

# FATEFUL DAY

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For many families in the city of Armagh in Northern Ireland, the fateful day of June 12th 1889 started as one of joyful excitement. It was the day of the annual Sunday-School excursion to the sea-side at Warrenpoint. But before the morning was over, more than seventy men, women and children of all denominations would lie dead amidst the wreckage of two trains, with over three hundred injured.

Ten carriages became uncoupled from the excursion train which had stalled on the steep incline, and unable to be stopped, careered downhill into the engine of the next train coming up from Armagh. Wooden carriages were smashed to pieces! Doors had been locked because of so many children on the train. There was no way of escape. The final death toll was eighty eight people, a quarter of them children.

Another fateful day, another city, another death scene with bodies being taken away for burial and weeping mourners. But for one of the dead this was no tragic accident! His death had been planned from all eternity past. For on the middle cross on that Fateful Day was the Son of God, whom God had sent to be the saviour of the world.

Jesus suffering and death, was all planned because of God's love for the people of the world, including you and me.

God knows that we are heading for disaster, unable to save ourselves. Ahead is eternal separation and punishment because of our sins. So Jesus was sent to deal with the problem we all have:

***He suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, That he might bring us to God (1).***

Consider carefully where you are heading, and what lies ahead. God has warned us very clearly about a judgement day, but there is a way of escape (2).

The gravestones on the burial plots of those who died in the terrible accident of 12th June 1889 can still be seen around Armagh, but Jesus tomb is empty.

The Bible says of Jesus:

***He was delivered up for our trespasses (sins), and raised for our justification (3).***

**What must I do to be saved?**

**The answer:**

**Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved... (4).**