



Making **Easter** Sense



Introduction

To help make sense of Easter, one must

1. Understand the Facts on Easter – was it true or fictional?
2. Understand the Reason for Easter – why was Jesus Death / Resurrection so important?
3. Understand the application of Easter – what does it mean to me?



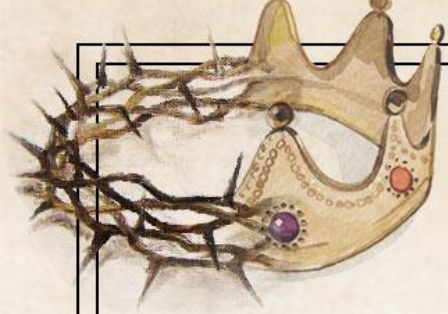
1 Corinthians 15

¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain and your faith also is in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised



1 Corinthians 15

¹⁷and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.



If Christ were not raised from the Dead:

1. Our preaching is useless
2. Our Faith is useless
3. We are False witnesses
4. Our Faith is in vain
5. We are still in our sins
6. The dead in Christ are lost / perished
7. We are the most pitied of all men



Christ Death, Burial and Resurrection is the
BOTTOM LINE of Christianity!!



Facts On Easter

- Jesus Lives
- Jesus Died
- Jesus Rose Again



Jesus Life

Secular Historian

- Josephus – Jewish Orthodox Historian
- Tacitus – Roman Historian
- Pliny the Younger – Roman Official
- Lucian – Greek Historian / Philosopher
- Suetonius – Roman Historian



Jesus Life

Secular Historian

- Talmud – Jewish
- Letter of Mara Basarapion – Syrian, writings are in British Museum
- Thallus – Writer / Historian
- Phlegonetc



Jesus was known to be a historical figure who:

- Was wise
- Went about teaching
- Performed Miracles
- Is Virtuous
- Had disciples / followers
- Crucified during Pilate's reign



Jesus Death

- The Trial
- The Scourging



Jesus Death

“The adjudged criminal was usually first forcefully stripped of his clothes, and then tied to the post or pillar in the tribunal. Then the awful and cruel scourging was administered by the lectors or scourgers ... The Victim was at the mercy of the scourgers!

The brutal instrument used to scourge the victim was called a flagrum. It can readily be seen that the long, lashing pieces of bone and metal would greatly lacerate human flesh!” - *John Mattingly*



Jesus Death

“.. the sufferer’s veins were laid bare, and .. the very muscles, sinews and bowels of the victim were open to exposure...” - *Bishop Eusebius*



Jesus Death

- The Journey to Golgotha with a Heavy Cross
- The Crucifixion



Jesus Death

“For indeed a death by crucifixion seems to include all that pain and death can have of horrible and ghastly – dizziness, cramp, thirst, starvation, sleeplessness, traumatic fever, tetanus, publicity of shame, long continuous of torment, horror of anticipation, mortification of unattended wounds – all intensified just up to the point at which they can be endured at all, but all stopping just short of the point which would give to the sufferer the relief of unconsciousness.



Jesus Death

The unnatural position made every moment painful; the lacerated veins and crushed tendons throbbed with incessant anguish; the wounds, inflame by exposure, gradually gangrened; the arteries – especially at the head and stomach – became swollen and oppressed with surcharged blood; and while each variety of misery went on gradually increasing, there was added to them the intolerable pang of a burning and raging thirst;



Jesus Death

and all these physical complications caused an internal excitement and anxiety which made the prospect of death itself – of death, the unknown enemy, at whose approach man usually shudders most – bear the aspect of a delicious and exquisite release” Farrar Frederick, Researcher



The Death Checks

- The Spear that pierced Christ side is to ensure He is dead
- Roman soldiers were professionals in determining one's death on the Cross; 4 soldiers have to examined Him, issued a death certificate, prior the removal of His Body



The Burial

- Joseph Aromathea is a real historical person with a definite burial location
- The spices used was about 100lb, tightly wrapped in linen cloth



The Guards

- The Seal – Roman Emperor's Authority
- The Stone
- The Unit of Guards



Jesus' Resurrection

Act 1:3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.



Resurrection Facts:

1. Broken Roman Seal
 - a. If it's really the Disciples who stole Christ's Body, will they be seen preaching publicly and not incurring the wrath of the Roman authority!
2. The Large Stone Removed



Resurrection Facts:

3. Empty Tomb

- a. The Empty tomb is a definite location where others can visit and verify
- b. The Disciples did not preach the Gospel elsewhere, except Jerusalem; where the empty tomb is!!

4. The Grave Cloth



Resurrection Facts:

5. Jesus' appearance to many people
 - Jesus seen by eye witnesses
 - Mary and another woman
 - Peter
 - John
 - 2 disciples on the Road to Emmaus
 - Apostles without Thomas



Resurrection Facts:

5. Jesus' appearance to many people
 - Apostles with Thomas
 - The 7 apostles by the Lake of Tiberias
 - More than 500 men at Mt Galilean
 - James
 - The 11 apostles at the Ascension
 - Paul
 - John on Island of Patmos



Resurrection Facts:

6. The Disciples Commitment to preach Christ's Resurrections

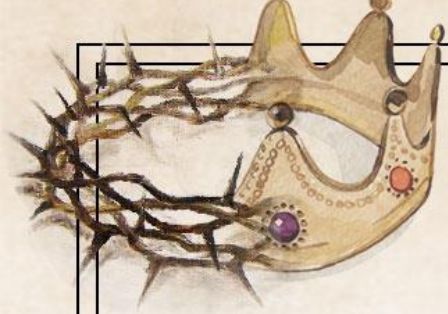
- James (Half-brother Of Jesus): stoned and clubbed to death
- Paul: beheaded
- Simon Peter: crucified upside down
- Andrew: crucified
- Matthew: killed by the sword



Resurrection Facts:

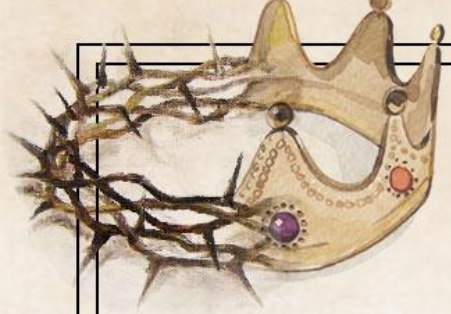
6. The Disciples Commitment to preach Christ's Resurrections

- John: died of natural causes in exile
- James: (son of Alphaeus): crucified
- Phillip: crucified
- Simon: crucified
- Thaddeus: killed by arrows
- Thomas: killed by spear thrust



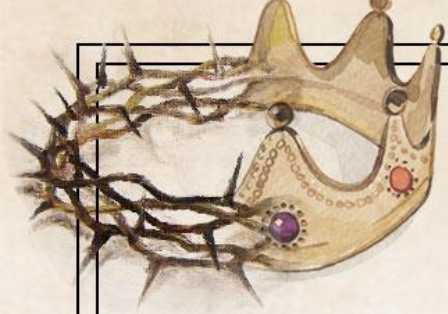
Resurrection Facts:

6. The Disciples Commitment to preach Christ's Resurrections
 - Bartholomew: crucified
 - James (Sons of Zebedee): killed by the sword
7. The Incredible Growth of the 1st century Church



There were numerous theories against Christ Resurrection:

1. The Hallucination Theory
2. The Wrong Tomb Theory
3. The Swoon Theory
4. The Theft Theory



There were numerous theories against Christ Resurrection:

“After more than 700 hours of studying this subject, I have come to the conclusion that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is either one of the most wicked, vicious, heartless hoaxes ever foisted on the minds of human beings--or it is the most remarkable fact of history.”

- Josh McDowell



There were numerous theories against Christ Resurrection:

A student at the University of Uruguay said to me.
“Professor McDowell, why can’t you refute Christianity?”

“For a very simple reason, “I answered. I am not able to explain away an event in history -- the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”



Significance of Easter

Death Conquered Life Given

Hebrew 2:14, Since therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same things, that through **death** He might destroy the one who has the power of **death**, that is, the devil,

1 John 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave us **eternal life**, and this **life** is in his Son.



Response to Easter

1 Corinthians 1

²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.



Response to Easter

1. Offended



Response to Easter

1. Offended
2. Crazy – intellectual suicide



Response to Easter

1. Offended
2. Crazy – intellectual suicide
3. Power to set us free



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