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A. Lee

Archival

Governor Nikki Haley

Governor mansion

Columbia, S.C.

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Completed my ministry as traveling minister
for the Union Church Baptists Atlanta
for 1993 - moved to Atlanta
94-902 - still alive near the end -
Thank you again for all you,
Rev. Hester have done, & doing and
will continue to do in the past & future.
You are a great servant of God
for a great lot of people. may the
Lord continue to bless and use you
forever in Christ,
I Ray Batson



Photo by I Ray Batson Sunset John Creek Baptist Church Steeple

your staff and to the multitudes who
reached out to fellow South Carolinians
in such love, compassion and generosity.

I was born in Sumter County - 1926
grew up in Alcala - graduated from
Manning High School. North Greenville Jr.
College, Carson New College. The Southern
Baptist Seminary -

Pastored in Timonville, Ainsworthville,
Campobello, and Spartanburg -

Then served as director of missions for
Spartanburg County Baptist associations and

November 11, 2015

Dear Gov. Nikki Haley,

my sincere prayers and thoughts
have been with you and the people of
South Carolina during the recent
flooding of large sections of the state.
my sorrow extended to the families
who lost loved ones by death -

my feelings of grief for all who
lost so very much due to the floods.

my deep appreciation to you and all

The Resurrection of Jesus
Photo One: The Light of the World

"The angel spoke to the women, 'He is not here. He was raised, just as He said, Come and look at the place where He was placed.' " Matthew 28, The Message

The SUN as it is going down on that Resurrection Day, is bowing down to the Resurrected Christ, to say "Here is the LIGHT of the world. My light is nothing but a flickering candle compared to His brilliance. For He alone is the Light that leads to Everlasting life."

Jesus said "I am the world's Light." John 9:5 The Message

See the Resurrected Lord in the center of the setting sun.

Photo taken September 11, 2013
Sunset with Johns Creek Baptist Church steeple
By J. Ray Batson

The Resurrection of Jesus
Photo Two: The Truth

The SUN as it is going down on that Resurrection Day, is bowing down to the Resurrected Christ, to say "Not only is Jesus the Light of the world, but He is the everlasting TRUTH—the WORD of God."

"The Word was first, the Word present to God, God present to the Word. The Word was God, in readiness for God from day one." John 1: 1-2 The Message

Jesus said, 'I am the Road, also the Truth, also the life.' John 14 The Message

Photo taken September 11, 2013
Sunset with Johns Creek Baptist Church steeple
By J. Ray Batson

The Ascension of Jesus

"Then the Master Jesus, after briefing them, was taken up to heaven, and He sat down beside God in the place of honor." Mark 16: 19 The Message

Here, we see the Resurrected Lord, after 40 days, ascending from the earth, back to His Father in Heaven, where He sits upon His throne to make intercession for us day and night, awaiting His second coming. In the photo you see the ascending Lord, to the left of the cross, already "Lifted up from the earth "on His way back to Heaven, to be accompanied by the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, where He will be seated on His throne. (upper left corner)

Photo taken April 2013
Sunset with Johns Creek Baptist Church steeple
By J. Ray Batson

The Gospel in a Sunset

Photo of sunset with Johns Creek Baptist Church Steeple (Alpharetta, Georgia)
Taken by J. Ray Batson, December, 2012

On the left you see the profile of Jesus' face looking up toward the cross. Christ and God, from the beginning, had the Cross in mind.

Christ came into this world and died on that Cross for our sins. Oh, how He suffered, bearing the Crown of Thorns (Crown of thorns formed by the tree on left). Jesus died of a broken heart because of our sins (see the light coming through the clouds in the shape of a heart).

Christ was buried and rose from the grave on the third day. He established His Kingdom and built His church and said "Whosoever will, come to me and I will give you everlasting life." When we accepted Him as our Savior, He threw His loving arms and strong hands around us to protect us, circled in His Love throughout eternity (see hand to right of steeple pointing toward the steeple).

God the Father was there with Jesus during His suffering. God is often pictured as an old man with a beard (turn picture upside down and see the profile in the left top corner).

The Holy Spirit was there, descending upon Him like a dove (with picture upside down, see shape of a dove at forehead of Jesus).

Mary, the mother of Jesus was there, planting a kiss on His brow (right side up, the dove forms the nose of Mary – Mary's face is opaque).

Satan was there (see the shape of a beast with a drawn sword in the middle part of the tree – the sword is pointing toward Jesus' forehead). Satan was also on the other side - as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (with picture upside down, see animal shape in the cloud on left side).

There is a deep dark divide that separates earth from Heaven (see dark clouds that divide the picture horizontally). The only bridge across this divide is the cross. After the resurrection, Christ said, "I will build my church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it. Believe in me and I will give you everlasting life."

At the foot of the cross is the river of life (see Revelation 22:1-2). The water of eternal life is crystal clear, reflecting the glory of God and flowing to all mankind.



