

	February 2, 2020 2020 Vision 
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Today all across America people are talking about Super Sunday or more precise Super Bowl Sunday. Since the Saints are not in the Super Bowl, your excitement may be diminished somewhat. LOL

Well as exciting and interesting the Super Bowl Sunday may be, we are here today to catch a 2020 Vision of the Mission of God as accomplished through The Real Super SundayAKA Resurrection Sunday.

Without a clear and powerful Vision of what The Resurrection is about and how it is the foundation event of all history and specifically our spiritual salvation we may not develop the passion, excitement and power that we need in our lives.

The Resurrection is the Fulfillment of the Vision of God

Without the Resurrection (and preceding crucifixion) The Mission of God would not be accomplished. When Jesus dies on the cross and then resurrected from the dead, He fulfilled the Mission of God to provide salvation for all mankind.,

“The uniqueness of the Christian faith is that it is built on the reality of the resurrection of Jesus Christ”. (Ralph D. West)

John 11:25-27...*Jesus said to her, “I Am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in Me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to Him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Messiah, the Son of God, the One coming into the world.*

SLIDE This Changes Everything

When it comes to Easter... there is a lot of confusion and we are partly to blame. We send mixed signals that cloud the truth. And for that reason .. when a lot of people think of Easter .. they think of a rabbit carrying around a basket full of colored eggs. And that in itself is confusing. For starters rabbit's don't make nests nor do they lay eggs especially colored eggs! It's enough to confuse adults.

SLIDE: There was a man driving his car the Saturday before Easter and thought he had run over the Easter Bunny and killed him. He actually thought that there wasn't going to be an Easter because he killed the Easter Bunny. Well .. a woman drove by and saw him weeping while standing over what he believed to have been the Easter Bunny. She asked him what was wrong. He said, "I feel terrible. I accidentally ran over and killed the Easter Bunny. What should I do?" The Woman told the man not to worry. She knew exactly what to do. She went to her car and pulled out a spray can. She walked over to the limp, dead Bunny and sprayed the entire contents of the can onto the little furry animal. Miraculously, the Easter Bunny came back to life .. jumped up and hopped on down the road. Fifty yards away .. he turned around .. waved .. and hopped down the road another fifty yards and waved. He went another fifty yards and waved again. The man was astonished. He turned to the woman and asked, "What was in your spray can?" The woman turned the can around so that the man could read the label. It said: "**Hare spray. Restores life to dead hair. Adds permanent wave.**"

There are significant discoveries, inventions, and events down through recorded history of which it can be said....THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING.... **SLIDE on each one**

1. FIRE: We can easily picture man shivering and cold, huddled in a cave eating raw plants and meat....and then perhaps because of a lightning strike discovering the power of FIRE....THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING!!

2. ROUND & NOT FLAT: The discovery that the world was indeed round, not flat, and if you sailed far enough you would NOT fall off the edge of the earth. THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING.

3. EARTH REVOLVES AROUND THE SUN. The discovery that the earth revolved around the sun and that our earth is just a part of a bigger solar system....THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING

4. THE PRINTING PRESS: Gutenberg's invention of the printing press in 1440 finally made it possible to print the written word and mass distribute it....THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING

5. ELECTRICITY & THE LIGHT BULB: The discovery of electricity, harnessing its power, and the invention by Thomas Edison of the incandescent light bulb....THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING!

6. THE AUTOMOBILE: In the early 1900's...Henry Ford boldly proclaimed, "I will build a car for the multitudes!" And he did in 1908...eventually producing 15.5 million Model T's over a 19 year period the price tag dipping to under \$300. the assembly production allowed Ford to manufacture a car every 24 minutes....THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING

7. THE AIRPLANE: During that same time....on the sandy beaches of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina December 17th, 1903 at 10:35AM two Brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright made their historic 12 second, 120 foot flight in a powered flying machine....this accomplishment ushered in modern air and space travel...THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING!!

8. WORLD WARS/ATOMIC BOMB: Two massive world wars brought death and suffering to the 20th century and the massive destruction of the Atomic Bomb that our country dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasakiresulting in the deaths of over 200,000 people....the coming of the nuclear age.....well....THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING!

9. COMPUTERS & THE INTERNET: In the 1950's work began on the computer and during the 80's and 90's the personal computer became common place in many American homes and usher in the internet the World Wide Web... ..THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING!!

10: 9/11 TERRORIST ATTACK: Closer to home....none of us alive when this event happened... will forget September 11th, 2001. result in the deaths of 2,986 persons! From this time on our nation realized how vulnerable we were THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING!

AND THEN WE COME TO THE REASON FOR THIS DAY.....

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST....THERE IS NO EVENT IN ALL OF HISTORY FOR WHICH THESE WORDS WOULD APPLY.....As we consider the record... As we hear from the eyewitnesses As we see the results....

SLIDE : Of the FACT of the resurrection of Jesus Christ we can only say....**THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING!!!**

http://www.sermoncentral.com/print_friendly.asp?SermonID=90577 Mark Nielson

SLIDE : The Resurrection changes the entire picture!

The Resurrection changes Defeat into Victorious Faith

The Resurrection changes Despair into Joyful Hope

The Resurrection changes Darkness into Light of God's Love

The Resurrection changes Doubt and Confusion into Purpose & VISION!

Let's look at a few areas that we can get a clearer "2020 Vision" concerning the importance of the Resurrection on that Super Sunday 2000 years ago!

The following is adapted from John A. Huffman, Jr. <https://www.preaching.com/sermons/the-answers-to-our-deepest-questions>

"This morning, I would like to talk with you honestly about some of these basic questions that frequently get tossed my way. I could make a life work out of trying to answer each one of these. These are big questions, not easily resolved. But, sooner or later, you have to make a decision whether or not to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Let me, at least, identify and make some brief comments on several of these questions I have singled out as most frequently asked.

Question 1: Is there really a God?

Romans 1:20... *“For God’s invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.*

John 20:5-8...⁵*Stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying there, yet he did not go in. ⁶Then, following him, Simon Peter came also. He entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. ⁷The wrapping that had been on His head was not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a separate place by itself. ⁸The other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, then entered the tomb, saw, and believed.*

“That’s the starting point, isn’t it? If there is no God, the jig is up. I am a fool to waste my time doing what I am doing. If it’s all an accident anyway, I may just as well eat, drink and be merry, pleasing the immediate, feel-good sensations I can get out of life. After all, tomorrow, or maybe even before tomorrow, I am going to die. Now, to be honest with you, not too many of my questioners sustain this one very long. The reality is that every culture has some sense of the divine. Atheism has a tough time prevailing. The dialectical materialism of Marxist thought, which was so prevalent in my youthful years and so threatened to take over the entire world, is now bankrupt. Religion has survived. Written into the very nature of who we are as human beings is a sense of the divine. There is a power or force beyond us. One bows before some pagan idol or stands in awe before the Creator-Sustainer God of the Bible who came in human form as a Redeemer in the person of Jesus Christ and is present in the lives of all who follow Him in the person of the Holy Spirit. There is at the heart of every human being a God-sized vacuum, filled only by One distinct from us who has power over us. In my moments of doubt, when I am inclined to question my own personal experience with God, I still have to confront the intellectual conviction that all that is couldn’t have happened by chance. The cosmos, the universe, the earth, nature, the complexity of the human body, all this couldn’t have happened by chance. The continuance of it without our planet being either fried by heat from the sun, or frozen into oblivion by the lack of the sun’s warming rays, convinces us of an intelligent Designer, doesn’t it? I see a watch laying on a counter, intricate in design. I may never meet the watchmaker, but I’ve got to believe there is one. The chances of anything as complex as the human body happening by evolutionary chance without a Creator-Designer is much less than, as one observer stated, a tornado hitting a print shop and throwing all the type up in the air and bringing it down in a fashion that goes through the presses and comes out with a fully bound edition of Webster’s Unabridged Dictionary”. (Huffman)

The Bible states it succinctly. **Genesis 14:1** reads: *“Fools say in their hearts, ‘There is no God.’”*

Question 2: Just who is the true God?

“The Bible says there is one God who reveals Himself and functions in three persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Genesis 1 says that in the beginning God created all that is. The very spirit of God hovered over the face of the deep. In the New Testament book of John, the Bible declares that Jesus Christ was present in the creation. It declares in”...

John 1:1-5...*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

John 20:15-17...

...^{1b}*Supposing He was the gardener, she replied, “Sir, if you've removed Him, tell me where you've put Him, and I will take Him away.” ¹⁶“Mary!” Jesus said. Turning around, she said to Him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!”—which means “Teacher.” ¹⁷“Don't cling to Me,” Jesus told her, “for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brothers and tell them that I am ascending to My Father and your Father—to MY GOD AND YOUR GOD.”*

The Apostle Paul makes this magnificent statement of the divinity of Jesus Christ in these words: **Colossians 1:15-20...** *“He (Christ) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in Him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He himself is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He might come to have first place in everything. For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him God was pleased to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of His cross.*

Question 3: Can I know this God personally?

“Yes, by all means. He is the Savior God, who wants to have a personal relationship with you. The most basic statement of the Bible is John 3:16, which reads: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life”.

Luke 24:28-32... *²⁸They came near the village where they were going, and He gave the impression that He was going farther. ²⁹But they urged Him: “Stay with us, because it’s almost evening, and now the day is almost over.” So He went in to stay with them. ³⁰It was as He reclined at the table with them that He took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹THEN THEIR EYES WERE OPENED, AND THEY RECOGNIZED HIM; but He disappeared from their sight. ³²So they said to each other, “Weren’t our hearts ablaze within us while He was talking with us on the road and explaining the Scriptures to us?”*

John 10:10... *“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly”.*

Hebrews 4:14-16... *“Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*

“Yes, you can know God personally. That’s what historic Christianity is all about. The glory of Christmas and of Resurrection is that God has broken into human history, wrapping His arms around you and me, reconciling us to himself through Jesus Christ”. (Huffman)

Question 4: Can I really be forgiven?

1 John 1:8-9... *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

1 Peter 2:24... *“Christ Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed.”*

John 21:15-17... *¹⁵When they had eaten breakfast, Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said to Him, “You know that I love You.” “Feed My lambs,” He told him. ¹⁶A second time He asked him, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” “Yes, Lord,” he said to Him, “You know that I love You.” “Shepherd My sheep,” He told him. ¹⁷He asked him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved that He asked him the third time, “Do you love Me?” He said, “Lord, You know everything! You know that I love You.” “Feed My sheep,” Jesus said.*

Jesus came to offer forgiveness. The price of that forgiveness is costly. That’s what the cross is all about! Michael and Robert Shannon, in their book *Celebrating the Resurrection*, observe that John Wooden, the famous UCLA basketball coach, always keeps a cross in his pocket. He says he keeps it there to remind himself that there is something more important in life than basketball. What’s most important in your life? What to you is the equivalent of what basketball has been to John Wooden? Are you willing to acknowledge that the cross of Jesus Christ and the empty tomb are more important? On the basis of what God has done for you, you are privileged to have forgiveness from Him and to forgive others and to be free to allow others to forgive you.”

from John A. Huffman, Jr. <https://www.preaching.com/sermons/the-answers-to-our-deepest-questions>