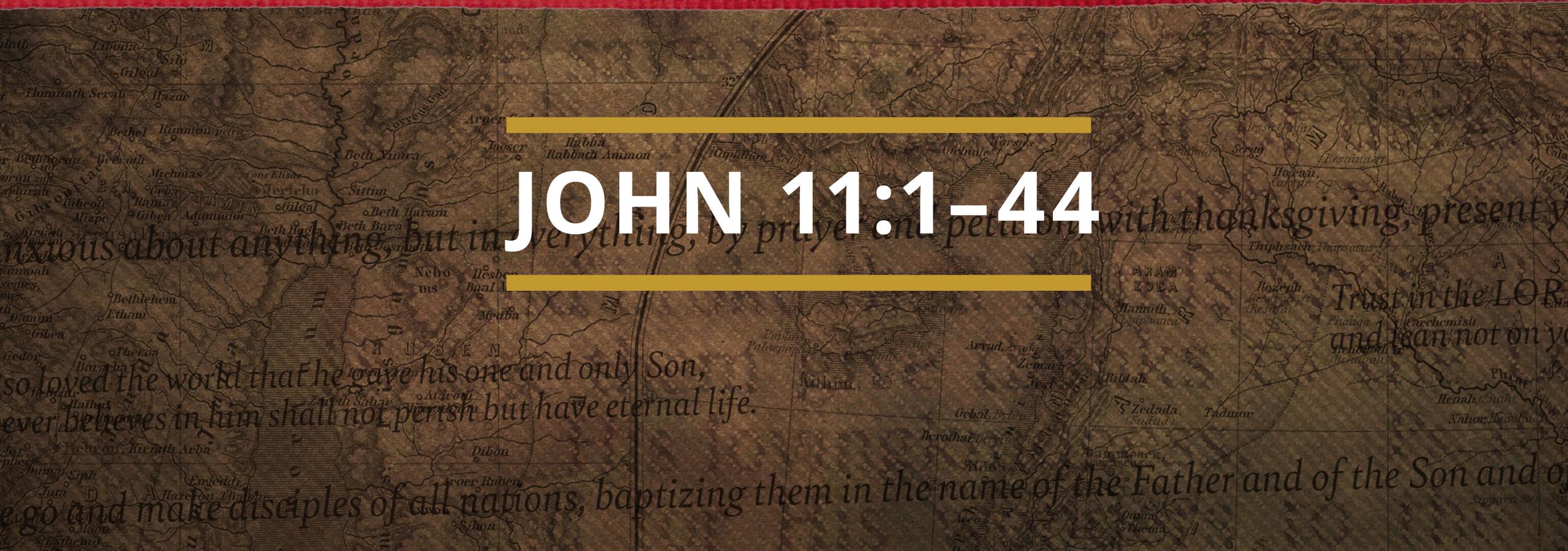




OUT OF THE GRAVE AND INTO LIFE!



JOHN 11:1-44

INTRODUCTION

“The Gospel of John is at the same time deep enough for a elephant to swim, and shallow enough for a child to play in.”

— St. Augustine

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

— **John 20:30–31**

In the pain and trials of life, even in the face of death itself, we can find hope and comfort in the person of Jesus Christ, the one who is the resurrection and the life.

¹ Now a man was sick, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair, and it was her brother Lazarus who was sick. ³ So the sisters sent a message to him: "Lord, the one you love is sick."

⁴ When Jesus heard it, he said, "This sickness will not end in death but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha, her sister, and Lazarus. ⁶ So when he heard that he was sick, he stayed two more days in the place where he was.

JOHN 11:1 – 6

⁷ Then after that, he said to the disciples, “Let’s go to Judea again.”

⁸ “Rabbi,” the disciples told him, “just now the Jews tried to stone you, and you’re going there again?”

⁹ “Aren’t there twelve hours in a day?” Jesus answered. “If anyone walks during the day, he doesn’t stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰ But if anyone walks during the night, he does stumble, because the light is not in him.”

¹¹ He said this, and then he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I’m on my way to wake him up.”

JOHN 11:7 – 11

¹² Then the disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will get well.”

¹³ Jesus, however, was speaking about his death, but they thought he was speaking about natural sleep.

¹⁴ So Jesus then told them plainly, “Lazarus has died.

¹⁵ I’m glad for you that I wasn’t there so that you may believe. But let’s go to him.”

¹⁶ Then Thomas (called “Twin”) said to his fellow disciples, “Let’s go too so that we may die with him.”

JOHN 11:12 – 16

AN UNEXPECTED DELAY

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not my ways.”

This is the Lord’s declaration.

*“For as heaven is higher than earth, so my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. — **Isaiah 55:8–9***

*Dear friends, don’t overlook this one fact: With the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance. — **2 Peter 3:8–9***

Our prayer should not be “what’s the quickest way out of this situation, but instead, “how can I glorify God in this?”

Our logic, and our plans fall short compared to the power and plans of God.

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem (less than two miles away).

¹⁹ Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother.

²⁰ As soon as Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹ Then Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died. ²² Yet even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you."

JOHN 11:17 - 22

²³ “Your brother will rise again,” Jesus told her.

²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live.²⁶ Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

²⁷ “Yes, Lord,” she told him, “I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who comes into the world.”

JOHN 11:23 - 27

²⁸ Having said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you."

²⁹ As soon as Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Jesus had not yet come into the village but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw that Mary got up quickly and went out. They followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to cry there.

JOHN 11:28 - 31

³² As soon as Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and told him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died!”

³³ When Jesus saw her crying, and the Jews who had come with her crying, he was deeply moved in his spirit and troubled. ³⁴ “Where have you put him?” he asked. “Lord,” they told him, “come and see.”

³⁵ Jesus wept.

³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷ But some of them said, “Couldn’t he who opened the blind man’s eyes also have kept this man from dying?”

JOHN 11:32 - 37

THE DESOLATION OF MARTHA AND MARY

Eternal life doesn't start after death... eternal life starts the moment you are "in Christ."

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus,

— Romans 8:1

For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

— 1 Corinthians 15:22

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!

— 2 Corinthians 5:17

Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ.

— Ephesians 1:3

THE DESOLATION OF MARTHA AND MARY

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin.

— **Hebrews 4:15**

casting all your cares on him, because he cares about you.

— **1 Peter 5:7**

***Where Jesus offered Martha hope in his deity,
he offered comfort to Mary in his humanity.***

THE DESOLATION OF MARTHA AND MARY

God wants us to come to Him with our questions and doubts

Immediately the father of the boy cried out, "I do believe; help my unbelief!"

— **Mark 9:24**

Jesus joins into the pains of those he loves.
Let us do the same

Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.

— **Romans 12:15**

³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.

³⁹ "Remove the stone," Jesus said.

Martha, the dead man's sister, told him, "Lord, there is already a stench because he has been dead four days."

⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Didn't I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"

JOHN 11:38 – 40

⁴¹ So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you heard me. ⁴² I know that you always hear me, but because of the crowd standing here I said this, so that they may believe you sent me." ⁴³ After he said this, he shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

⁴⁴ The dead man came out bound hand and foot with linen strips and with his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unwrap him and let him go."

JOHN 11:41 - 44

THERE AND BACK AGAIN: A DEAD MAN'S TALE

“Jesus specifically called Lazarus by name because otherwise, every other dead body would have risen too. Such is the power of him who is the resurrection and the life.”

— Charles Spurgeon

***We do not hope in a resurrection like Lazarus
we hope in a resurrection like Jesus***

CONCLUSION

*Even when I go through the darkest valley,
I fear no danger,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me.*

— Psalm 23:4

*Keep your life free from the love of money. Be satisfied with what you have,
for he himself has said, I will never leave you or abandon you.*

— Hebrews 13:5

***In the pain and trails of life, even in the face of death,
we can find hope and comfort in the person of Jesus
Christ, the one who is the resurrection and the life.***