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Revelation***- Apocalyptic Life Lessons***

**Black Saturday – “How Long…”**

How have Saturdays changed throughout the different seasons of your life?

***Good Friday – Easter Sunday***

***But What About Black Saturday?***

Today, for us, it is Easter Sunday. Hallelujah! But for the next few minutes, we are going to slide back to Saturday. We are going to do a mind-meld, a consciousness-connection, a soul-synchronization with the friends, followers and family of Jesus. We are going to explore and experience ***their*** Saturday. For them, it was not a goin’ fishin’ Saturday. Not a BBQ in the park Saturday. Not even a mow the yard and clean the house Saturday. It was a Black Saturday. The Saturday after hope had been nailed to a cross. The Saturday after happiness had been buried in a tomb. The Saturday after their vision of future glory had vanished. Strap yourself in. And here we go.

Believe it or not, the Bible has nearly nothing to say about that Saturday.

***Matthew 27:62 The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. 63 “Sir,” they said, “we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ 64 So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first.”***

***65 “Take a guard,” Pilate answered. “Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.” 66 So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.***

Thoughts, questions or comments? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Maybe, if we remind ourselves of some of Friday’s events, we can better understand their experience of Saturday.

***Matthew 27:27 Then the governor’s soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. 28 They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29 and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. “Hail, king of the Jews!” they said. 30 They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. 31 After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.***

It's Saturday. You are remembering this. How are you doing?

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***32 As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. 33 They came to a place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). 34 There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. 35 When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. 36 And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. 37 Above his head they placed the written charge against him: this is jesus, the king of the jews.***

It's Saturday. You are remembering this. How are you doing?

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***38 Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. 39 Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads 40 and saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!” 41 In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. 42 “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! He’s the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. 43 He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” 44 In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.***

It's Saturday. You are remembering this. How are you doing?

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***45 From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. 46 About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli,lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”***

It's Saturday. You are remembering this. How are you doing?

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***47 When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.”***

***48 Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. 49 The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”***

***50 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.***

It's Saturday. You are remembering this. How are you doing?

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***51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split 52 and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. 53 They came out of the tombs after Jesus’ resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.***

***54 When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!”***

It's Saturday. You are remembering this. How are you doing?

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***55 Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. 56 Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee’s sons.***

It's Saturday. You are remembering this. How are you doing?

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***57 As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. 58 Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. 59 Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 60 and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. 61 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.***

It's Saturday. You are remembering this. How are you doing?

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I hear you saying, “But wait a minute, Danny. I know this is Easter, but aren’t you supposed to be sharing Apocalyptic Life Lessons with us from Revelation?

***Revelation 6***

***9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. 10 They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?” 11 Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been***

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**Today’s Life Lessons**

We are living in a 2000-year-old season of Saturdays.

We are all asking, “How long?”

The answer is still, “It will be a little longer.”