



St Simon's 'Keeping Connected, from a Distance'



Fifth Sunday in Lent

29 March 2020

A Reflection

from Paul

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalms 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

Wow, Ezekiel's weird dream speaks into our current situation...

Ezekiel's weird vision is of Israel 'dead' in exile in Babylon: stuck, and unable to meet and sacrifice at the Temple – unable to worship the Lord at the Temple as they'd always done... ripped away from everything they knew, and asking 'what now?'

Sounds eerily familiar doesn't it?

I just started humming ["By The Waters of Babylon..."](#) *(Click on the link for the song)*

It's all a bit too close to the bone for me - *I can't do what I've always done...*

And, I'm not really sure that I want the personal experience – you?

Q) So, what's the answer to *their* troubles then, and *ours* now?

To trust in the promises of the Lord, of course!

For *them then*: trusting that they *would* return to the promised land,
because the Lord had specifically promised it to them!

Indeed, Ezekiel's weird vision pictures their return from exile as their *resurrection...*

For *us now*, trusting – *what?*

That everything'll be ok? *Really?*

'Cause it may *not* be for everyone...

Trusting *what* then?

For me, it's continuing to trust the crucified, resurrected, ascended & reigning Jesus at His word: *"And lo, I will be with you to the very end of the age"*.

And I immediately thought of [Footprints in the Sand](#) ... *(click to read)*

My return from exile is much bigger than meeting together again in St Simon's (& that *will* indeed be wonderful) – & it's even bigger than the raising of Lazarus too...

... for when Jesus returns he will renew the whole creation, and me with it!

In the risen, reigning & returning Lord Jesus I find the source of hope, faith & love...

Indeed, trusting Him for my present and my future.

John Harris sounded the clarion call from Psalm 23 last Sunday " & I will fear no evil! "