



Wyoming Supplement

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Here it is May, and we are not finished with discussing the early church or the Life, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus!

May has often been thought of as a starting point for summer and down through the ages we have had a childhood rhyme: "April showers Bring May flowers". Of course, here in Wyoming we understand most of our April Showers come as heavy wet snow and we are dealing more with mud than flowers, but the rhyme also brings down through the ages the celebration of May Day. At this point I am sure you are wondering where this discussion is going. It is just this, that the early church, while trying to convert the pagans to a belief in the one God and the Savior Jesus Christ, kept running up against these pesky, pagan celebrations of fertility such as the feast of Beltane. This was generally held around May 1st and had young maidens dancing around a pole, bedecked with flowers and ribbons. The Early church made May Mary's Month and she was remembered with flowers for being the mother of Jesus. With that Beltane was changed to May Day.

Another thing happens in May, and this year it happens on the 14th of May. Many of the Churches around the world spend a lot of time teaching about Jesus and his ministry. We celebrate that his birth brings light to the world. Starting in February we begin the 40 days of Lent. A time frame that represents the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness, in prayer and fasting to be prepared for the last sacrifice. This period ends on Easter with the Resurrection. This also begins another forty days and over these forty days Jesus appeared many times to the Disciples, continuing to teach and prepare them for the world they must minister too. It is what was and should still be the most awesome event, that moment when

Christ ascended into heaven to prepare a place for you and me!

When we read and study the Bible, we find the use of various numbers that have meaning just like various numbers are used by Masons. The number 3 being the number of degrees in the blue lodge, the number of steps to the master's station, the ages of man: Youth, Manhood, and Age. In this Article the number I would like to briefly talk about is the number 40. It becomes clear if you think about it that the number 40 is used over and over in the Bible. In the great flood it rained for 40 days and 40 nights. Moses lived for 40 years in Egypt and 40 years in the desert before being chosen by God to free his people. He spent 40 days up on mount Sinai. Then they wandered for 40 years before arriving in the promised land. The number forty is used to mean a time of testing, and preparation, and it can last for generations, as in the case of the new generation of Israelites being raised up untainted by the sins of their fathers, before they would be allowed into the promised land.

Now Sir Knights, continue to check on your members and your neighbors and continue to do good works. Trust in the Lord and he will guide your path.

In closing, a couple of reminders Sir Knights: please start working you your committee reports and submit them in a timely manner so the Grand Recorder and Grand Secretary can put together the documentation for our Grand Session, and:

Turn in your proposals for Knight Templar Cross of Honor!!!!!!

Yours in Faith
Jack C Cook REGC