

“The Messiah Arises”

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Scripture

John 20:1-20

“Now on the first day of the week **Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb**, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb. So, she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." So, **Peter and the other disciple went forth**, and they were going to the tomb. The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in. And so **Simon Peter also came**, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed. **For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.** So, the disciples went away again to their own homes.

But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." **When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus.**

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away." **Jesus said to her, "Mary!"** She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, '**I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.**'" Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and that He had said these things to her.

So, when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, **Jesus came and stood in their midst** and said to them, "**Peace be with you.**" And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. **The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord."**

He Is Risen

“He is Risen, indeed”

The story of the Resurrection is a joyful one

Mary goes to the tomb, the Apostle John goes to the tomb, Peter goes to the tomb

Jesus is no longer there – The Messiah arises from the dead!

Sometimes, it's hard to believe God's promises, isn't it?

Resurrection was promised in the Old Testament:

Psalm 16:10

"For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay."

Jesus, the Holy One, would not undergo decay

Even those who go into the ground, will arise:

Daniel 12:2-3

"Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt. Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."

Isaiah 25:8-9

"**He will swallow up death for all time**, And the Lord GOD will wipe tears away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken. And it will be said in that day, "Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation."

New Testament – Some did not believe in the Resurrection:

Acts 23:6-8

"Paul began crying out in the Council, "Brethren, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees; **I am on trial for the hope and resurrection of the dead!**" As he said this, there occurred a dissension between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. **For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection**, nor an angel, nor a spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all."

Some still do not believe in the Resurrection today

"Easter" – Meaning

Originally a Saxon word (Eostre), denoting a goddess of the Saxons, in honor of whom sacrifices were offered about the time of the Passover during the Spring Equinox

OR

The Norse eostur, eastur, or ostara, which meant "the season of the growing sun" or "the season of new birth"

Even though it has pagan roots, we celebrate the Lord's Resurrection

I explain Easter as an acronym -> EA.S.T.ER

Rooted in the Gospel

EA -> Earthly Arrival

Jesus came to Earth as the Promised Child

He was the Chosen One!

Matthew 1:21-25

“**She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus**, for He will save His people from their sins.” Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,” which translated means, “GOD WITH US.” And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.”

The Old Testament promise from **Isaiah 7:14** is fulfilled in Jesus’s birth

Immanuel means “God with Us” -> that God would come down from Heaven to Earth to be with us

Amazing Love for His own!

Philippians 2:5-7

“Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, **but emptied Himself**, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.”

He came from Glory and Emptied Himself

John 3:16-17

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. **For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.**”

We need to understand that He came to save!

Easter is a celebration of Jesus coming to save us!

S -> **Sacrifice** and a **Substitutionary Sacrifice**

Jesus willingly gave up His life for us

Ephesians 5:2

“**Christ loved us and gave himself up for us**, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God”

He went to the cross out of love

John 15:13

“Greater love has no one than this, **that someone lay down his life for his friends.**”

It was the greatest example of love that could be shown

Philippians 2:8

“Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

He is the God of Glory and yet He humbled Himself

Not only to come TO Earth but also to obediently go TO THE CROSS

1 Peter 2:24

“He himself **bore our sins in his body on the tree**, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. **By His wounds you have been healed**”

It was our sin that took Him to the cross

1 John 4:10

“In this is love, not that we have loved God but that **he loved us** and sent his Son **to be the propitiation for our sins**”

His sacrifice paid for us -> a ransom

Ephesians 1:7-8

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, **the forgiveness of our trespasses**, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us.”

We have redemption from Jesus -> forgiveness of our sins

2 Corinthians 5:21

“**He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf**, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

The Father treated Jesus as a sinner even though He was sinless

So that we could have His righteousness

Easter is a celebration of Jesus's Sacrifice for us!

T -> **Transaction** or the Great Transaction

Salvation is offered in the Old Testament:

Isaiah 55:1-3

“Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and **you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost.** "Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and delight yourself in abundance. "Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live; **and I will make an everlasting covenant with you**, according to the faithful mercies shown to David.”

Salvation is offered in the New Testament:

Acts 3:18-20

“But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. "Therefore, repent and return, **so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord**; and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you”

Our sins can be wiped away by exchanging our life for Jesus's life – Repent and Return

Matthew 26:26-28

“Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.” And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, **which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.**”

Jesus at the Last Supper, his body and blood shed so that we may be forgiven and receive eternal life in Him

Without exchanging our life for Jesus’s life, we are on our own:

Romans 6:23

“For **the wages of sin is death**, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Easter is a celebration of the offer to exchange our life for His!

ER -> **Eventual Resurrection**

Jesus Is Risen!

What does that mean for us?

Ephesians 2:4-7

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), **and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus**, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

We have been raised with Him (spiritually)

2 Corinthians 4:13-14

“We also believe, therefore we also speak, **knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus** and will present us with you.”

We will be raised with Him (physically)

Romans 6:5

“For if we have become united with [Him] in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection”

As Jesus said:

John 11:25

“Jesus said to her, “**I am the resurrection and the life**; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies”

Not much of a hurdle to jump over to see that eventual resurrection also means:

ER -> also means **Eternal Rewards**

1 John 2:25

“**This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.**”

John 10:28

“I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.”

Jude 1:21

“Keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ **to bring you to eternal life.**”

Easter is a celebration of Jesus’s Resurrection – and looking forward to our Resurrection!

Importance of the Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:12-17

“Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But **if there is no resurrection of the dead**, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.”

“For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.”

The resurrection is critical to faith in Jesus -> **without the Resurrection, we are all dead in our sins -> no hope**

John 11:24 (Lazarus will rise again)

“Martha said to Him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day’”

John 6:44

“I will raise him [the believer] up on the last day”

We need Jesus to get to Heaven

We need Jesus to experience the fruits of Heaven here on Earth

Galatians 5:22-23

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

EASTER:

Earthly Arrival,
Sacrifice,
Transaction, and
Eventual Resurrection

Salvation is Available to You Today

Salvation Prayer

Benediction