



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## Jesus Said Arise

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**In the Gospel According to Luke** (AD 60-61), Luke, a Gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. Capernaum and the Galilee region became Jesus' unofficial ministry headquarters. Jesus, during His ministry, traveled to many cities sharing scripture, teaching forgiving sin, physically healing people of demons and disease, and raising the dead. Jesus began to challenge the religious rituals of the day and most importantly shared the Kingdom of God. On this occasion, Luke shares Jesus' compassion and the realization by some that God has visited His people.

*“Soon afterwards He went to a city called Nain; and His disciples were going along with Him, accompanied by a large crowd. Now as He approached the gate of the city, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a sizeable crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He felt compassion for her, and said to her, “Do not weep.” And He came up and touched the coffin; and the bearers came to a halt. And He said, “Young man, I say to you, arise!” The dead man sat up and began to speak. And Jesus gave him back to his mother. Fear gripped them all, and they began glorifying God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and, “God has visited His people!” This report concerning Him went out all over Judea and in all the surrounding district.” (Luke 7:11-17 NASB)*

**A City called Nain.** Luke records that soon after Jesus healed a Roman centurion's slave, Jesus traveled to a small town named Nain. Nain (pronounced *nine*) is in southern Galilee close to the border of Samaria, a day's travel (20-25 miles) from Capernaum. Nain and the miracle of raising the young man are mentioned only in Luke's record. Approaching the city Jesus was met by a funeral procession of a young man.

**Jesus felt compassion for the widow.** Jesus' compassion was for a woman who was a widow and had lost a child, her only son. Important to her, the family name would not be carried on and as a widow, she could not count on her son to support and protect her in her old age. Jesus had and has compassion for hurting people. The lady did not come to Him like the Roman centurion, but rather Jesus came to her in her tragic time.

**Jesus touched the coffin.** In the Jewish culture it was considered unclean to touch a dead body and the religious consequence would require a great deal of ritual cleansing. Jesus used this example to teach a lesson of the value of life and compassion over ritual and ceremony.

**Jesus commanded the young man to arise!** The dead man rose, spoke and was returned to his mother. The Gospels record that Jesus on at least two other like miraculous occasions commanded the dead to arise. One was a young girl (Luke 8:49-56) and the other an old man, Lazarus (John 11:1-44). On each occasion Jesus spoke directly to them and their lives were restored. Scripture records that similarly in the future Jesus will restore the dead eternally with His voice and words; *“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.” (1 Thess. 4: 16-17)*

**“God has visited His people!”** Luke concludes the description of this miracle with several witnesses in the crowd understanding that God was present, in the form of Jesus the Christ.

### For Your Consideration:

- Are you willing to give up rituals and ceremony for acts of compassion?
- God requires special consideration by the church for widows and orphans. Do you have compassion that results in action for this group of people?
- Do you glorify God in His daily workings in your life?

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## BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44