



# REPENT AUSTRALIA

*“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”*

*2 Chronicles 7:14*

**VOLUME: 9:4**

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## **THE KING GOD DID NOT SAVE**

It was the final week of Jesus' life. "Go into the village opposite," He told two of His disciples, "where you will find a colt tied on which no one has ever sat; untie it and bring it here." When the ass's colt was brought to Him, they threw their coats on its back and He rode towards Jerusalem. And as He did so His followers began to rejoice and praise God with loud voices, crying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

### **An Animal of Ridicule**

What a strange way for a king to enter a city! Imagine any king you can think of, say Henry VIII or the Kaiser or the Tsar of Russia riding on a donkey. No, they would be mounted on the finest thoroughbred in the country. For the donkey is an animal of ridicule "with monstrous head and sickening cry and ears like errant wings". So Jesus entered Jerusalem acknowledged as the coming King. Later that week we find this once-hailed King dressed in royal purple, a crown upon His head, and soldiers bowing in homage to Him, "Hail, King of the Jews". From a distance it appears that here is the king who has come to reign. The Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, presents Him to the people. And what does he say – "God save the King"? Far from it. The cry from the mob on the pavement below is, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

### **"He Saved Others"**

So, Jesus Christ, who only five days previously had ridden into Jerusalem mounted on an ass and acclaimed a king by the people, is taken outside the city wall and nailed to a wooden cross on the hill of Calvary. And as He hangs there in agony the crowds urged on by the chief priests, scribes and elders sneer at Him, saying, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself". It is true, He had saved others. In the city of Nain He had encountered a funeral procession just outside the city gate. A young man, the only son of a widow, was being taken for burial. Christ stopped the procession and said to the corpse, "Young man, I say to you arise". And the dead man sat up and began to speak. In Capernaum a ruler of the synagogue sought His help for his dying daughter. But before they reached the house servants brought word that she had died. Yet Jesus went in to her, took her by the hand and said, "Little girl, arise". At once her spirit returned and she got up. Later he answered a call from His friends Mary and Martha to come to Bethany where their brother had just died. Four days later Jesus went to the tomb, ordered the stone to be removed from the entrance and cried out, "Lazarus, come forth." And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with bandages and his face wrapped with a cloth.

### **The Motley Crowd**

Yes, He saved others, but He cannot save Himself! The motley crowd gathered at the crucifixion scene mocked and derided, "If You are the Son of God come down from the cross and we will believe". In other words, perform a great miracle, cheat death, then we will believe You are Whom you say You are. Yet perhaps there wasn't complete derision and mockery in the cries of those at the foot of the cross. Perhaps there was a certain amount of wistful expectation that He would indeed come down from the cross. They almost wished He would. But could He really? Despite the miracles he had performed surely He could not climb down from that awful instrument of torture and death. No man could do that. When the acid test came it really found Him out. Son of God indeed! Just a deceiver of the common people.

### **Looking for a Strong Leader**

And so it is today. Many look on this sinless One who died on the cross at Calvary to reconcile sinful mankind to God by His shed blood and deride Him just as that first Good Friday crowd did. Or if they do not outwardly mock Him they still cannot understand His eternal love for them and why He is so inactive. Many keep asking, "If He cared enough to die for the world why does He not come out in the open and do something? Why can't He end the wars and strife that are constantly destroying countless lives? Why can't He do something about the starving masses in Africa? Why can't He deal with crime in our midst? Those men at the crucifixion would not let Jesus die in peace His intense suffering called forth not their compassion but their spite and scorn. There is little doubt that the Jews who first hailed Jesus were looking for a strong leader to throw off the hated Roman yoke but when He chose the way of the cross they were dumbfounded. A Messiah riding roughshod over their foes they could understand. But a Saviour pleading forgiveness for sinful mankind who nailed Him to the cross was beyond their comprehension. In effect they jeered, "Give us one of Your famous miracles. You opened the eyes of blind Bartimaeus, cured the madman of Gadara, healed the deaf, dumb and leprous. Surely You can save Yourself".

### **An Awesome Silence**

The centuries have rolled on and the problem is still on our hands. "Come down to our level," people cry. "Come into the human arena and crush terrorism, challenge the evils in capitalism, remove poverty, want and crime, and then we will believe in You". They are still looking for miracles. But there is no response, just an awesome silence. It really is not all that difficult to understand how the gospel of Christ was to the Greeks foolishness and to the Jews a stumbling-block - for it still is to those who regard intellect as the final and absolute authority. It is only with the eye of faith that anyone can even begin to understand the marvellous workings of God by His Spirit. No doubt He could have come down from the cross. He could calm the storm, walk on the sea and feed the hungry multitude so surely He could have come down from the cross. But He remained where He was. That was the greater miracle. "They would have believed if He had come down," General Booth once said. "We believe because He stayed up".

### **Pregnant with Life**

Christ endured the anguish and agony of the crucifixion, but He rose triumphant saying, "It is finished" over death and the grave. Previously He had taught His followers, "I tell you the truth, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains a single seed. But if it dies it yields much fruit. The man who loves his life will lose it while the one who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life". Like the grain of wheat, pregnant with life, it was impossible for Jesus Christ the Son of God to be held by death. Moreover, He promised that "He who believes in Me, though He die, yet shall he live". There is no more opportune time than at Easter as Christians everywhere celebrate the death and resurrection of the King God did not save than to accept Him as your Saviour and Lord. Enlist in the Kingdom of God, then serve the Living Christ loyally till that fateful day when you meet Him face to face and hear Him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of your Lord". But if you choose to reject Him, you shall hear those dreaded words, "Depart from Me, I never knew you". What shall it be?

### **PRAYER**

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty; Omniscient Father, as redeemed children of Your glory, we thank You for Your gift of salvation to all mankind. Loving Father, we acknowledge that Your infinite grace alone through Christ Jesus' shed blood on the cross of Calvary is the one essential criteria for all true believers. We thank You that Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Sovereign Lord, as joint heirs with Jesus we thank You that we can know the riches of His glory. Blessed Spirit of Life, we rejoice in Your presence to help us live our lives in reverence and so reflect the splendour of our God. Omnipotent Spirit, give us the ability to pull down evil strongholds and put Your enemies under our feet. Lord, give us the power to claim every divine promise, provision and protection as we yield to Your Spirit. Living God, release Your anointing on the leaders of this nation to earnestly **repent** and renew their minds by the power of Your Spirit to obey Your Holy Word. Gracious Father, we acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the Holy One by whom the earth is to be restored, evil vanquished, Satan defeated, justice established and the alienation between God and man terminated. O Lord God, extend pardon to **all** who come to Jesus, Who actively intercedes for us at Your right hand so that Your Will shall be done on earth. In Jesus' majestic name, we pray. Amen and glory be to God.

RA. Led by our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify God with the Brotherhood of Man and in love and faithfulness to bring glory and honour to His Holy Name. Amen.

REJOICE & SHARE IN FAITH THIS MESSAGE IN PRAYER WITH OTHERS & BE BLESSED TO BE ONE IN CHRIST.