

Malcolm's Monday Musings : 12 July 2021

Greetings.

First, the solution to last week's short poetic riddle: the river of Gen. 2. 10.

Second, a short riddle for this week:

*Five hundred begins it; five hundred ends it; and five in the middle is seen.
The first of all letters and short reference to me complete all the spaces between.
And if from this jumble, a name you can spell, the name of a monarch is what it will tell.*

Third, and last, [I attach a document setting out some thoughts on the resurrection of Lazarus](#).

Here are five 'tasters':

(i) 'Even if Jesus had left immediately that He had been informed of Lazarus' illness, He would have arrived two days too late to prevent him from dying!'

(ii) 'Pessimistically, Thomas foresees the outcome of the Lord's return to Judea, not in terms of Lazarus's being raised from the dead, but in terms of Jesus' ending up as dead as Lazarus!'

(iii) 'The Lord Jesus doesn't promise His people that they will be kept outside the reach and range of the first death. What He does promise His people is that they will be kept forever outside the reach and range of the second death'.

(iv) 'Our Lord was never one to waste His power. Only He can raise the dead but men can move the stone.

Only He could turn water into wine but the servants could draw the water and bear it to the governor of the wedding feast.

Only He could multiply five barley loaves and two fish to feed a multitude in excess of 5,000 people but the disciples could make the multitude sit down, distribute the food portions and gather up the left-over fragments'.

(v) 'At the tomb of Lazarus, Jesus puts the mighty despot, Death, on warning that He would be back, but not then to snatch just one of Death's victims from his clutches. Oh no! Next time, He wouldn't settle for just one of Death's prisoners! Next time, He would forever lay Death low ... and Death would never be the same again!'

Happy reading.

Yours in our Lord Jesus,

Malcolm

Scripture.

Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again'.

Martha said to Him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day'.

Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?'

She said to Him, 'Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world'.

John 11. 23-27 (English Standard Version)