

'REST IN THE LORD' MESSAGES 4 U

Peace be with you.

1. A GARDEN IN JERUSALEM

May grace and peace be yours from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
Ephesians 1: 2

It is good to meditate on the Word of God,
to be still and rest in His presence.

Be still and rest in the Lord.

Psalm 37: 7

To quieten our minds it is also helpful to focus our thoughts on places of calm and solitude mentioned in the Bible.

For centuries the Holy Land has seen strife between peoples and nations and that struggle for the possession of the *Promised Land*, promised to Abraham, continues more bitterly even today. The 'Rest in the Lord Messages' therefore centre on, as it were, islands of peace in a troubled sea; places of calm still found in Israel, the land of - 'milk and honey' - - *a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills. A land of wheat and barley, and vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey.*

Deuteronomy 8: 7,8



This good and favoured land that God calls My Land; is the land where Jesus Christ, the Son of God was born, lived and was crucified for the sins of the world. He is the Prince of Peace, Who in the fullness of time will return to restore His peace to Israel.

His peace 'which transcends all understanding.'

Philippians 4: 7

Jesus said: Come unto Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will cause you to rest.

Matthew 11: 28

And Jesus said,

Peace I leave with you; My peace I now give to you.

John 14: 27a

The first message comes from a Garden in Jerusalem, situated beyond the northern city wall, near the Damascus Gate. The Holy City of Jerusalem is ever busy and noisy, except on Saturdays – the Sabbath Rest; but here in this walled and rock enclosed garden there is a haven of peace. Indeed, it is truly a garden of hope and known throughout the world as the Garden Tomb. Whether you have visited here before or not, just imagine walking along its paths shaded by shrubs and trees, looking at the colours of the flowers and taking in the beauty and peace of the garden. Imagine all the trees and plants you might see – cypress and olive trees, rosemary, and lavender bushes, with daisies, poppies and anemones in the flower borders and here and there large earthenware pots of red and pink geraniums.

In the beauty and serenity of this special place time seems to have stood still for over two thousand years.

In your imagination feel a gentle breeze on your face and enjoy the fragrance of the flowers scenting the air. What can you hear in the garden? There's the sound of insects, the drone and humming of bees sipping sweet nectar and the singing of birds. You are also aware of people walking and talking quietly in the garden. You can hear a hymn being sung, accompanied by the sound of gentle strumming on a guitar. Then, there is a voice you can hear, speaking words from Psalm 122, in fervent prayer for the 'Peace of Jerusalem,' followed by the reading of these well-known words of Jesus:

I am the Bread of Life...I am the Vine...I am the Light of the world...I am the Way and the Truth and the Life...I am the Good Shepherd...I am the Door...I am the Resurrection and the Life.

John 6: 35, 15: 5, 8: 12, 14: 6, 10: 11,7, 11: 25

Now, imagine yourself descending the steps leading to that empty Tomb in the garden where you can see, inscribed on the door of the tomb, the Message of the Angel –

'He is not here for He is risen.'

Matthew 28: 6



Pause ... and ponder on this amazing fact:

'He is not here for He is risen.'

Ponder on the meaning of the empty tomb.

For hundreds of years this sacred site has been a garden; and so maybe the Garden of the Resurrection. It was near a garden, outside Jerusalem's city wall, where Jesus was crucified and died to take away our sins.

Reflect on the awesome wonder of the first Resurrection morning, the great love Jesus has for you, God's forgiveness and the gift of Everlasting Life.

This is the Gospel of Peace - peace with God by believing and fully trusting in Jesus Christ. This is the good news of the Gospel!

Mary Magdalene was the first to see the risen Jesus on that first Easter morning. Blinded by her tears she thought He was the gardener!

What joy for Mary Magdalene as her tears of sorrow turned to tears of joy, when Jesus called out her name -**'Mary!'**

'Go to My brethren and tell them, I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'

John 20: 17

EASTER GARDEN

Earth's gladdest day rejoices in its dawn,

Angels announcing, 'He's alive! He is risen!'

Sin's seal on the tombstone is broken forever,

Telling the Good News, 'You are forgiven!'

Each one invited to come and to say:

'Rabboni!' like Mary in the garden that day!

Meditate on the love of Jesus, His peace and joy and the great love He has for you.

Through faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5: 1

By Christ's death on the cross we have been made righteous before a holy and just God.

Thanks be to God for His indescribable Gift.

2 Corinthians 9: 15

Now from Psalm 31 the words of a prayer:

Into Your hands I commit my spirit,

You have redeemed me, O Lord, the God of truth and faithfulness.

Psalm 31: 5

A message of the Lord's peace and comfort just 4U today.

*The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.
He restores my life;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
Yes, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and staff they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life
and the house of the Lord shall be my dwelling place.*

Psalm 23

Jesus said:

Dwell in Me, and I will dwell in you.' John 15: 4

Live in Me, and I will live in you.

John 15: 4

A PRAYER

Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Your law.

*Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes,
and I will keep it to the end. Amen.*

Psalm 119: 18, 33

