

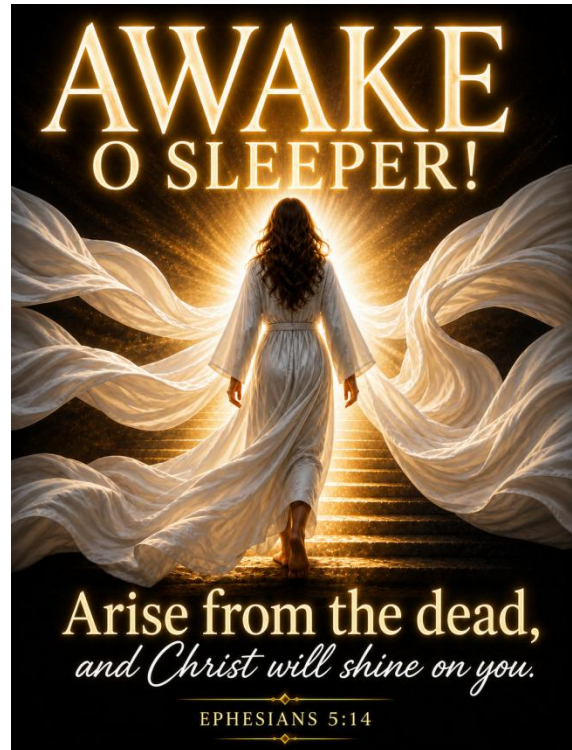
AWAKE! O Sleeper

But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, ¹⁴for the light makes everything visible. This is why God said,

*“Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”
(Ephesians 5:13-14)*

- Teaching text: John 11
- Subject: Resurrection of Lazarus

Do you remember when God was first calling you by His Spirit? Things might have seemed odd at the time, but you were drawn to what was happening to you and around you. His Light was shining on you and the LORD was drawing you unto himself. How about seeing a billboard sign that said something to draw you, or a podcast, or maybe it was a bumper sticker? There were and are times when the LORD will give us a dream or a vision, right? Those dreams and visions are not a coincidence. The very first one that you had was from the LORD and He was calling you out of the world, and into His kingdom of marvelous light.



I just love the prophetic book of Esther! This portion of Esther 4:14 is powerful: *“...Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” Esther 4:14b*

YEARS PAST

I remember a time of God’s calling on my life; it’s been some 35+ years ago now. I was not born-again in the beginning; and still had my grave clothes on. But, something would happen in my heart each time I listened to those 2 hour radio broadcasts (podcasts), 5 days a week. The radio program was geared towards young believers and how they could overcome the evil one that was harassing them. I realize now that it was a spiritual warfare broadcast, and I was in boot camp.



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In retrospect my business/ministry is called; WORSHIP WARRIORS and my theme verse is: *Our God is a Consuming Fire, Hebrews 12:29*. This verse is first mentioned in the book of (*Deuteronomy 4:24, 9:3*). A consuming fire, El Qanna—the jealous God who fiercely protects what belongs to Him with holy zeal. In my heart I want everything in me that is not of Him, to be consumed in the fire. Hallelujah to the Lamb! I was drawn to those broadcasts long ago and refused to miss even one. The LORD used a radio ministry to call me forth. LORA, COME OUT AND BE YE SEPARATE!

BEHOLD, THE LAMB OF GOD

The next day, John sees Yeshua coming to him and says, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29, TLV) The text for this teaching is from the book of John, and our topic is the story of Lazarus as a prophetic picture. Behold, the Lamb is talking about salvation. Behold the Lamb (*Revelation 5*); means to be captivated, and to fix our gaze upon Yeshua (Jesus).

Jesus died on the cross and yet, He defeated death once and for all (*Hebrews 9:28*). Death is the last enemy to be destroyed (*1 Corinthians 15:26*). You and I are to deny self and pick up our cross, and follow Him (*Matthew 16:24*). We are to identify with His death and resurrection. Identifying with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ means a person's old life of sin is now "crucified" with Christ, and they are spiritually born again to walk in a transformed, victorious, and eternal life.

LAZARUS

We read in the scriptures that Jesus (Yeshua) called Lazarus to come out of the grave. *Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth!” (John 11:43)*

Earlier in chapter 11 of John, Jesus said He awaken Lazarus, because he was sleeping. *This He said, and after this He said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going so that I may awaken him from sleep.” (John 11:11, NASB)* That was kind of a strange thing to say, isn't it? We will clarify it in this teaching. The story of Lazarus is a miraculous demonstration of God's glorious power. It was the 7th and final miracle that Jesus did while walking the earth. The number 7 biblically, speaks of completion.



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"Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light." (Ephesians 5:14, NKJV)

Let's take a look at a couple of words in Ephesians 5:14; Awake and Light.

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1. Awake: wake up, arise, come forth

- a. Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary: AWAKEN; to rouse from sleep; revive; enliven; to wake.
- b. Spiritual definition: awakening means moving from spiritual death (ignorance of God) to spiritual life (alive in Christ). A spiritual transition from "sleeping" (spiritual lethargy, ignorance, or death) to being spiritually alive and aware of God's presence.

2. Light: Shekinah, shine

- a. SHEKINAH GLORY: Shekinah (שְׁכִינָה) means "to dwell" or "to reside." Combined with "glory" it refers to the visible, tangible manifestation of God's presence on earth, representing His nearness and intimate habitation among His people.
 - Weight: The Hebrew word for glory is (kavod) is the concept of being "heavy" or "weighty," carrying the presence of God within. We are a habitation (carrier) of His presence.
 - I love this definition of glory it's so powerful! *A 2nd Hebrew meaning for the word glory (kavod) is; heavy armament.*

Awakening in scripture is a spiritual transition from spiritual death (sleeping) to being made alive in Christ. Job had a profound understanding of sleeping (*Job 14:12-14, NKJV*). He questioned God and asked if there was life after this suffering here on earth, and would he awake again. Job is considered one of the oldest books of the Bible, written before Yeshua was on the earth. You and I were born in the end times. We have the scriptures to reveal to us that the veil has been lifted; death no longer has a hold on us, because Jesus Christ has conquered the grave. Fear is gone. HALLELUJAH!

Jesus is revealed, and all things have been made new. As a result, the *Shekinah* or Light of the Holy Spirit is now visible in your life. Others will perceive a difference in you because of God's manifest presence. They may not be able to explain the difference but they sense a change, something is different about you. The tangible manifest presence is called: *Shekinah* glory, the brilliant light of the divine.



AWAKE! O Sleeper

You and I have been changed, awakened. Awakened means our spirit has been made alive and is filled with the *Shekinah* glory of the Holy Spirit, Amen? We behold, Jesus Christ as LORD the soon coming Bridegroom. He calls us to be like Him and to do that; we must seek Him with all our heart, mind and soul.

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RESURRECTION POWER

Jesus came to Bethany a village in Judea, the region surrounding Jerusalem. He regularly gathered with His dear friends Martha, Mary and Lazarus and stayed with them during the Feasts. The two sisters had sent word to Yeshua about Lazarus and were waiting for His arrival. Martha met Jesus on his way into Bethany, and spoke to Him about the fact that their brother has been in the grave for 4 days, and that he stinketh!

*Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he **stinketh**: for he hath been dead four days. (John 11:39)*

The crowd had gathered and they followed Mary, Martha, and Jesus to where Lazarus was buried. *Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!"(John 11:43b)* Jesus called him by name, just as he has called us by name to, come forth. That is resurrection power, calling him from death to life.

I was reading in my devotions the other day, and came across this word picture in scripture about resurrection power. People were coming up out of the graves! Who said the Bible was boring, they must not have read it, amen? *(Matthew 27: 51-53) ⁵¹ Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, ⁵² and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; ⁵³ and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.*

GRAVE CLOTHES

But... there was an issue; Lazarus was still wrapped from head to toe in grave clothes. Those grave cloths needed to be removed! Notice verse 44 says: *And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave clothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."* Lazarus could not see, nor could



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he walk very well wrapped in grave cloths. So, Jesus spoke to the crowd to remove the grave clothes. The prophetic command was spoken: _____(put your name) COME FORTH! Did you catch that? The crowd was commanded to remove the grave clothes from Lazarus.

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We are to find fellowship with likeminded believers, in community. *Many do not take this next step and walk around in their grave clothes for years.* When we enter into a community of fellowship with others; we learn, we grow, we pray for

one another, and are encouraged in the ways of the LORD.



Home Fellowship & Bible Study

Prophetically "taking off your grave clothes" means unshackling yourself from ungodly habits, fears, and mindsets of your past. Stepping into the newness of eternal life and receiving all God has for us. Living a life in the Spirit, death no longer has a hold you!

Here are two meanings for a better understanding of Grave Clothes.

1. The Literal Meaning

In ancient Jewish burial customs, bodies were wrapped tightly in strips of linen cloth soaked in spices, with a separate cloth tied around the face. While Jesus gave Lazarus the life to walk out of the tomb, the physical wrappings restricted his movement and prevented him from fully living. Jesus told the onlookers to unbind him so he could freely move, breathe, and function.

2. The Spiritual Meaning

The past is gone, you are a new creation. (*Isaiah 43:18-19*)



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- **The Old Self “flesh”:** The grave clothes represent the old habits, addictions, guilt, shame, and fear that belonged to your former life of spiritual "death".
- **Freedom vs. Bondage:** While someone may have become “born again” there is still baggage from the past. This can keep them bound in grave cloths. The command (*Come Forth!*) means that you cannot live an abundant life if you are still clothed in the garments of your old life.
- **Jesus declared:** remove those grave clothes! Yeshua asked others to do this, why? Because it brings a sense of community amongst those who have been called out, and called forth. Remember, many people heard Jesus speak this. They were at Mary and Martha’s home comforting the sisters in their loss. (*John 11:19*) They went with Mary to the place Lazarus was buried.

It is now time to move forward and ARISE. Take off any lingering grave cloths and Come Forth! There is so much more that the LORD has for you. It’s time to walk in that newness of life everlasting.

You’re not just called to live - you’re called to shine!

Be encouraged, the Shekinah glory is shining within you. Let me leave you with two scriptures to meditate on:

1. *Arise; shine, for your light has come! The glory of ADONAI (LORD) has risen on you. (Isaiah 60:1, TLV)*
2. *And the LORD, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.” (Deuteronomy 31:8, NKJV)*

A PSALM OF PRAISE FROM AN AWAKENED HEART

Psalm 57:7-11 (AMP)

My heart is steadfast, O God; my heart is steadfast and confident!

I will sing, yes, I will sing praises [to You]!

Awake, my glory!

Awake, harp and lyre!

I will awaken the dawn.

I will praise and give thanks to You, O Lord, among the people; I will sing praises to You among the nations.



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For Your faithfulness and loving-kindness are great, reaching to the heavens, and Your truth to the clouds.

Be exalted above the heavens, O God; Let Your glory and majesty be over all the earth.

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Beloved, Arise to the call!

~Lora

<https://worshipwarriors.net/teachings/AWAKE-O-SLEEPER.pdf>



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