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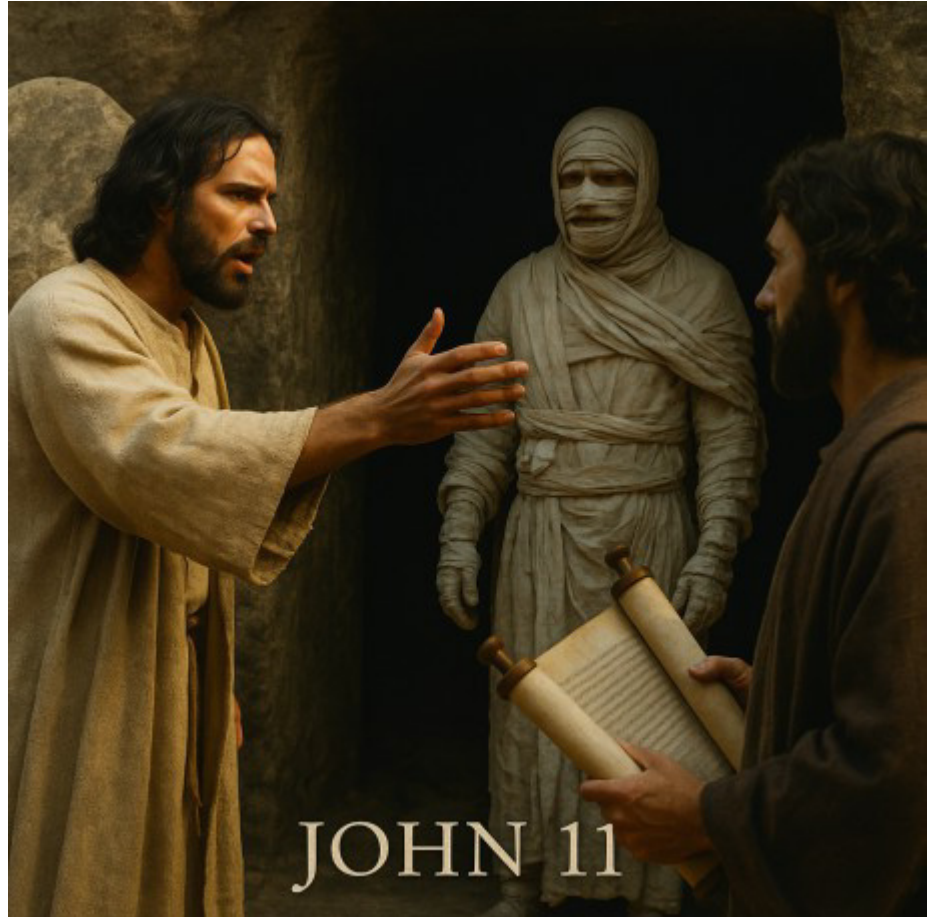
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John 11 This study has not been posted on facebook yet



By Dan Maines

John 11

John 11:1-3

Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. And it was the Mary who anointed the Lord with perfume, and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. So the sisters sent word to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick."

† Lazarus, from Bethany near Jerusalem, was deeply loved by Jesus. The mention of Mary's later act of devotion emphasized their closeness. Their message appealed to His love, not His

power.

John 11:4

But when Jesus heard this, He said, "This sickness is not meant for death, but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it."

† Lazarus' illness was a stage for God's glory. The end result would be the revelation of Christ's authority over death.

John 11:5-6

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister, and Lazarus. So when He heard that he was sick, He then stayed two days longer in the place where He was.

† His delay was intentional, ensuring that Lazarus would die, so the miracle would be undeniable. Love sometimes allows suffering to reveal greater glory.

John 11:7-10

Then after this He said to the disciples, "Let's go to Judea again." The disciples said to Him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone You, and yet You are going there again?" Jesus replied, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks during the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if anyone walks during the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."

† The disciples feared danger in Judea, but Jesus walked in the Father's light. His mission was unstoppable until His hour came.

John 11:11-15

This He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going so that I may awaken him from sleep." The disciples then said to Him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will come out of it." Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about actual

sleep. So Jesus then said to them plainly, "Lazarus died, and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let's go to him."

† Jesus used "sleep" as a metaphor for death, showing His power to awaken. His delay was for the disciples' faith.

† The Mishnah (Berakhot 2.6) often equated sleep and death, confirming the cultural link.

John 11:16

Therefore Thomas, who was called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, "Let's also go, so that we may die with Him!"

† Thomas displayed loyalty, though with pessimism. His words foreshadowed later boldness.

John 11:17-20

So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about fifteen stadia away; and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them about their brother. So then Martha, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary stayed in the house.

† Four days confirmed death beyond doubt, as Jewish tradition held that the soul lingered near the body for three days.

John 11:21-27

Martha then said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise from the dead." Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; the one who believes in Me will live, even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to Him, "Yes, Lord; I have come to believe that You are the Christ, the Son of

God, and He who comes into the world."

† Martha believed in a future resurrection, but Jesus declared Himself the present source of life and resurrection. This is one of His greatest "I am" statements.

John 11:28-32

When she had said this, she left and called Mary her sister, saying secretly, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard this, she got up quickly and came to Him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still at the place where Martha met Him. Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and were consoling her, when they saw that Mary got up quickly and went out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there. So when Mary came to the place where Jesus was, she saw Him, and fell at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

† Both sisters voiced the same grief, reflecting shared pain and faith that Jesus could have prevented death.

John 11:33-35

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept.

† The shortest verse reveals profound truth: Jesus shares human sorrow. He wept though knowing He would raise Lazarus, showing empathy and love.

† Chrysostom commented that Christ's tears revealed His true humanity, while His miracle revealed His deity.

John 11:36-37

So the Jews were saying, "See how He loved him!" But some of them said, "Could this man, who opened the eyes of the man

who was blind, not have also kept this man from dying?"

† Some saw His love, others doubted His power. Skepticism persisted even with His signs.

John 11:38-40

So Jesus, again being deeply moved within, came to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Remove the stone." Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

† Martha's protest revealed human doubt, but Jesus reaffirmed faith as the key to God's glory.

John 11:41-44

So they removed the stone. And Jesus raised His eyes, and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. But I knew that You always hear Me; nevertheless, because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me." And when He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" Out came the man who had died, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

† Jesus prayed aloud for the crowd's faith, then commanded life with authority. Lazarus emerged alive, proof of Christ's power over death.

† Augustine noted that Jesus called Lazarus by name, lest all the dead rise at once.

John 11:45-48

Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done. So

the chief priests and the Pharisees convened the Council, and were saying, "What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs. If we let Him go on like this, all the people will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take over both our place and our nation."

† Many believed, but leaders feared Roman reprisal and loss of power.

† Josephus (Wars 6.2.4) describes Roman suppression of uprisings, matching their fear.

John 11:49-52

But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, nor are you considering that it is in your best interest that one man die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish instead." Now he did not say this on his own, but as he was high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation; and not for the nation only, but in order that He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.

† Caiaphas spoke more than he knew. His political calculation became divine prophecy: Christ's death would gather God's people into one.

John 11:53-54

So from that day on they planned together to kill Him. Therefore Jesus no longer continued to walk publicly among the Jews, but went away from there to the region near the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim; and He stayed there with the disciples.

† The raising of Lazarus became the final trigger for plotting His death.

John 11:55-57

Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went up to Jerusalem from the country before the Passover, to purify

themselves. So they were looking for Jesus; and as they stood in the temple area, they said to one another, "What do you think; that He will not come to the feast at all?" Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where He was, he was to report it, so that they might arrest Him.

† The stage was set for His final Passover. The contrast was stark: purification rituals versus the true Lamb who purifies.

How it applies to us today

† Jesus is the resurrection and the life, offering eternal victory over death.

† His love allows temporary suffering for greater glory.

† Faith in Christ reveals God's glory in impossible circumstances.

† His power over death guarantees our confidence in His promises.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Mishnah, Berakhot 2.6 – sleep as metaphor for death

† Chrysostom, Homilies on John – Christ's humanity in weeping

† Augustine, Homilies on John – Lazarus called by name

† Josephus, Wars 6.2.4 – Roman suppression of uprisings

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies – unity of God's children in Christ

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