

Time Audit Chronicles: The Crucifixion and Resurrection (Luke 23-24)

Prologue: Jesus' Sacrifice and Victory

The Presswood family sat in their living room, the soft glow of the lamp casting a peaceful light on their faces. Ariel had just finished reading **Luke 23-24**, the powerful account of **Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection**. She was quietly reflecting on the depth of Jesus' sacrifice and the victory He achieved through His **death** and **resurrection**. Alice, holding Mr. Fluffernutter, was pretending to bury her bunny in a "tomb" and then celebrating when Mr. Fluffernutter "rose again" from the "dead."

"Daddy," Ariel began thoughtfully, "Why did Jesus forgive those who were crucifying Him? And why did He promise paradise to the repentant thief? How could He do that when He was in so much pain?"

Ryan smiled, recognizing the weight of Ariel's question. "That's a great question, Ariel. Jesus' forgiveness on the cross shows the incredible **depth of His love**. Even as He was suffering, He asked God to forgive the people who were **mocking** and **crucifying** Him. Jesus' love didn't stop when people rejected Him—it was demonstrated even in His final moments. And the promise He gave to the repentant thief shows that no one is beyond His mercy. The thief didn't have much time left, but in that moment, he recognized Jesus as the Messiah, and Jesus welcomed him into **paradise**."

Ariel thought about this. "So, Jesus was showing that **forgiveness** and **mercy** are available, no matter what someone has done, as long as they turn to Him."

"That's exactly it," Ryan said. "Let's use the **Time Audit Machine** to go back and witness these powerful moments—the **crucifixion** and the **resurrection**—where Jesus offers forgiveness and **victory** over sin and death."

The Journey Begins: The Crucifixion of Jesus (Luke 23:33-38)

The Time Audit Machine hummed to life, and with a flash of light, the family found themselves standing at the foot of **Golgotha**, the place of Jesus' crucifixion. The Roman soldiers had nailed Jesus to the cross between two criminals, and the crowd stood by, watching as He suffered. People mocked Him, saying, "**If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself**." (Luke 23:37), but Jesus remained silent, bearing the weight of humanity's sin.

Ariel looked around, her heart heavy. "The soldiers and the people were mocking Him, but He didn't fight back. He could have stopped them, but He didn't."

"Yes," Ryan said, his voice filled with reverence. "Jesus' silence and His willingness to endure the mockery and pain show His **obedience** to God's plan. He was taking on the sin of the world, and in that moment, He was choosing to **forgive** the very people who were causing His suffering."

Ariel thought about this. "So, even though He was in so much pain, He still loved them and chose to forgive."

“That’s right,” Ryan said. “Jesus’ **forgiveness** on the cross wasn’t based on what people deserved—it was based on His love. He was fulfilling God’s plan for **redemption**, offering forgiveness to all who would receive it.”

Jesus’ Words of Forgiveness: “Father, Forgive Them” (Luke 23:34)

As Jesus hung on the cross, He looked at the people who were crucifying Him and said, “**Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.**” (Luke 23:34). Despite the incredible pain and injustice He was enduring, Jesus prayed for His enemies, asking God to forgive them.

Ariel’s eyes widened. “Jesus actually prayed for the people who were killing Him? That’s incredible.”

“Yes,” Ryan said, his voice filled with awe. “Jesus was demonstrating the **ultimate example of forgiveness**. Even in His agony, He sought forgiveness for those who were causing His suffering. This is a picture of God’s love that goes beyond human understanding—He forgives even the greatest wrongs when we turn to Him.”

Ariel was quiet for a moment. “Jesus didn’t just forgive the people around Him—He forgives **all of us**, no matter what we’ve done.”

“That’s exactly right,” Ryan said. “Jesus’ forgiveness on the cross was for everyone—past, present, and future. He took on our sin so that we could be reconciled to God.”

The Repentant Thief: A Promise of Paradise (Luke 23:39-43)

As Jesus hung on the cross, one of the criminals who was crucified with Him mocked Him, saying, “**If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.**” (Luke 23:39). But the other thief rebuked him, saying, “**Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.**” (Luke 23:40-41). The repentant thief then turned to Jesus and said, “**Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.**” (Luke 23:42).

Jesus answered him, “**Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.**” (Luke 23:43).

Ariel’s face softened. “Even though the thief had done bad things, he recognized who Jesus was, and Jesus promised him **paradise**.”

“Yes,” Ryan said, his voice filled with emotion. “This is one of the most powerful moments in the Gospels. The thief, despite his past, repented and recognized Jesus as the King. Jesus, in His mercy, promised him **paradise**. This shows that **no one is beyond the reach of God’s grace**. No matter how late it is, if we turn to Jesus in faith, He will forgive us and welcome us into His Kingdom.”

Ariel thought for a moment. “So, Jesus is offering forgiveness and **eternal life** to everyone, no matter what they’ve done.”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “This promise is for all of us. Jesus came to offer forgiveness, and His death on the cross makes it possible for anyone who repents to receive that forgiveness.”

The Resurrection: Jesus’ Victory Over Sin and Death (*Luke 24:1-8*)

After Jesus died and was buried, the women who followed Him went to the tomb to anoint His body. But when they arrived, they found that the stone had been rolled away, and the tomb was empty. Two angels appeared to them, saying, “**Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen.**” (Luke 24:5-6).

Ariel’s eyes filled with wonder. “Jesus rose from the dead? He’s alive again?”

“Yes,” Ryan said, his voice full of awe. “The **resurrection** is the ultimate victory over sin and death. Jesus didn’t just die for our sins—He conquered **death** itself. His **resurrection** proves that He is the Son of God and that through Him, we can have eternal life. Jesus’ victory over the grave assures us that death is not the end for those who believe in Him.”

Ariel smiled, a sense of joy filling her heart. “So, Jesus’ resurrection means that we have hope—no matter what happens, we can have **eternal life** with God.”

“That’s exactly right,” Ryan said. “The resurrection is the foundation of our hope as Christians. It’s the proof that Jesus’ sacrifice was sufficient, and that we have victory over death because of Him.”

Jesus Appears to His Disciples: The Confirmation of His Victory (*Luke 24:36-49*)

Later, Jesus appeared to His disciples, showing them His hands and feet, confirming that it was truly Him, alive again. He spoke to them about the **scriptures** being fulfilled and the need to **proclaim repentance and forgiveness** to all nations. He promised to send the Holy Spirit to empower them.

Ariel’s face lit up. “Jesus showed His disciples that He really was alive, and He gave them the mission to tell everyone about **forgiveness** and **repentance**.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Jesus didn’t just rise from the dead for His disciples to see—He rose so that we would know that **salvation** is available to everyone. His resurrection is the **beginning of the new creation**, and He gave His disciples the responsibility to share that message with the world.”

Ariel nodded, understanding. “So, Jesus is alive, and He wants us to tell everyone that they can be **forgiven** and have **eternal life** because of Him.”

“That’s right,” Ryan said. “And through His resurrection, we know that we can live with the hope of eternal life with God. Jesus came to save us, and His victory over death is the assurance that we can live in that victory, too.”

Reflection: Victory Over Sin and Death

Back in the garage, the Time Audit Machine powered down, and the family sat in quiet reflection. Ariel turned to her father, the

weight of the story settling in her heart. Alice, still holding Mr. Fluffernutter, was celebrating with her toys, pretending to dance in joy at Mr. Fluffernutter's resurrection.

"Jesus' resurrection really shows us that we have **hope** beyond this life," Ariel said softly. "No matter what happens to us, we can have **eternal life** because of Jesus."

"Yes," Ryan said, his voice filled with warmth. "The resurrection is the **foundation of our faith**. Jesus' victory over sin and death means that we don't have to fear death—we have the promise of eternal life. And because of what He did, we are forgiven, and we have hope that never ends."

Ariel smiled. "So, Jesus came to give us **life**, not just now, but forever."

"That's right," Ryan said. "Through His death and resurrection, Jesus made a way for us to be **reconciled to God** and to live forever with Him."

Takeaway: The Resurrection Gives Us Hope and Victory

In **Luke 23-24**, the **crucifixion** and **resurrection** of Jesus offer **forgiveness**, **victory over sin**, and **eternal life**. Jesus' willingness to forgive those who crucified Him and His promise of paradise to the repentant thief show the depth of His mercy and grace. His resurrection confirms His triumph over death and assures us that we, too, can have eternal life through faith in Him. Jesus' sacrifice and victory provide the foundation for our hope, and His resurrection proves that **death is not the end** for those who believe in Him.