

Sketchboard talk for Easter 2023

I am here because it will soon be **EASTER** – which is all about **Jesus**

Now I wonder, do you have a big family? A young man called **Joseph** had eleven brothers how about that?, a whole cricket team. Joseph was second from youngest and the rest did not like him, in fact they all turned against him, why? Because he had dreams. He dreamed that they - all the brothers - were bowing down before him.

One day when they were all out in the country and saw Joseph walk towards them they said “Let’s kill him”, “let’s get rid of him and see what happens to his dreams!” So they gathered round him and threw him into a deep **PIT** in the ground.

While they sat down to have lunch they saw a group of traders going down to Egypt to sell their wares. “*Let’s sell him to them as a slave*” they said to each other. So they sold him to them and he was taken off to Egypt. Meanwhile they dipped his coat in blood and took it back to their father Jacob who shouted out: “*Oh no, what has happened to my son*”, He was really sad thinking surely Joseph is dead.

Well a long time passed. There was a famine in the country, no rain for such a long time that they ran out of food. They thought “*Soon if this continues we will all die of starvation*”

Their father Jacob said: “*There is food in Egypt go down there and buy food so we won’t all die*”.

So the brothers travelled to Egypt with their empty sacks to buy food. When they arrived they went to the most important person in charge of the country to buy food. “*Please sell us some*



food so we will not die but live”, they were desperate and bowed down to him.

He gave them food and the family survived.

A little time later they made the most amazing discovery – This man over all of Egypt, the one who had given them food - was ... Joseph, yes, their brother Joseph. **CROWN**

They had hated him – but Joseph had saved them.

What has that got to do with Easter you may think? Yes quite a bit.

Firstly from Jacob 40 generations later the boy Jesus was born.

This boy who grew to be a man went around doing good, He helped people, - He spoke about the way to God, - he healed the sick, there was no disease he could not cure. - The wind and the waves obeyed him, - evil spirits obeyed him, - and with just a little food He was able to feed thousands of people.

If he was so good why was it that his own people, those of his own race hated him, they hated him without any reason. Jesus was perfect unlike any other person who has ever lived, so there was no reason for him to die. Yet he was betrayed by his friend Judas for the price of a slave, they beat him, spat on him, hit him and pushed onto his head a crown of thorns and pressed it down until his head was covered in blood. Then they put him to death on a **CROSS** which was a very slow and painful way to die.

Millions/billions of people have lived – and died but when the soldier putting Jesus to death saw how he died he said: “*No-one ever died the way this man died, surely he is the son of God*”.

Jesus had said *“I have come down from heaven”*. The Bible describes Jesus as God coming into this world and becoming a man a servant, a slave, one who **SUFFERED**

This is what we remember on Good Friday, Jesus’ death on the cross.

After he died he was buried.

Everyone would have thought that was the end of him. With Him gone now everyone can do what they want.

But that was not the end of Him.

TOMBSTONE Jesus did not stay dead, He came alive again. Millions, billions die - but only (1) has come back.

He showed many people he was alive and then after 40 days he ascended back up to heaven as King.

Just as with Joseph people hated him and tried to get rid of him, - but God had a bigger plan that this perfect man - who had no sin - should die for the sins of others.

God is good and Just, one day every one in this world will be brought before God and the bad things that every person has done will be exposed for all to see. Then God will rightly punish forever those who do wrong. That is scary, yes.

But as God is love he made a way that I could avoid that punishment - by punishing Jesus instead, in fact Jesus chose to die for me. That’s not scary – that’s amazing!

Now Jesus is alive again God the Father says that *“anyone who looks to Jesus, turns to Jesus can be **FORGIVEN** for all the bad they have done and be given freely the gift of life, and live with Me forever”*.

I am so glad that someone came to tell me about Jesus. Now I know I am forgiven of everything I have ever done – or will do.

Jesus is no longer a slave, or a servant, he is the King.

We have a new king in England; Kings Charles III and he will be crowned King on 6th May. But Jesus is his King! The Bible describes him as the King of Kings.

Unlike other kings he has power. He has the power to give me life just as Joseph did to his brothers.

They had hated him – but Joseph had saved them. In my actions I hated God, but Jesus has saved me.

As I continue through this short life Jesus the bread of life feeds me as Joseph fed his brothers. All this is possible because of what happened at EASTER.

Jesus is the king, Ruler over everything,

Jesus is the one, Promised One the Son of God

Jesus is the Lord, He is the one you can’t ignore

Jesus, Jesus, He is the King, He is the King

He commanded the fisherman “Hey” “come follow me”

And they did x3

He commanded the evil one “Hey” “come out of him”

and they did x3

He commanded the wind and waves “Hey” “Be still be still”

and they did x3

He promised three days after death he’d rise again

And he did x3