

her extreme grief, Jesus was moved with pity. So, addressing the corpse, he commanded: "Young man, I say to you, Get up!" And the man sat up, and Jesus gave him to his mother.—Luke 7:11-17.

As in the case of that widow, there was also great ecstasy when Jesus visited the home of Jairus, a presiding officer of the Jewish synagogue. His 12-year-old daughter had died. But when Jesus arrived at Jairus' home, he went over to the dead child and said: "Girl, get up!" And she did!—Luke 8:40-56.

Later, Jesus' friend Lazarus died. When Jesus arrived at his home, Lazarus had been dead for four days. Although deeply grieved, his sister Martha expressed hope, saying: "I know he will rise in the resurrection on the last day." But Jesus went to the tomb, ordered the stone to be removed, and called: "Lazarus, come on out!" And he did!—John 11:11-44.

Now think about this: What was Lazarus' condition during those four days he was dead? Lazarus did not say anything about being in a heaven of bliss or a hell of torment, which surely he would have done if he had been there. No, Lazarus was completely unconscious in death and would have remained so until "the resurrection on the last day" if Jesus had not then restored him to life.

It is true that these miracles of Jesus were of only temporary benefit, since those that he resurrected died again. However, he gave proof 1,900 years ago that, with God's power, the dead really can live again! So by his miracles Jesus showed on a small scale what will take place on earth under the Kingdom of God.

### **When a Loved One Dies**

When the enemy death strikes, your grief can be great, even though you may hope in the resurrection.

Abraham had faith his wife would live again, yet we read that "Abraham came in to bewail Sarah and to weep over her." (Genesis 23:2) And what about Jesus? When Lazarus died, he "groaned in the spirit and became troubled," and shortly afterward he "gave way to tears." (John 11:33, 35) So, when someone you love dies, it does not show weakness to cry.

When a child dies, it is particularly hard for the mother. Thus the Bible acknowledges the bitter grief that a mother can feel. (2 Kings 4:27) Of course, it is difficult for the bereaved father as well. "O that I might have died, I myself, instead of you," lamented King David when his son Absalom died.—2 Samuel 18:33.

Yet, because you have confidence in the resurrection, your sorrow will not be unrelenting. As the Bible says, you will "not sorrow just as the rest also do who have no hope." (1 Thessalonians 4:13) Rather, you will draw close to God in prayer, and the Bible promises that "he himself will sustain you."—Psalm 55:22.

**Unless otherwise indicated, all Bible quotations are from the *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*.**

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