

According to the Scriptures

What is Easter Really All About?

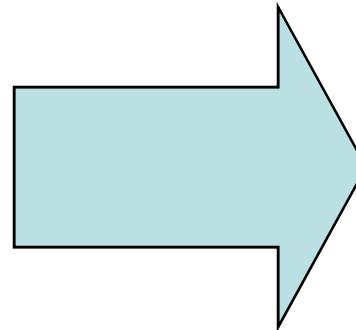
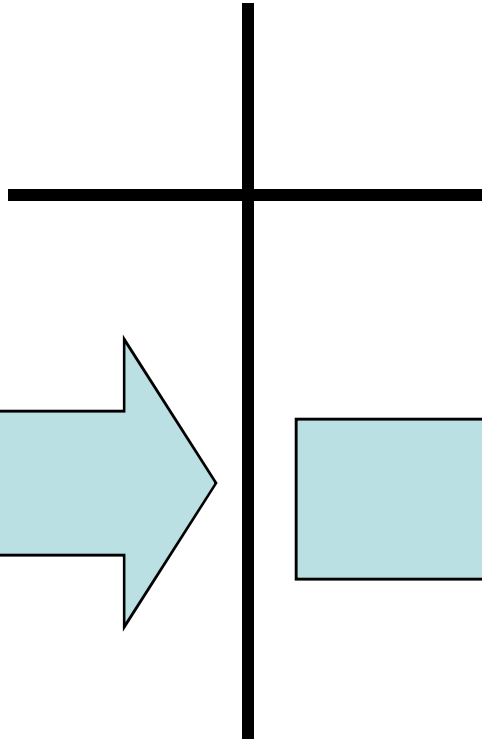
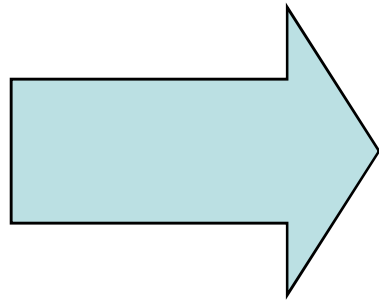
The Facts of the Gospel

1. Christ died for our sins.
2. Christ was buried in demonstration of his physical death.
3. Christ rose again the third day.
 - All of this was done according to the Scriptures.
 - In other words, the Scriptures testify, assert, and establish the core facts of the Gospel and it is our faith resting in these objective facts that saves us from eternal punishment and separation from God.

Christ Died For Our Sins

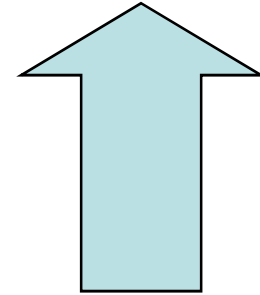
- Isaiah 53:4-8—the prophetic Scriptures predict in advance that Jesus Christ would die and be stricken in payment for sin.
- Psalm 22:6-18—here again we see a prophetic statement about the events surrounding the death of Christ.
- Matthew 27:26-50—the gospel writes: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John record the historical fulfillment of the prophetic utterances regarding the death of Jesus Christ.

**Sin of
the
World**



**•Jesus Christ is
made sin for us
upon the cross.**

**•Christ endures
the curse of the
law and sheds
his blood on
our behalf.**



**God the Father forsakes
Christ because of his
identification with our
sin.**

Christ Was Buried In Demonstration of His Physical Death

- Isaiah 53:9—prophets predicted Christ would be buried in a rich man's tomb.
- Psalm 16:10—upon his death Jesus went to hell and stayed there for three days and three nights.
- Matthew 12:39-40—the sign of the prophet Jonah was the Jesus would spend three days and three nights in the heart of the earth just like Jonah.
- Jonah 2:2—says that Jonah cried to God out of the belly of hell.
- Matthew 27:57-66—Jesus is buried proving that Joseph of Arimathaea, the disciples, Pilate, and the Jewish leadership all believed that Jesus was dead.

Christ Rose Again the Third Day

- John 2:19-22—Jesus foretells of his own resurrection.
- Acts 2:30-32—Peter makes application of Psalm 16:10 not only to Christ's burial but also to his resurrection.
- Matthew 28:1-15—the grave is found empty and the Roman soldiers are paid by the Jewish leadership to say that the disciples stole the body.
- I Corinthians 15:12-19—all of Christianity rests upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Either the resurrection of Jesus is the greatest miracle of history or it is the biggest hoax ever perpetrated against the human race.

12 Agreed Upon Facts

- I Corinthians 15:5-8—Paul appeals to the Corinthians to check out what He is saying against outside sources.
- Gary Habermas wrote a book entitled *The Risen Jesus and Future Hope*. The book investigates to date what scholars believe about the resurrection.
- Habermas reports that virtually all scholars from across the ideological spectrum—from ultra-liberals to Bible-thumping conservatives—agree that the following points concerning Jesus and Christianity are actual historical facts.

12 Agreed Upon Facts

1. Jesus died by Roman crucifixion.
2. He was buried, most likely in a private tomb.
3. Soon afterwards his disciples were discouraged, bereaved, and despondent, having lost hope.
4. Jesus' tomb was found empty very soon after his interment.
5. The disciples had experiences that they believed were actual appearances of the risen Jesus.
6. Due to these experiences, the disciple's lives were transformed. They were even willing to die for their belief.

12 Agreed Upon Facts

7. The proclamation of the Resurrection took place very early, from the beginning of church history.
8. The disciples public testimony and preaching of the Resurrection took place in the city of Jerusalem, where Jesus had been crucified and buried.
9. The gospel message centered on the preaching of the death and resurrection of Jesus.
10. Sunday was the primary day for gathering and worship.

12 Agreed Upon Facts

11. James, the brother of Jesus and a skeptic before this time, was converted when he believed he also saw the risen Jesus.
12. A few years later, Saul of Tarsus (Paul) became a believer, due to an experience that he also believed was an appearance of the risen Jesus.

Skeptical Theories About the Resurrection

- *Hallucination Theory*

- This theory states that the disciples were all deceived by hallucinations.
- Hallucinations are not experienced by groups but only by individuals.
- Jesus did not appear to just one person—he appeared on a dozen separate occasions, in a variety of settings to different people over a 40 day period.
- Jesus was seen by men and woman, inside and outside, eating and talking.
- Jesus was seen by more than 500 people and they were not all seeing the same hallucination.

Skeptical Theories About the Resurrection

- *The Witnesses Went to the Wrong Tomb*
 - This theory states that the disciples went to the wrong tomb and then assumed that Jesus had risen.
 - Read *I Don't Have Enough Faith*, page 302-303
- *Swoon or Apparent Death Theory*
 - This theory states that Jesus didn't really die on the cross. In other words, he was still alive when he was placed in the tomb, but he somehow escaped and convinced his disciples that he had risen from the dead.
 - Read *I Don't Have Enough Faith*, page 305

Skeptical Theories About the Resurrection

- *The Disciples Stole the Body*
 - This theory states that the disciples stole Jesus' body.
 - Read *I Don't Have Enough Faith*, pages 306-307
- *A Substitute Took Jesus' Place on the Cross*
 - This theory states that Jesus was not crucified, but someone like Judas was killed in his place. Many Muslims offer this theory.
 - Read *I Don't Have Enough Faith*, pages 310-311
- *The New Testament Writers Copied Pagan Resurrection Myths*
 - This theory states that the New Testament writers merely copied pagan resurrection myths.

Explanations For the Empty Tomb

A Human Work

1. Removed by enemies—No Motive
2. Removed by friends—No Power

A Divine Work

1. Most Logical Explanation
2. Scriptures Teach that Jesus Miraculously Rose From the Dead