

## **John 11**

### **The Death and Raising of Lazarus**

**1,2** A family of devoted believers.

**3** When in need to whom do they turn?

**4** The Lord Jesus knew the end from the beginning.

**5,6** He had a special affection for this family so it was not lack of love that caused the delay it was necessary for God's glory.

**7,8** Jesus proposes return to Judea. The disciples protest because of the danger.

**9,10** He replies with a great principle. His Father had set Him a full working day. Obedience to the task He has been set will be to walk by day and be preserved. To walk by night or to disobey would ensue trouble.

**11** He reveals His intention regarding Lazarus. 'Fallen asleep' – sleep is sometimes used in scripture as the death of believers because of the anticipation of resurrection.

**12-14** The disciples mistake His meaning, so He clears up their misconception.

**15** The incident would confirm their faith in Him.

**16** Resigned, Thomas looks on the dark side.

**17-19** Dead and buried four days. The mourners gather.

**20** Martha meets Jesus. Mary apparently too distressed.

**21,22** Martha expresses her confidence in the Saviour.

**23** Jesus affirms that He will indeed raise Lazarus.

**24** She already believed in the general resurrection of the dead at the end of time.

**25,26** Another great I am – The Resurrection and the Life. He could raise the dead and or them as He pleases. He is The Resurrection to those who are dead when He returns. He is The Life to those who are still alive when He returns. See Corinthians 15:50-52. He challenges her faith.

**27** She confirms her absolute confidence in Him.

**28-32** She calls Mary and Mary responds

**33-36** At the tomb Jesus is deeply moved with sympathy for Mary's sorrow.

**37** The critics were never far away.

**38** Our Lord deeply moved confronting human death.

**39,40** His command and Martha's protest and His reproof.

**41,42** He prays to the Father to encourage faith in those present.

**43,44** A loud voice – like a military command, awakens Lazarus from the sleep of death.

**45,46** A division again among the people. Some believe, others report Him to the Pharisees, His enemies.

**47,48** The Sanhedrin council meets in crisis. They believe He is a threat and that the Romans will retaliate with more oppression.

**49,50** Caiaphas the high priest expresses his contempt for them and points the way to the obvious solution. He reasoned – follow Jesus and the nation perishes. Put Him to death and the nation is spared. The irony was that the opposite actually happened. By killing the Lord Jesus, they sealed the nation's doom. In A.D.70 the Romans came and destroyed the city and temple.

**51** It pleased God to use Caiaphas as a prophet in spite of himself, seeing he was the official high Priest. So the words he used contained a deeper meaning he never understood. Namely the substitutionary, sacrificial death of the Lord Jesus for believers.

**52** The nation God intended, comprised saved Jews and Gentiles, bringing them together to form one new nation or people of God.

**53** They finally determined that Jesus must die.

**54** He avoids confrontation. His time had not yet come.

**55** Passover Feast approaches.

**56** They wondered, will He come?

**57** His foes are waiting in readiness.