

HE IS RISEN INDEED¹

Spring in Washington, D.C. is a “sometimes” kind of season. Sometimes it’s sunny and warm...and sometimes it’s cold and wet. Although we want to get our gardening tools out...we still keep the snow shovel handy.

Some of us consider the promise of Easter in the same way. We know of Christ’s victory over the grave and we believe in a new life after death...sort of. We’re like the man whose son was healed by the Savior and said, “Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.”² We know that spring will arrive, but in the depths of winter it’s easy to have fear and doubt.

As we are bombarded by the images and sounds of war it is not hard to be overcome by concentrating solely on death and destruction. Such preoccupations must not totally capture our attention and consume our lives.

It is true that in all of mortality, nothing is as certain as its end. Sometime that end is tragic leaving behind loved ones grieving and alone. In those dark moments what comfort it is to remember that ever since the resurrection "It is the Garden Tomb, not life, that is empty!"³

In the apostolic church, disciples would greet one another with these words, “Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ.” That was always the greeting except for one day a year...the anniversary of the resurrection of Jesus...Easter. On that day the greeting would be, “He is risen.” The other person would respond by saying, “He is risen, indeed.”

¹2003 Easter Message written and delivered by Kenneth A. Jarvis

² Mark 9:24

³ Neal A. Maxwell, *Wherefore Ye Must Press Forward*, pp. 132-3