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US?

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SPIRITUAL DIGEST

HOPE



YOU WERE MADE BY
GOD AND FOR GOD,
AND UNTIL YOU
UNDERSTAND THAT,
LIFE WILL NEVER
MAKE SENSE.

- R I C K W A R R E N



G O D L O S T H O P E I N U S ?

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me...

Rom 8:7 Because the mind set on the flesh is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, for neither can it be.

How does God see us today? God has crucified us on the cross. Why did He do this? He has lost all of His hope in us. God considers us as being hopeless and impossible. The flesh is corrupt to the uttermost, and there is no other way for it except death. The work of the Lord Jesus does not change our flesh. God's power cannot change our flesh... Reading the Bible and prayer cannot change our flesh. That which is born of the flesh is flesh [John 3:6] . There is no hope, and the flesh can never change. God considers death as the rightful destiny of the flesh. As a consequence, the

first thing that God requires from a Christian after he is saved is baptism. Baptism is a declaration that God has given up hope in a person and has crucified him. It is also our declaration that we deserve to die and that we ask others to move us out of the way and bury us. Have we seen that baptism is God's declaration and our acknowledgment of our death? It is saying "amen" to God's valuation of us. God says that we deserve to die, and we take a further step by burying ourselves. I have lost hope in myself. I deserve only to die, and I am standing on the ground of death today.



THINGS IMPOSSIBLE WITH MEN ARE POSSIBLE WITH GOD

Luke 18:20 "Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not bear false witness, honor your father and mother. Luke 18:21 And he said, All these things I have kept from my youth.

Luke 18:22 And hearing this, Jesus said to him, Still you lack one thing...

Luke 18:23 But when he heard these things, he became very sorrowful...

Luke 18:27 But He [Jesus] said, The things that are impossible with men are possible with God.

The ruler came to the Lord Jesus and asked what he should do to inherit eternal life-God's life, which includes salvation and victory. The Lord listed five very severe conditions... Yet this young man amazingly said to Jesus, "All these things I have kept from my youth." The Lord Jesus said that he still lacked one thing and that he could not get by without having that one thing. The purpose of the Lord's word was to prove to him that salvation and victory are impossible with man. Yet the young man thought that it was possible. Therefore, the Lord laid

out one more condition before him. When the young ruler realized that he could not fulfill the Lord's conditions, he became sorrowful and left. If you try to be saved or if you try to overcome, God will often put "one thing" in front of you... It seems so strange that we can overcome many other sins, but that we are unable to overcome this one sin. We are helpless in this matter... God is proving to us that we are not able. Eventually, we will have to concede that we are not able. The Lord may allow us to become able in something, but He will show us that we still lack one thing. He has to show us that there is at least one thing which we are not able to do. In order for God to bring us into victory, He must first show us that we are not able. Victory is a gift from Christ; we cannot overcome in ourselves. Consequently, God leaves behind one or two things which are impossible for us to overcome. He is trying to show us that we "still...lack one thing."

F U N F A C T S O F T H E B I B L E

1. Did you know that there is a "do not fear" verse for everyday of the year? That's right there are 365 "fear not" verses.

Ex: Isa 41:10 "Do not be afraid, for I am with you..."

Josh 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and take courage; do not be afraid or dismayed..."

2. The Bible indicated that the earth is round.

Ex: Isa 40:21-22 "...It is He who sits above the circle of the earth..."

3. The Bible says that the earth is suspended in space.

Ex: Job 26:7 "...He hangs the earth upon nothing"

4. Did you know that about 50 Bibles are sold every minute?

5. Did you know that the Book of Esther is the only book in the Bible that does not mention God's name?

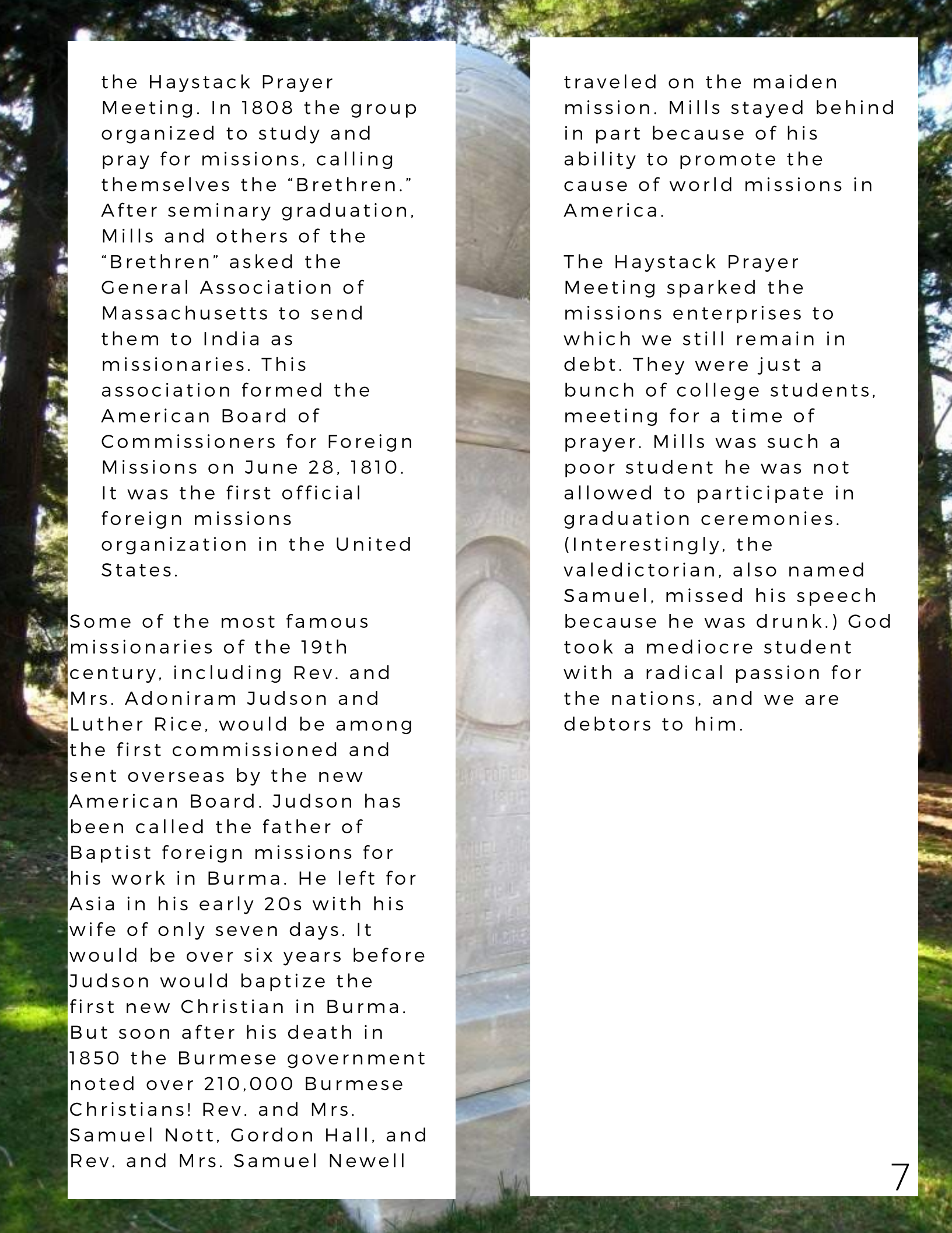


REMEMBERING THE HAYSTACK PRAYER MEETING

On the 12th year following the founding of Williams College in Williamstown, Mass., a 23 year old named Samuel Mills enrolled as a freshman. The son of a pastor, Samuel's home church had been touched by a wave of revival that instilled in him a passion to take the Gospel to the nations. Samuel Mills soon proved to be a poor student in the classroom but a great student of the work of God.

While at Williams College Mills began to meet with a group of students — Harvey Loomis, Byram Green, Francis L. Robbins, and James Richards — twice weekly for prayer. On a warm August Saturday in 1806, a rainstorm drove the group to seek shelter at a large stack of hay. Sheltered from the wind and rain at the side of the great haystack, the men continued in prayer. While there Mills proposed a mission to India. There and then he uttered his famous words concerning his proposal, "We can do it if we will." Although Loomis felt the focus should be on domestic missions, the rest agreed to seek to share the Gospel in Asia.

Subsequent historians have referred to the meeting as

The background of the page is a photograph of a stone monument, likely the Haystack Monument in Boston, set in a park with trees and grass. The monument is a large, light-colored stone structure with a circular opening at the top. The text is overlaid on the image in two columns.

the Haystack Prayer Meeting. In 1808 the group organized to study and pray for missions, calling themselves the "Brethren." After seminary graduation, Mills and others of the "Brethren" asked the General Association of Massachusetts to send them to India as missionaries. This association formed the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions on June 28, 1810. It was the first official foreign missions organization in the United States.

Some of the most famous missionaries of the 19th century, including Rev. and Mrs. Adoniram Judson and Luther Rice, would be among the first commissioned and sent overseas by the new American Board. Judson has been called the father of Baptist foreign missions for his work in Burma. He left for Asia in his early 20s with his wife of only seven days. It would be over six years before Judson would baptize the first new Christian in Burma. But soon after his death in 1850 the Burmese government noted over 210,000 Burmese Christians! Rev. and Mrs. Samuel Nott, Gordon Hall, and Rev. and Mrs. Samuel Newell

traveled on the maiden mission. Mills stayed behind in part because of his ability to promote the cause of world missions in America.

The Haystack Prayer Meeting sparked the missions enterprises to which we still remain in debt. They were just a bunch of college students, meeting for a time of prayer. Mills was such a poor student he was not allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies. (Interestingly, the valedictorian, also named Samuel, missed his speech because he was drunk.) God took a mediocre student with a radical passion for the nations, and we are debtors to him.

A H Y M N A D A Y K E E P S
Y O U H U M M I N G A L L T H E
W A Y



He's My God

1

From the morning to the evening, His faithfulness I see;
His mercy reaching sinners, reaching even me;
And I know, now I know.
Brighter than the brightest sunlight, all doubts and fears must
cease;
Sweeter than the sweetest delight, His living Word in me;
And I know, now I know.

Chorus

That God is there for me tomorrow,
As He is for me today;
That He'll take my cares and sorrow,
And He'll wipe them all away;
There's no crisis that He can't bear,
There's no storm He can't abate;
He's my God, He's my God.

2

Day by day His grace grows dearer; His love has conquered me,
Never leaving, never ceasing, His Spirit constantly
Flooding me, rich and free;
Higher than the highest heaven, He lifts me up to see
New Jerusalem descending, His Bride, His love to be
Eternally, it shall be.



<https://soundcloud.com/hymnstream/hes-my-god>



MATTHEW 7

WEEKLY BIBLE CHAPTER READS

Mt 27:1 Now when morning had come, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put Him to death.

Mt 27:2 And having bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pilate the governor.

Mt 27:3 Then Judas, who betrayed Him, seeing that He was condemned, regretted and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

Mt 27:4 Saying, I have sinned in betraying innocent blood. But they said, What is that to us? You see to that yourself!

Mt 27:5 And he threw the pieces of silver into the temple and departed, and he went away and hanged himself.

Mt 27:6 And the chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, It is not lawful to put them into the temple treasury, since it is blood money.

Mt 27:7 And after taking counsel, they bought with it the potter's field as a burial place for strangers.

Mt 27:8 Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.

Mt 27:9 At that time what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of Him that had been priced, whom they of the sons of Israel had priced,

Mt 27:10 And they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me."

Mt 27:11 And Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor questioned Him, saying, Are You the King of the Jews? And Jesus said, It is as you say.

Mt 27:12 And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing.

Mt 27:13 Then Pilate said to Him, Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?

Mt 27:14 And He did not answer him, not even to one word, so that the governor marveled greatly.

Mt 27:15 Now at the feasts the governor was accustomed to release to the crowd one prisoner whom they wanted.

Mt 27:16 And they had at that time a notorious prisoner named Barabbas.

Mt 27:17 Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said to them, Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ?

Mt 27:18 For he knew that *it was because of envy that* they had delivered Him up.

Mt 27:19 And while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent *word* to him, saying, Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much today in a dream because of Him.

Mt 27:20 But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to destroy Jesus.

Mt 27:21 And the governor answered and said to them, Which of the two do you want me to release to you? And they said, Barabbas.

Mt 27:22 Pilate said to them, What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ? They all said, Let Him be crucified!

Mt 27:23 But he said, Why, what evil has He done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let Him be crucified!

Mt 27:24 And Pilate, seeing that nothing was gained but rather that an uproar was taking place, took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, I am innocent of this man's blood. You see *to it yourselves*.

Mt 27:25 And all the people answered and said, His blood be upon us and upon our children!

Mt 27:26 Then he released to them Barabbas, but Jesus he scourged and delivered up to be crucified.

Mt 27:27Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the praetorium and gathered about Him the whole cohort.

Mt 27:28And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe around Him,

Mt 27:29And they wove a crown of thorns and placed it on His head and put a reed in His right hand; and they kneeled before Him and mocked Him, saying, Rejoice, King of the Jews!

Mt 27:30And they spat on Him and took the reed and beat Him on the head.

Mt 27:31And when they had mocked Him, they stripped Him of the robe and put His garments on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him.

Mt 27:32And as they were going out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name; this one they compelled to take up His cross.

Mt 27:33And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull,

Mt 27:34They gave Him wine to drink, mingled with gall. And when He tasted it, He would not drink.

Mt 27:35And when they had crucified Him, they divided His garments among themselves, casting lots.

Mt 27:36And they sat down and guarded Him there.

Mt 27:37And they set in writing over His head the charge against Him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Mt 27:38At that time two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and one on the left.

Mt 27:39And those who were passing by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads

Mt 27:40And saying, You who destroy the temple and build it up in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross!

Mt 27:41Likewise also the chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked Him and said,

Mt 27:42He saved others; Himself He cannot save. He is King of Israel; let Him come down now from the cross, and we will believe on Him.

Mt 27:43He trusts in God; let Him rescue Him now if He wants Him, for He said, I am the Son of God.

Mt 27:44And in the same way the robbers who were crucified with Him also reproached Him.

Mt 27:45Now from the sixth hour darkness fell over all the land until the ninth hour.

Mt 27:46And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is, My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?

Mt 27:47And some of those standing there, when they heard this, said, This man is calling Elijah.

Mt 27:48And immediately one of them ran, and taking a sponge, he soaked it with vinegar and put it on a reed, and gave it to Him to drink.

Mt 27:49But the rest said, Let Him be. Let us see if Elijah is coming to save Him.

Mt 27:50And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up His spirit.

Mt 27:51And behold, the veil of the temple was split in two from top to bottom, and the earth was shaken and the rocks were split,

Mt 27:52And the tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.

Mt 27:53And they came out of the tombs after His resurrection and entered into the holy city and appeared to many.

Mt 27:54Now the centurion and those with him guarding Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the things that happened, became greatly frightened, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

Mt 27:55And many women were there looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him,

Mt 27:56Among whom were Mary the Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

Mt 27:57And when evening fell, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus.

Mt 27:58 This man came to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded that it be given to him.

Mt 27:59 And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean, fine linen cloth.

Mt 27:60 And he laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. And having rolled a great stone in front of the door of the tomb, he went away.

Mt 27:61 And Mary the Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the grave.

Mt 27:62 On the next day, which is the day after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered unto Pilate,

Mt 27:63 Saying, Sir, we have remembered that while He was still living, that deceiver said, After three days I will arise.

Mt 27:64 Therefore, give orders for the grave to be secured until the third day, lest His disciples come and steal Him away and say to the people, He has been raised from the dead. And the last deception will be worse than the first.

Mt 27:65 Pilate said to them, Take a guard. Go and make the tomb as secure as you know how.

Mt 27:66 And they went and secured the grave, sealing the stone, with the guard being there.

last week...

BIBLE TRIVIA

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