

**Scripture Readings:** Exodus 20:1-17 & Matthew 28:1-15

**Singing:** 427:6-8 – 342:3, 4 – 29:1-3 – 160:1-4 – 161:1, 4, 5, 8, 9

Intro: *And when they had sung a hymn, they went out ...* (Mark 14:26)

A. Why is Easter an even greater occasion to sing this hymn? (Ps. 118)

1. Because with Easter, Golgotha would come to nothing
2. Because in Easter God declares the impossible possible with Him

**GOD'S MESSAGE ON EASTER IN THE ANGEL'S MINISTRY**

- I. Sending the angel from heaven II. Ordering angels to roll away stone  
III. Guiding the angels to sit on the stone

**I. THE GOSPEL OF THE ANGEL'S DESCEND FROM HEAVEN**

A. His descent proclaims a beautiful message

1. The questions that need to be asked
  - a. Why is this angel here?
  - b. Who sent this angel here?

B. These facts are to cheer the hearts of all God's true disciples/seekers

1. Are you here for the same reason as the *woman seeking Jesus*?
2. Are you dealing with 'a heavy stone'?

**II. THE GOSPEL OF THE ANGEL'S ROLLING AWAY THE STONE**

A. This angel was more than messenger (vs. 5-7): he was court servant

1. His task was a huge privilege to *render service to their King*
2. His task was to *roll away the stone from the grave's mouth*

B. This action of the angel is a *well of salvation comfort*

1. His rolling away the stone *is an act of justice*
  - a. Jesus was *lawfully captive* in death for *He was made sin!*
  - b. only justice could release Him (compare Acts 16:35, 37, 39)

2. The rolling away of the stone is *heaven's confirmation of removal of all guilt of God's elect: Rom. 4:24-25*

*But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on Him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.*

3. What a surprise did God prepare for these seeking women?
- a. it becomes Easter for us spiritually when we may *embrace the Easter message*
  - b. often this goes through *the impossible so that 'he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.*

### **III. The Gospel in the angel's sitting on the stone**

A. Tombstones to us are *memorial stone* but Christ's was a *justice stone*

B. The angel's demonstrative *sitting on the stone* is a testimony

1. His 'sitting' is not to rest but testify of rest
2. His 'sitting' is a defiance of all powers of hell to roll back the stone
3. His 'sitting' is the symbol of the victory over death and grave

### **TAKEAWAY QUESTION ...**

A. Why are there over 300 references in the NT about the resurrection?

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### GEMS OF THOUGHT ON THE RESURRECTION

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**The best news the world ever received came from a graveyard.**

**The resurrection of Christ is the Amen of all His promises.**

**The empty tomb of Christ has been the cradle of the NT Church.**

**Any quickened sinner has the resurrection written all over him or her.**

**Christianity is essentially a religion of resurrection.**