

Day 3. John 11:38-44

INTERPRETATION – WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

Why is it significant that John records that Lazarus had already been dead for four days? *This means that decomposition had started and no one would be able to say that the miracle was a fraud, or that Lazarus was not truly dead.*

According to this passage, why did Jesus perform this miracle? *So that the people who saw it would believe that Jesus was sent from the Father (verse 42) and that they would see the glory of God (verse 40).*

Read verse 43, then compare it to I Thessalonians 4:16, which details the return of Christ. What do you notice that is similar in both passages? (Note: it shows Jesus' authority) *Shout of command, or crying out with a loud voice*

Again, look at what Jesus does to raise Lazarus from the dead. Compare verse 43 to these other passages in John and explain how they relate.

John 10:28 – *“my sheep hear my voice” – Lazarus was resurrected by the voice/words of Jesus*

John 5:25-29 – *Jesus has been given the authority to raise the dead; this miracle is just a preview of the power to be fully displayed in the final resurrection*

Interestingly, the miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead is only recorded in the Gospel of John. According to John 20:30-31, why did John include this story? *So that you may believe that Jesus is the Son of God*

Knowing that Jesus' crucifixion is just a few days away from this event, why do you think it was important for his disciples and other close friends to see this miracle? *To remind them that Jesus has the power of resurrection, that he is truly who he claims to be. This should strengthen their faith.*

Can you summarize in your own words what this section means?

Answers will vary. Jesus proves that he is the resurrection and the life as he claimed to be by bringing Lazarus back to life.