



February 18

“The Test of Christ’s Divinity”

Lazarus, come forth!—John 11:43.

He felt every pang of anguish, as He said to His disciples, “Lazarus is dead.” But Christ had not only the loved ones at Bethany to think of; He had the training of His disciples to consider. They were to be His representatives to the world, that the Father’s blessing might embrace all. For their sake He permitted Lazarus to die. Had He re-



“And when He thus had spoken, He cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.” His voice, clear and penetrating, pierces the ear of the dead. As He speaks, divinity flashes through humanity. In His face, which is lighted up by the glory of God, the people see the assurance of His power. Every eye is fastened on the entrance to the cave. Every ear is bent to catch the slightest

restored him from illness to health, the miracle that is the most positive evidence of His divine character, would not have been performed. . . .

In delaying to come to Lazarus, Christ had a purpose of mercy toward those who had not received Him. He tarried, that by raising Lazarus from the dead He might give to His stubborn, unbelieving people another evidence that He was indeed “the resurrection, and the life.” . . . In His mercy He purposed to give them one more evidence that He was the Restorer, the One who alone could bring life and immortality to light. This was to be an evidence that the priests could not misinterpret.

This was the reason of His delay in going to Bethany. This crowning miracle, the raising of Lazarus, was to set the seal of God on His work and on His claim to divinity. . . .

Lazarus had been laid in a cave in a rock, and a massive stone had been placed before the entrance. “Take ye away the stone,” Christ said. Thinking that He only wished to look upon the dead, Martha objected, saying that the body had been buried four days, and corruption had already begun its work. This statement, made before the raising of Lazarus, left no room for Christ’s enemies to say that a deception had been practiced. . . .

sound. With intense and painful interest all wait for the test of Christ’s divinity, the evidence that is to substantiate His claim to be the Son of God, or to extinguish the hope forever.

There is a stir in the silent tomb, and he who was dead stands at the door of the sepulcher.—**The Desire of Ages, 528, 529, 534, 536.**



18 Februari

"UJIAN KEILAHIAN KRISTUS"

"Lazarus, marilah keluar!"—
Yohanes 11:43.

Ia merasakan setiap kesedihan, ketika Ia mengatakan kepada murid-murid-Nya, "Lazarus sudah mati." Tetapi Kristus bukan saja memikirkan kekasih-kekasih-Nya di Betania, Ia harus mempertimbangkan latihan bagi murid-murid-Nya. Mereka harus menjadi wakil-wakil-Nya kepada dunia, agar berkat Bapa dapat meliputi semua orang. Untuk kepentingan mereka Ia mengizinkan Lazarus mati. Seandainya Ia telah memulihkan dia dari penyakitnya kepada kesehatan, maka mukjizat yang merupakan bukti yang paling meyakinkan tentang sifat Ilahi-Nya tidak dapat diadakan-Nya....

Dalam menangguk waktu untuk datang kepada Lazarus, Kristus bermaksud menunjukkan kemurahan terhadap mereka yang belum menerima Dia. Ia berlambat-lambat, supaya oleh membangkitkan Lazarus dari kematian dapatlah Ia memberikan bukti lain kepada orang-orang yang keras kepala dan tidak percaya bahwa sesungguhnya ialah "kebangkitan dan hidup." ... Dalam kemurahan-Nya Ia bermaksud memberi mereka satu bukti lagi bahwa ialah yang memulihkan, Seorang yang satu-satunya dapat menyatakan hidup dan sifat baka.



Inilah yang seharusnya menjadi bukti yang tidak dapat disalah tafsirkan oleh para imam. Inilah alasan penanggukan-Nya untuk pergi ke Betania. Mukjizat yang paling utama, membangkitkan Lazarus, memberikan meterai Allah pada pekerjaan-Nya dan pada tuntutan-Nya bahwa Ia Allah adanya....

Lazarus sudah ditaruh di dalam satu gua batu, dan sebuah batu besar sudah ditaruh sebagai penutupnya. "Angkatlah batu itu," kata Kristus. Karena menganggap bahwa Ia hanya hendak melihat pada orang mati itu, Marta berkeberatan, seraya mengatakan bahwa tubuh itu sudah dikuburkan empat hari yang lalu, dan sudah mulai membusuk. Pernyataan ini, yang diberikan sebelum membangkitkan Lazarus, tidak memberi peluang bagi musuh-musuh Kristus untuk mengatakan bahwa suatu penipuan telah dijalankan....

"Setelah Ia berkata demikian, berserulah Ia dengan suara yang keras, katanya, Hai Lazarus, marilah ke luar!" Suaranya-Nya yang terang dan tajam, memasuki orang mati itu. Sementara Ia berbicara, Keilahian bersinar melalui kemanusiaan. Pada wajah-Nya, yang diterangi oleh kemuliaan Allah, orang banyak itu melihat jaminan kuasa-Nya. Setiap mata menatap pintu gua itu. Setiap telinga dipasang baik-baik hendak mendengar bunyi yang paling halus sekalipun. Dengan perhatian yang tekun dan pedih semua orang menunggu ujian Keilahian Kristus, bukti yang membenarkan pengakuan-Nya bahwa ialah Anak Allah, kalau tidak memadamkan harapan selama-lamanya.

Terdengarlah gerakan di dalam kubur yang sunyi itu dan ia yang sudah mati berdiri di pintu kubur. — **Alfa dan Omega, jld.6, hlm.146,147,148,152,154,155.**