



From Pastor Rey's desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Easter is one the most sacred days in the history of humanity and it is evident that we couldn't have Easter without Good Friday, the day Jesus was crucified. One may point to other religious figures that started new religions, but when someone reflects on them, Jesus Christ surpassed all of them with His teaching, the miracles He performed, His crucifixion, and resurrection. All of His earthly life made him different from anyone else.

We need to look at the prophetic voices that predicted His coming in the Old Testament, too. They announced His arrival to Israel long before His coming to earth. Beginning with Moses and followed by Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, King David, and many others, it was predicted that His birth would take place in Bethlehem and that He would be born from a virgin. It was told long before His arrival that He would suffer for the sins of His people, that He would make a new covenant with His people, and that His kingdom will last forever.

Due to the fact that the prophetic description of the Messiah was so vast, the Jewish people couldn't see Him as the suffering servant of God. Therefore, they only concentrated on the aspects of the Messiah that would liberate the nation of Israel from all of their oppressions and would raise the nation's prosperity above any other nation in the world. The truth of the matter is that the Messiah's work is so immense and it covers so many important years in the history of the world that a simple reading of his prophetic works would not do it justice in understanding the span of His kingdom and the things He will accomplish.

The inauguration of His kingdom began with His baptism by John the Baptist. It kept moving through history with His life, His teaching, His miracles, the celebration of the Lord's Supper, and the anticipation of His death on the cross. All of this takes us to His empty tomb on that Sunday morning. Later, His ministry continued with His many appearances to His disciples until His ascension into the heavens.

For about two thousand years the Christian church has been celebrating the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus voluntarily offered His life as a ransom price for the sins of the whole world. The Blood of the Lamb that makes the Jewish people celebrate the Passover meal led the nation from captivity into freedom toward the Promised Land. The end of captivity that brought the nation of Israel into freedom represents the liberation Jesus acquired for us to not live under the oppression of sin and death anymore, but to live to serve God by Jesus becoming the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.

In Jesus, we celebrate Easter as a breakthrough in history and the symbol of our eternal freedom and redemption from sin and death. Praise be to God for the amazing love he has demonstrated in the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

The following organizations will be recipients of the offering donations we collect through your Easter envelope being returned to the church: Lydia's House Ministries and Passages. In anticipation, I want to express our gratitude for your kindness and generosity.

In Christ,  
Rev. Rey Díaz