

EASTER – A CAT-CRACKER FOR GLOBAL EVENTS

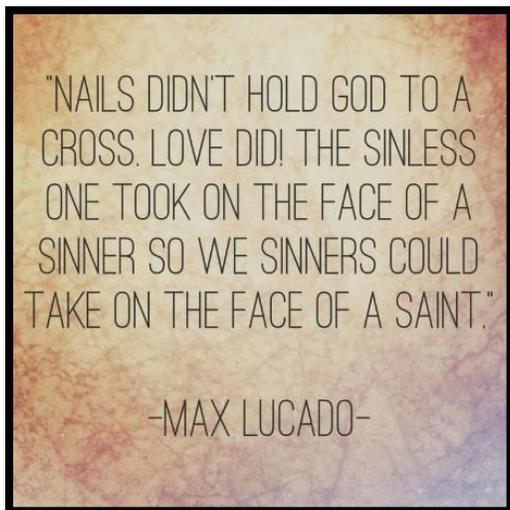
John 3:17 "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

The words of John 3:17 are probably more applicable and more coveted than ever before in history: destroyed nations, broken lives, condemned souls and hopeless futures. A world that needs a saviour, and Easter provides the only lasting solution.

As trials and hardships in the Middle East unfold daily, it becomes more and more evident that there is a desperate need for an event that will serve as a catalyst to thrust this region into a new direction. It often requires only one incident to release change. Think about Mohammed Boazizi who set himself alight in Tunisia and the Arab Spring erupted, changing the Muslim World forever. Remember how a small protest outside a Church in Timosoara, Romania resulted in the fall of the Iron Curtain and brought about the demise of communism. Think about that one young student in Tiananmen square, facing the might of the Chinese military and how a spiritual revival started. These were all single catalysts that sped-up a process of change.

In referring to this principle, James L. Killen speaks of a **thermocatalytic cracking unit**, or simply a **cat-cracker**. A **cat-cracker** is a small cylinder that looks like asbestos, about half the circumference of a pencil and about a quarter of an inch long. These *pellets are heated until they are white hot and are then forced into crude oil. The heat causes a chemical reaction that breaks the crude oil down into its components and separates the light oil from the heavier components. The cat-cracker is an important part of the refining process as it speeds up the chemical reaction of the substance without itself changing.*

Rev. Killen draws a comparison of how the crucifixion of Christ catalytically set a sequence of events in motion that the world might be saved through Him. During Easter we celebrate a crucified as well as a risen Saviour who, without changing His divine nature, caused a sequence of events that influences nations and people until today. Through Easter, similar to a **cat-cracker**, God destined a catalytic event that separates light and darkness and speeds up the process for people to be saved.



This is the season to celebrate the death and life of Jesus, not as a once-off event to be observed throughout history but as a **"cat-cracker"** event whose ripple effects continue to be felt across the globe and in the lives of many people. The catalysis continues, whether in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, the Ukraine, South Africa or the USA.

This Easter is a time for followers of Christ to respond with a similar **cat-cracker** principle.

May we be found to be the white-hot, sacrificial substance that impacts society as Christ did. May we be catalysts for hope where there is fear, peace where there is war and love where there is hatred. May we be catalysts of life and ambassadors of forgiveness. May it be based on faith and removed from fear, being less impressive and more influential.

Easter starts with us. Let us therefore be the **cat-crackers** required in a broken world. Let us always be open to His coming.

HAPPY EASTER!