

# Better Days Ahead

Robert Browning (1812 – 1889) was an English poet and playwright. He was a master of dramatic verse. One of his best known and often quoted poems is *Rabbi Ben Ezra*. Here are some excerpts:

*Grow old along with me!  
The best is yet to be,  
The last of life, for which the first was made:  
Our times are in His hand  
Who saith "A whole I planned,  
Youth shows but half; trust God: see all, nor be afraid!"*

*Rejoice we are allied  
To That which doth provide  
And not partake, effect and not receive!  
A spark disturbs our clod;  
Nearer we hold of God  
Who gives, than of His tribes that take, I must believe.*

*Not once beat "Praise be Thine!  
I see the whole design,  
I, who saw power, see now love perfect too:  
Perfect I call Thy plan:  
Thanks that I was a man!  
Maker, remake, complete – I trust what Thou shalt do!"*

That isn't just a nice sentiment about growing older; it's a reality. Our futures are just as bright as the flash of glory that burst from the tomb on the first Easter morning. Our tomorrows are just as promising as the first words of the risen Christ to the astonished disciples: "Peace be with you" (John 20:19 NKJV).

You may have a heavy load to bear just now. Perhaps you've received bad news from the doctor. Maybe you've been rejected by the school to which you applied. Perhaps the bank turned down your loan request.

Maybe you're worried about a child. Or maybe you've been struck by depression.

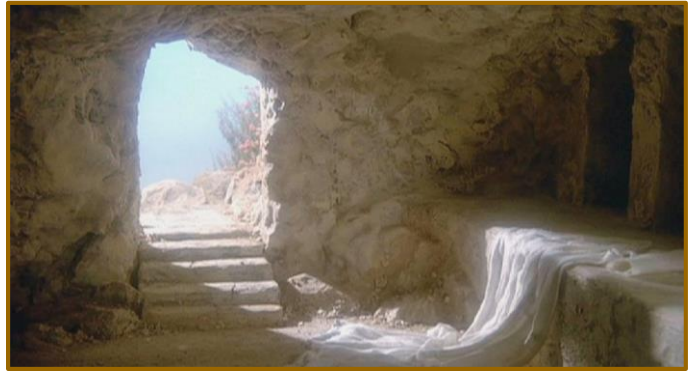


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Jesus' friends were depressed the day before Easter. It was a Saturday filled with disappointment, discouragement, depression and despair. They were whipped. But what a difference a day made!

Among other things, the resurrection of Christ validates all His other claims and promises. Because He rose again, He proved that He is who He said He was, and He can do what He promised to do.

Because He lives, we can rest in His promises, knowing that the best is yet to come. Eternity in heaven with Him is the reward of the believer.



*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you (1 Peter 1:3 NKJV).*

– Beecher Hunter