

TIGER AND A LION BACK FROM THE DEAD

Over 10 years ago Tiger Woods was at the pinnacle of his golf game and had won 14 major tournaments. He usually wore a cap with the symbol of Nike on it. He had the heart, mind and work ethic of a champion who inspired others to reach for excellence, and he had learned to overcome the sand traps, hazards and read the greens of the courses. However, his personal life began to unravel later that year when he crashed his vehicle near his home and it was also revealed that his marriage was on the rocks due to his prevalent cheating on his wife. Over the next several years he suffered knee problems and severe back pain which led to 4 surgeries. At one point 2 years ago he could hardly walk and his golf career looked to be over. Tiger had lost his marriage, health, name and his game. However, his last back surgery seemed to bring healing to his body and brought a new found strength in his golf swing. With much perseverance, practice and much needed humility, Tiger began to recover.

It all came to a grand crescendo at the 2019 Masters Tournament. He came from behind to take the lead and as he walked up to the 18th green toward the flag stick, the multitude of spectators expressed their emotional appreciation and broke out into thunderous applause as he sank his final putt to win by one stroke. Even I was choked up as I saw him embrace his son and family. It was a historical sports moment as one of the greatest career come backs. Later in the clubhouse, the green jacket was placed on him. It was a day that many will never forget, when new hope was rekindled that Tiger may one day surpass the major tournament win record held by Jack Nicklaus. Tiger had come roaring back!

Nearly 2000 years ago another man experienced a great comeback. He never drove a golf ball, but he drove evil and disease out of people's lives. He never had to overcome a sand trap, but he conquered all of life's sin traps. He never read a putting green but he read people's lives and motives. He never wore a Nike cap but he always thought victory. The word **Nike** is used in the Bible in the verb form **Nikao**, which means....**to overcome, prevail or conquer** - 1 John 5:4. He was introduced to the world at age 30 as '**The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.**' - John 1:29.

It was during the final week of his life that this became evident, as he willingly laid down his life as a lamb led to slaughter. - Isaiah 53:7. During his earlier public ministry he had exhibited the nature of a **lion** as he walked with great authority over things contrary to the kingdom of the Father in heaven who had sent him to earth.

On the day of his death, he made his final walk, over 650 yards in great weakness and pain up the Via Dolorosa (the way of suffering). There was no applause, but there was jeering by his detractors and crying by his beloved supporters as he made his way to the final hole, not a flag stick on a golf green. but to a hole on a rugged hill where his heavy cross would be placed after he was nailed to it with 6 to 8 inch spikes in his hands and feet. It was there that he suffered excruciating pain for 6 hours before he breathed his last breath. His last words on the cross were, '**It is finished**' and '**Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.**' Jesus had finished the

work he had come to do, 'to take away the sin of the world' so that they could experience the joy of coming to know the heavenly Father just as Jesus had known him from before the foundation of the world - John 17:4-5, 20-26. Jesus had bore the wages of sin that mankind deserved... **death and separation from God,** however, there was one more issue to be resolved.

JESUS WAS DEAD

If Jesus did not come back to life from the dead, there would be no life for him or those he had died for. Mankind would be forgiven but still dead. But Bible records and secular reports from the first century tell us the rest of the story. Jesus rose from the dead!

The Resurrection of Jesus is the Greatest Comeback in History

