



OPINION

The Prophet's Easter Story

WHO hath believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?

For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

He was taken from prison and from judgment; and who shall declare his generation? For he was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief; when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied; by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death; and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. Isaiah 53



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Understand Persistent Weed Problems

Just how persistent do we have to be in order to control weed problems? Well, the answer to this question comes from weed scientists who ran germination tests on weed seeds.

They report that 29% of Johnsongrass seed germinated after being buried for three years; morning glory 74% after five years; pigweed 66% after 40 years and dock 52% after being buried 50 years. They further reported that 51 of 107 species tested still had live seeds after 20 years.

The reason these seeds remain in the soil for such a long period without sprouting is apparently related to environmental conditions. According to weed experts, some seeds need just the right combination of moisture, temperature, and nutrients before they will germinate. This explains why we may suddenly be faced with a weed problem we thought was cured several years ago.

To Practice Strict Sanitation

Livestock and poultry producers must take a special effort to prevent contagious diseases. Many of these infections are brought home by the owner, or with the purchase of a new arrival. There are a number of infections that can be spread very easily from farm to farm.

In this part of the country, where the density of poultry and livestock is so great, producers

should be alert to the possibility of spreading diseases. When returning from another farm or public place, different clothes and footwear should be used. Stray dogs, cats and wild birds should be controlled as much as possible. New purchases should be segregated and tested before mixing with the home herd or flock. In many cases vaccination should go along with very strict sanitation practices. Every producer should give attention to the prevention of disease through good management and the use of good sanitation practices.

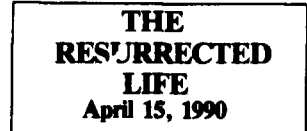
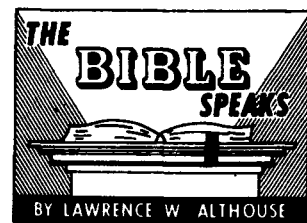
To Stay Off Wet Ground

Don't let spring fever get the better of your good judgement. As you yearn to get into the fields and gardens, remember what you are trying to accomplish. You want seeds to germinate rapidly and seedlings to emerge quickly. The longer it takes for this to happen the greater the opportunity is for disease and insects to attack, weaken or destroy the seed and

planting. Follow weather predictions closely and delay planting until soil moisture and temperature conditions are favorable for good germination, and until the risk of frost injury has passed. To prevent soil compaction and surface crusting, don't work soils when they are too wet.

To Prepare For Ryelage Harvest

Winter grains are growing rapidly and before we know it ryelage harvesting time will be upon us. When that time comes, you want to be ready to roll with the harvester because you have so few days in which to harvest the crop at the precise time for top quality feed. If you miss these few days due to inclement weather or poor timing, quality declines very rapidly! Line up your harvester now, get the silo ready and as the harvest date approaches, keep a close watch on the fields and be ready to roll at a moment's notice when the weather breaks.



Background Scripture:

John 20.

Devotional Reading:

1 Corinthians 15:12-26.

I've looked in vain for the source of this story, but I'll share it with you anyway. A man approached a learned professor and asked him what he would have to do to start another major religion. The professor paused and answered, "Well, for starters, I suggest you get yourself crucified and then resurrected on the third day."

Actually, that is how Christianity began, didn't it? Without Jesus' resurrection, there would be no Christianity. No matter how profound Jesus' teachings, no matter how inspiring his miracles nor how moving his sermons, that which gave birth to Christianity was the resurrected Jesus. At least, that was the start of it. It was the resurrection that pronounced God's final "Yes" in the face of humanity's terrible "No" on Calvary. Good Friday had convinced the disciples that it was all over, but Easter Sunday assured them that it was really just the beginning.

WHOM DO YOU SEEK?

It is interesting, is it not, that according to John, the first person to see Jesus' open tomb was not only a woman, but a woman with a rather shady reputation. Wouldn't you think Jesus would have picked a less controversial woman than Mary Magdalene? Furthermore, it was this same woman, not one of the twelve apostles, who was the first to encounter the risen Lord: "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?" Thinking he

is the gardener, Mary asks: "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Then Jesus says to her, "Mary!" Not Simon Peter, not John, the beloved disciple, nor any other man of Jesus' band of disciples, but Mary Magdalene, the woman some people believe was a harlot before she began to follow Jesus.

It is what happened next that is at the heart of the Easter story: "Mary Magdalene went and said to the disciples: 'I have seen the Lord'" (20:18). That's how it all began - one person experiences the resurrected Christ and passes it on, changing the history of the world forever. When Jesus subsequently appeared to a group of disciples on the evening of the first day of the week, they experience what Mary had experienced at the garden tomb. So when the absent Thomas returns, they tell him as Mary had told them: "We have seen the Lord" (20:25). Isn't that what Easter is all about? People who have experienced the resurrected Lord sharing the good news with others!

MORE THAN ESCAPE

But note that the resurrection was not just about Jesus' rescue from the tomb or the conviction that he had survived the experience of death. The resurrection goes considerably beyond the grave and essentially is about life, not death. It is both the power that breaks the bonds of death and the power that enervates us for the living of life here and on the other side of death. That's why the resurrection is the beginning, not the end of the story.

The glory of Easter is not just that one man conquered death, but that all of us are called to be conquerors of death as well. Of the events he has written in the fourth gospel, the writer of John says: "these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life" - resurrected life - "in his name."

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Farm Calendar

Saturday, April 14

York Co. Sheep Field Day and Sale, York 4-H Center, York, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

ACS Spring Sale (Angus, Charolais, and Simmental), Jackson's Mill, West Virginia.

20th Maryland Holstein Show, Timonium, 9:00 a.m.

Little International Livestock Expo, University Park.

Monday, April 16

Sheep Feeding Discussion Panel, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 17

Poultry Sales and Service Conference, J. O. Keller Conference Center, University Park, 5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. and April 18 from 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Pa. Holstein Association State Show Committee meeting.

EAYFA monthly meeting and planning, Ephrata High School Ag Dept., 7:45 p.m.

Bucks Co. Dairy Promotion Committee, Bucks Co. Cooperative Extension office, Neshaminy Manor, Doylestown, 7:00 p.m.
Penn State Spring Garden Center Nite-Lite meeting, Heritage

Gardens, Mendenhall, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 18

Poultry Sales and Service Conference, J. O. Keller Conference Center, University Park, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Tractor and Farm Machinery Safety Education Program, Octor

(Turn to Page A31)

Farm Forum

Editor:

The Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association would like to thank everyone who supported the semen auction held at the PA Beef Expo. It would like to especially thank ErRer Hill Farms, Friedens, who purchased semen from eight bulls. Other buyers it would like to recognize are South Branch Farms, GH2 Angus, T&J Farms, and Stonylonesome Farm. Semen was donated from the following bulls: GDAR Rito 5130, LLB

Gambler 22W, Sky Cap, Manhattan, Leachman Alloy, Premier Premier, Brost Dan Patch, FF Starstruck, Vdar New Trend 315, Harmony Hill Concorde, Leachman Tonto, and Jacs Hudson. The Juniors also wish to thank the donors of these bulls. A total of \$2,925.00 was raised to fund various PA Junior Angus activities.

Cathy Shive
Seven Valleys

(Turn to Page A28)

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