was "disrespectful." That means that he cursed. He wanted to be saved but without repenting. If Jesus would have saved him, the probability that he would have gone back to the same as always was very high. He wanted to "save his skin" and nothing else.

The other one seems to have understood the gravity of his dilemma. He was guilty, was going to die, and needed to defeat whatever personal obstacle and decided that "he could do no more" and appealed to the only one who could remedy the last event of his earthly life – death. He asked Jesus to remember him.

That is our story. From the time that we were born we have been "hanging" on the cross of death. For some, it will come early; for others it will come later. For some, it will be after having lived removed from God; for others, lives close to Him. How are we going to arrive at that last moment? Cursing or conscience that we deserve to pay for what we have done and now we are waiting and trusting in the mercy of God.

REMEMBER ME – Luke 23:42

The petition of the second criminal was very simple. He simply said, “remember.” We all know that God knows our lives. He knows how we have acted. He knows the decisions that we have taken, based on our own interests. He knows about every sin – hidden or open. He knows our thoughts and intentions. There is nothing that is outside of His understanding.

We can justify ourselves, but of what good will it be. The Bible says that “there is none just, no not one.” Not only that, but it also says that our deeds are “as filthy rags.” What remedy do we have since we have lived “hanging” on the cross of death constantly?

Appeal to God. One simple word can change our eternal destiny. Remember! When we ask Him this, we are saying “I have lived my earthly life to the limit. Death is something outside of my control.” Now it is your turn; remember me.

GOD REMEMBERS TODAY! - Luke 23:43

Death is defeated even before we expire. The man hanging next to Jesus received eternal life before he “died”. As a matter of fact, he died and resurrected hanging on the cross of death. He experienced eternal life even in the middle of his tragedy. That is the gift of God. Faith in that God can remember us tomorrow, God can turn it into a reality – today!

That man had already defeated death. His imminent death was only part of the natural process (or in his case of human justice) of what we will all participate.

Do not be ashamed because “death” is inevitable. Begin to live as resurrected even though death seems to be frightening and mysterious and of course not welcomed.

JESUS HAD ALREADY DEFEATED - Luke 23:46

The death of Jesus was necessary. Without His death, all hope of a new life and resurrection is in vain. His death also began the countdown to final victory.

In His death, Paul’s declaration, “death has been swallowed up in victory” takes on the true sense. Victory is synonymous with an “Empty Tomb.”

The tomb of Jesus is empty. That guarantees that our tomb, if death finds us, will be empty. That is guaranteed.

We celebrate “resurrection” because it is the best way to say it. If the cross represents death, then the empty tomb represents life.