

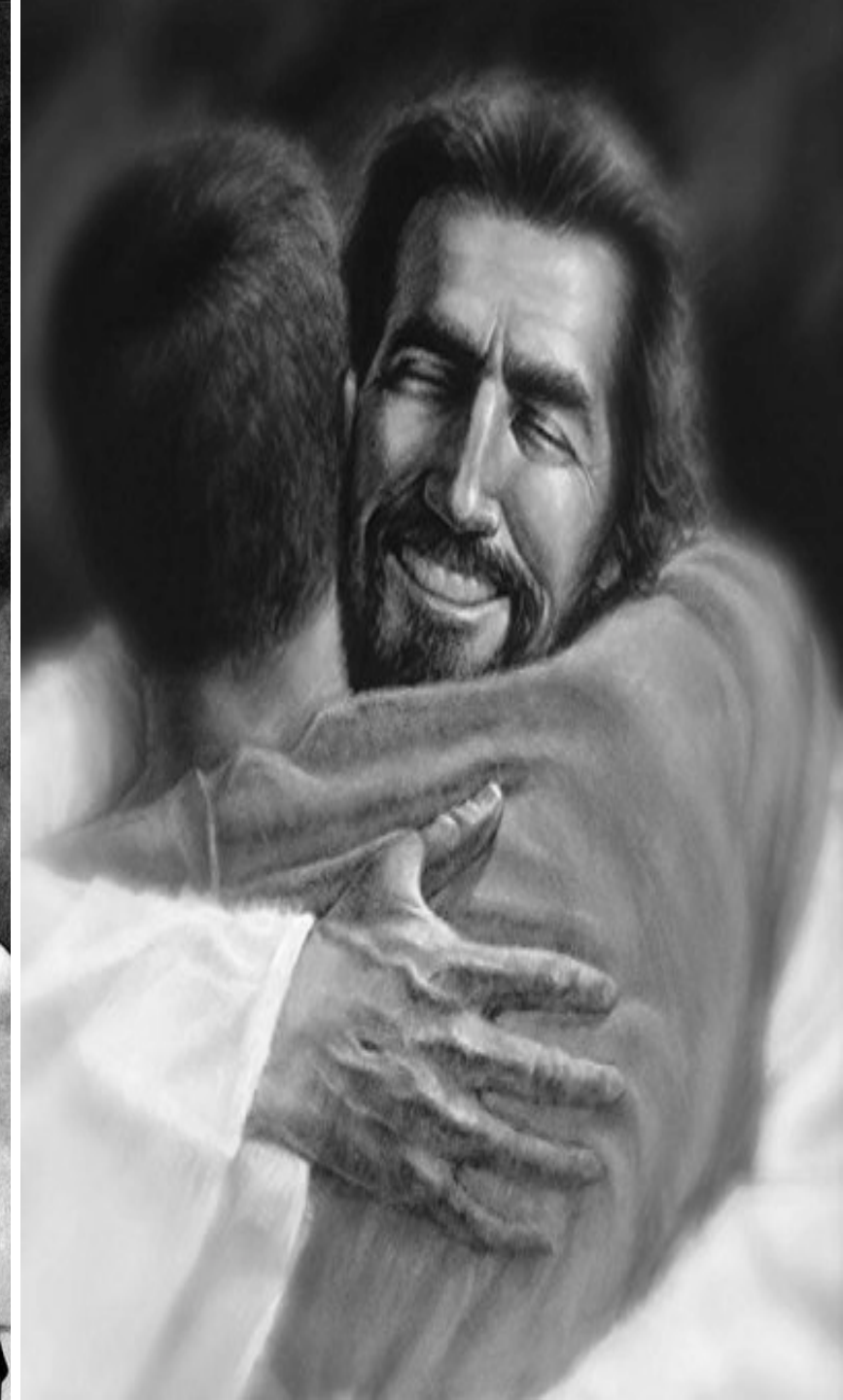
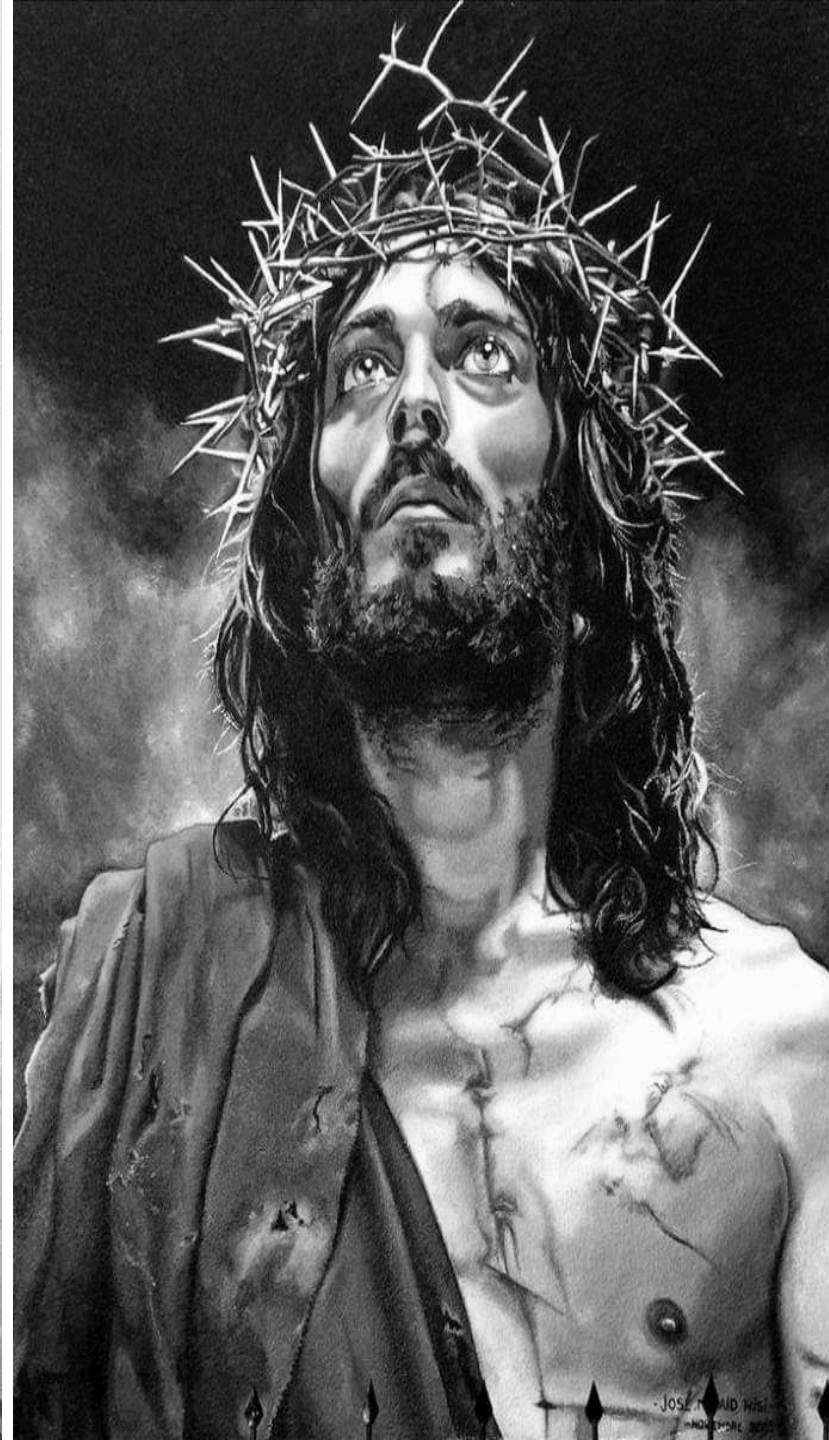
THE GREATEST 'STORY' EVER TOLD...

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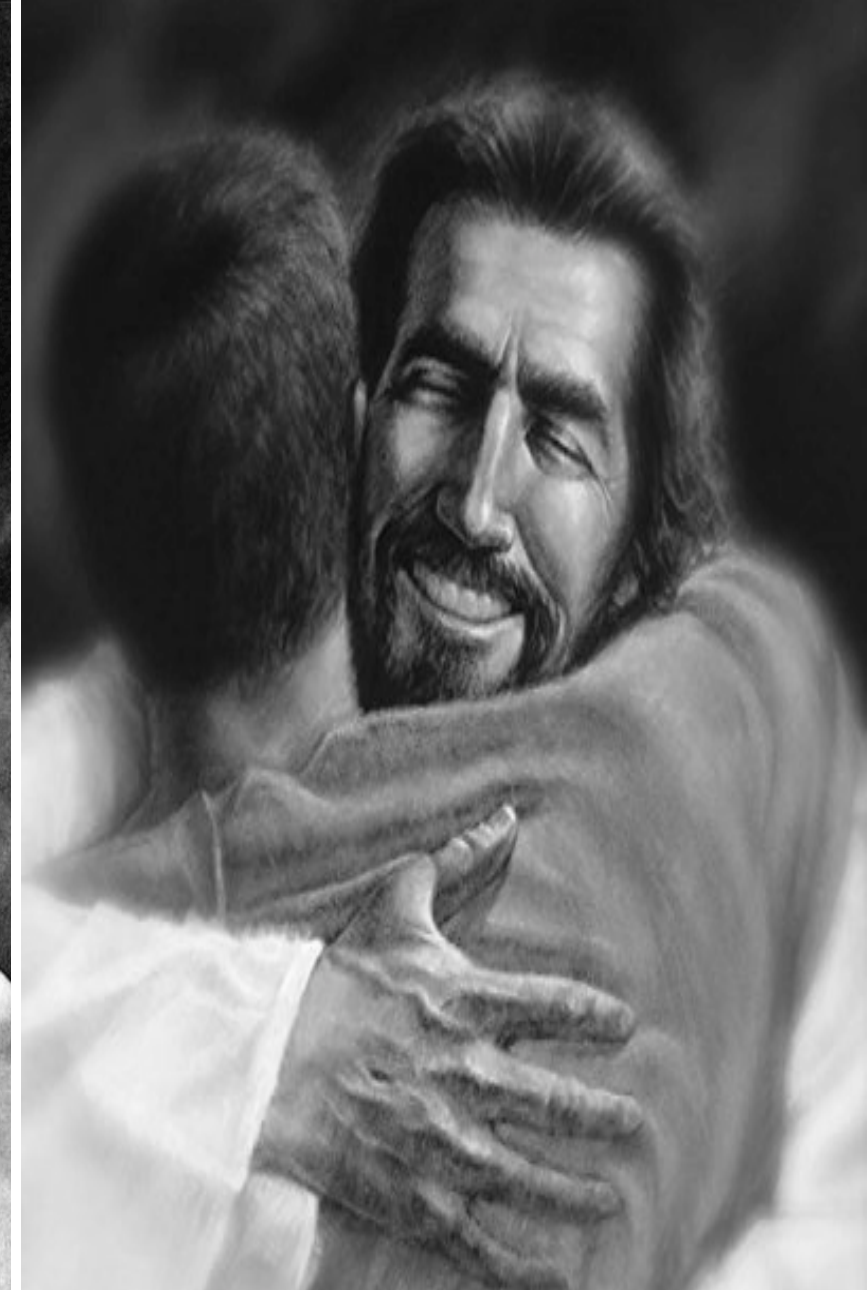
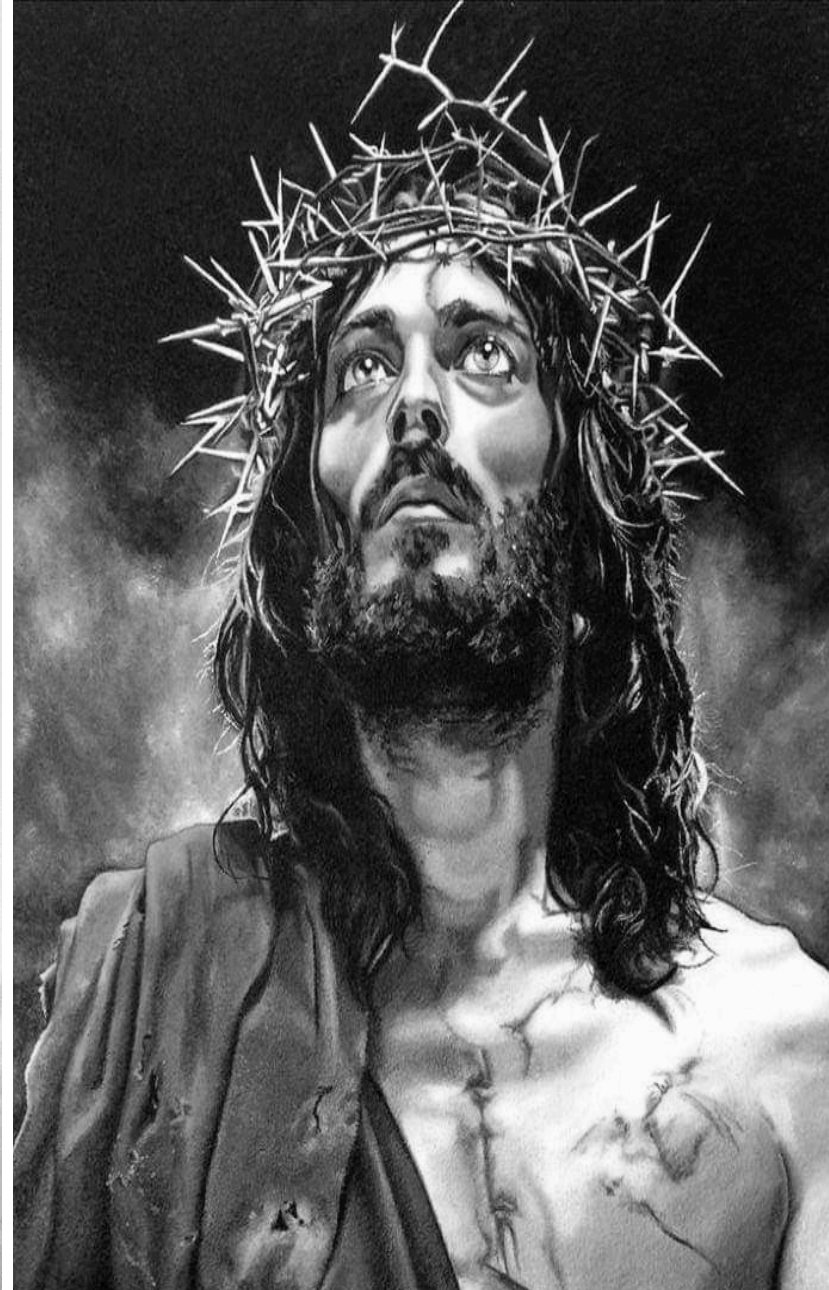


**YOU MAY BE SURPRISED TO DISCOVER
THAT MOST OF OUR FAVORITE STORIES
FOLLOW A 'THREE ACT STRUCTURE'.**

**YOU MAY BE SURPRISED
TO DISCOVER THAT THE GOSPEL
FOLLOWS A THREE ACT STRUCTURE.**



**THE GOSPEL WILL BEST BE TOLD IF IT IS
TOLD IN IT'S THREE ACT STRUCTURE.**



THREE ACT STORY TELLING

ACT 1 - SET UP

BEGINNING

**INCITING
INCIDENT**

**SECOND
THOUGHTS**

CLIMAX 1

**THE
POINT
OF NO
RETURN**

ACT 2 - CONFLICT

OBSTACLE 1

OBSTACLE 2

MID POINT

**MAJOR
PLOT
TWIST**

ACT 2 - CONFLICT

OBSTACLE 3

DISASTER

CRISIS

CLIMAX 2

**ALL
HOPE
IS LOST**

ACT 3 - RESOLUTION

SUSPENSE

CLIMAX 3

WRAP UP

**ALL
IS WELL**

ACT 3 - RESOLUTION



ACT 3 - RESOLUTION

SUSPENSE

CLIMAX 3

WRAP UP

**ALL
IS WELL**

SUSPENSE



IF THE AUDIENCE IS TO STAY
INTERESTED, ANY GOOD STORY
NEEDS A SUSPENSEFUL **DELAY**
BEFORE THE ULTIMATE CONCLUSION
OF THE STORY!

**ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS
ACT 3 SUSPENSE DELAYS OF ALL TIME
OCCURRED AT THE END OF
STARS WARS:
THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK...**

**HAN SOLO HAD BEEN
FROZEN SOLID IN CARBONITE,
LUKE SKYWALKER LOST HIS HAND
AND DARTH VADER HAD JUST TOLD
LUKE THAT HE WAS HIS FATHER...**

**THE AUDIENCE IN 1980
THEN HAD TO WAIT
A WHOLE 3 YEARS UNTIL
THE NEXT MOVIE WAS RELEASED
IN 1983 TO GET THE WRAP UP.**

THE ACT 3 SUSPENSEFUL DELAY
OF OUR STORY OCCURS WHEN
GOD'S SON REMAINS
IN THE TOMB FOR 3 **DAYS.**

Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the
body

of Jesus...With Pilate's permission, he came
and took the body away. Taking Jesus' body,
they wrapped it, with the spices, in strips
of linen. This was in accordance with
Jewish burial customs. John 19:38, 40

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...since the tomb was nearby, they laid
Jesus there.

John 19:41-42

IMAGINE THE **DISMAY**
AND THE FEAR OF THOSE WHO
HAD BELIEVED THAT JESUS WAS
THE LONG AWAITED MESSIAH!

THIS DELAY MUST HAVE FELT
LIKE AN **ETERNITY**...
ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY
DIDN'T KNOW A HAPPY **ENDING**
WAS SOON ON ITS WAY!

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...
They were crying because of much sorrow.

John 20:19, Mark 16:10

**THE DISCIPLES WERE FOUND
HUDDLED TOGETHER IN FEAR FOR
THEIR LIVES...TRYING TO MAKE SENSE
OF EVERYTHING THAT HAD JUST
HAPPENED.**

WE CAN'T IMAGINE
THEIR **DISAPPOINTMENT**
DURING THIS TIME.

**REMEMBER THEY ARE LIVING IN THE
'ALL HOPE IS LOST' STAGE...**

THIS STAGE OF THE STORY MEANS THAT
THE FATE OF THE PROTAGONIST IS
TRULY IN THE BALANCE, AND THE ODDS
ARE GREATLY AGAINST THEM OF
SURVIVING THIS ORDEAL.

THE HERO HAS APPARENTLY **FAILED**,
EVIL HAS WON, THE ENEMY IS
BEGINNING TO CELEBRATE...
THE PROTAGONIST HAS NOWHERE TO
RUN AND HIDE.

**THANKFULLY, THAT'S NOT WHERE
THIS STORY ENDS....**

CLIMAX 3



UP UNTIL THIS POINT IN HUMAN
HISTORY THERE HAD BEEN ONLY
6 ACCOUNTS OF SOMEONE BEING
RAISED FROM THE DEAD...

3 OF THOSE OCCURRED DURING
THE TIME OF ELIJAH AND ELISHA,
SOME 850 YEARS BEFORE CHRIST.

THE OTHER 3 WERE PERFORMED
BY JESUS DURING HIS MINISTRY.

IN THE 4,000 SOME YEARS BEFORE
CHRIST, GOD HAD ONLY RAISED
SOMEONE FROM THE DEAD 3 TIMES.

MEANING,
A RESURRECTION OCCURRED
ON AVERAGE ONCE EVERY
1,333 YEARS...
AND THE PROPHETS WHO
PERFORMED THOSE WERE
NOW WITH GOD...

**THE ONLY OTHER PERSON TO RAISE
SOMEONE FROM THE DEAD WAS NOW
DEAD HIMSELF, BURIED BEHIND A
LARGE STONE, GUARDED BY SOLDIERS.**

**NEEDLESS TO SAY,
THE DISCIPLES WERE NOT
ANTICIPATING JESUS BEING RAISED
FROM THE DEAD...ALTHOUGH HE HAD
TOLD THEM THAT HE WOULD.
(MATT 16:21, MARK 8:31)**

**THE CLIMAX OF ACT 3 OF OUR
STORY OCCURS WHEN GOD RAISES
HIS SON FROM THE DEAD!**

There was a violent earthquake,
for an angel of the Lord came down from
heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back
the stone and sat on it. His appearance was
like lightning, and his clothes were white as
snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him
that they shook and became like dead men.

Matthew 28:2-4

The Day of Rest was over.

Mary Magdalene and the mother of James, and Salome bought spices.

They wanted to put the spices on Jesus' body. Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, they came to the grave.

Mark 16:1-2

They said to themselves,
“Who will roll the stone away
from the door of the grave for us?”
But when they looked, they saw the
very large stone had been rolled away.
They went into the grave. There they saw a
young man with a long white coat sitting on
the right side. They were afraid.

Mark 16:3-5

He said, "Do not be afraid.
You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth
Who was nailed to a cross.
He is risen! He is not here!
See, here is the place where they laid Him.
Go and tell His followers...

Mark 16:6-7

She went and told His followers.
They were crying because of much sorrow.
But they did not believe her when
she said she had seen Him alive.

Mark 16:10-11

Later He was seen by the eleven followers as they were eating. He spoke to them with sharp words because they did not believe and their hearts were hard. And they did not believe the others who had seen Him since He had been raised from the dead.

Mark 16:14

WHAT AN INCREDIBLE
TURN OF EVENTS!
HEROD & PILATE DID NOT WIN,
DEATH DID NOT WIN &
SATAN DID NOT WIN...

OUR HERO **DEFEATED** DEATH
AND CAME BACK TO LIFE,
PREPARED TO MAKE HIS ENEMIES
HIS FOOTSTOOL! (HEB 10:13)

**JESUS THEN APPEARED
TO THE DISCIPLES AND
500 OTHER FOLLOWERS.
(1 COR 15:6)**

**DURING THIS TIME
HE BEGAN TO EXPLAIN TO THEM
THE MEANING OF ALL
THAT HAD HAPPENED.**

WRAP UP



THE MORE COMPLEX A STORY THE
MORE IMPORTANT THAT THE AUTHOR
PROVIDES A WRAP UP IN THE FORM
OF **CLARIFYING** FLASHBACKS OR
STATEMENTS EXPLAINING THE
MEANING OF IT ALL.

OUR STORY IS ONE OF THE MORE
COMPLEX AND THE MOST IMPORTANT
EVER TOLD...THEREFORE THE
WRAP UP IS **CRITICAL**.

OVER THE PERIOD OF 40 DAYS AFTER
HIS RESURRECTION JESUS BEGAN
EXPLAINING THE MEANING OF
ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED. THIS
EXPLANATION WOULD BE **CONTINUED**
FURTHER BY PETER & PAUL.

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Luke 24:27

After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. Acts 1:3

**DURING THIS WRAP UP WE
LEARN MANY IMPORTANT TRUTHS...
SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ARE...**

(1) JESUS IS GOD'S ONE AND ONLY SON AND IS INDEED THE PROMISED DELIVERER. HE CAME TO EARTH TO SAVE ALL THOSE WHO ARE WILLING TO BELIEVE IN HIM, FROM THE **PUNISHMENT** OF THEIR SINS.

(2) JESUS WAS **PERFECT**, FULFILLING
THE LAW IN EVERYWAY, LIVING THE
LIFE WHICH WE SHOULD HAVE LIVED,
YET COULD NEVER LIVE.

**(3) JESUS DIED THE DEATH WE
SHOULD HAVE DIED AND HE TOOK
THE PUNISHMENT WHICH WE
DESERVED, FOR OUR SINS,
UPON HIMSELF ON THE CROSS.**

(4) BY HIS BLOOD,
HE MADE A **PERMANENT PAYMENT**
FOR OUR SINS.

(5) THIS PAYMENT FOR SIN IS **APPLIED**
TO OUR **ACCOUNT** BEFORE GOD BY
BELIEVING WHAT GOD HAS SAID
CONCERNING HIS SON & HIS WORK
ON THE CROSS.

(6) FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE;
GOD PROMISES TO FORGIVE THEM
OF THEIR SINS, CANCELS THEIR
DEATH-DEBT AND CONSIDERS THEM
RIGHTEOUS IN HIS SIGHT, BY GIVING
THEM THE RIGHTEOUSNESS
OF HIS SON.

(7) FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE;
GOD **SENDS** HIS HOLY SPIRIT, THE 3RD
MEMBER OF THE DIVINE-TRINITY TO
INDWELL, EMPOWER & GUIDE THE
BELIEVER. THE SPIRIT ALSO **SERVES** AS A
DISPLAY OF GOD'S GUARANTEE OF OUR
FUTURE INHERITANCE AS HIS OWN
CHILDREN.

(8) BY RAISING HIS SON FROM THE DEAD,
GOD **APPROVED** THE PAYMENT MADE ON
OUR BEHALF AND BY THAT HE ALSO
PROMISES TO RAISE UNTO ETERNAL LIFE
ALL THOSE WHO BELIEVE - EITHER FROM
THE DEAD OR WHEN CHRIST RETURNS.

**DEPENDING ON IF YOU ARE SHARING
THE LENGTHY VERSION OR THE
SHORTER VERSION OF THE STORY...
MORE WRAP UP MAY BE NEEDED.**

**THE MORE DETAILED YOU EXPLAINED
THE TWO OBSTACLES OF
(1) BEING UNABLE TO KEEP THE LAW
AND (2) BEING UNABLE TO PROVIDE A
PERMANENT ACCEPTABLE BLOOD
SACRIFICE...**

**THE MORE DETAILED YOU SHOULD
EXPLAIN HOW CHRIST BECAME OUR
PERMANENT LAMB/BLOOD SACRIFICE
AND THE MORE DETAIL NEEDED IN
EXPLAINING HIS IMPUTED
RIGHTEOUSNESS TO ALL WHO BELIEVE.**

**A WORD OF CAUTION, START SMALL,
WITH THE BIG PICTURE IN MIND AND
ALWAYS ASK YOURSELF THE
QUESTION...**

**HOW MUCH OF THIS DID I TRULY KNOW/
UNDERSTAND UPON MY FIRST BELIEF...
AND HOW MUCH DID I LEARN SLOWLY
OVER TIME, LATER?**

**WHEN YOU LOOK BACK, LIKELY IT WAS
THE STORY OF SINNER-SAVIOR THAT
CAUGHT YOUR ATTENTION AND NOT ALL
THE PROPER THEOLOGY/DOCTRINE.**

**FOCUS ON TELLING THE STORY.
AND TRUST THE LORD TO WORK OVER
TIME & HELP WITH THE DETAILS.**