



Revealing Words Bible Study

“The Easter Story”

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The Easter Story

In much of the secular world, Easter is known as a cheerful spring holiday filled with pastel colors, egg hunts, candy, and images of rabbits symbolizing new life. These traditions trace back to ancient spring festivals that celebrated the end of winter and the renewal of the earth. As Christianity spread, early Christians celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus during the same season due to the fact that Jesus rose from the grave during the Passover season. Over time, the cultural and religious observances blended on the calendar. While the secular symbols focused on nature’s rebirth, our Christian celebration centers on a far deeper and eternal kind of new life. One that comes not from the earth but from the empty tomb.

The traditional Christian Easter story begins the week before the Resurrection, on what we Christians call Palm Sunday. Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey as crowds waved palm branches and shouted “Hosanna,” welcoming Him as their long-awaited King. A few days later, He shared the Last Supper with His disciples, breaking bread and offering the cup as symbols of His body and blood soon to be given for the world. Betrayed, arrested, and unjustly condemned, Jesus was crucified on Calvary, where He willingly laid down His life. But the story did not end in the tomb. On the third day, the stone was rolled away, and Jesus rose from the dead, appearing to His followers and hundreds more proving that death could not hold Him.

But God’s plan started even before the traditional Christian Easter Story. The *Easter Story* can even be found in the story of Abraham and Isaac in the book of Genesis where God tested Abraham by commanding him to take his beloved son Isaac to the region of Moriah and offer him as a sacrifice. In remarkable obedience, Abraham prepared the altar, bound Isaac, and raised the knife, fully trusting God even when he didn’t understand. At the very moment of sacrifice, God intervened, calling out for Abraham to stop and providing a ram caught in a thicket to offer instead. Through this, God affirmed Abraham’s faith and renewed His promise to bless him and his descendants (Genesis 22:1-19). The Easter Story continues in the Book of Exodus when God prepared to deliver the Israelites from slavery in Egypt through a final, devastating plague: the death of every firstborn. To protect His people, God commanded each household to take an unblemished lamb, one without defect and precious to the family, and sacrifice it. They were to place the lamb’s blood on the top of the doorframe and the doorposts, forming a covering over the entrance of the home. God promised that when death passed through Egypt, “The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will come upon you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.” (Exodus 12:13, NASB). The lamb’s blood did not just mark the home; it symbolized that a life had already been given in place of the firstborn inside. Death had no claim where the blood was

applied. This powerful act became the foundation of Israel's identity and worship, remembered every year as God's great rescue.

This moment in history was not only a deliverance for Israel; it was a prophetic picture pointing directly to Jesus. The New Testament says, "...Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29, NASB). Jesus was crucified during Passover week, fulfilling the symbolism with perfect precision. Like the Passover lamb, He was unblemished, sinless, and offered as a sacrifice. His blood, shed on the cross, became the covering for all who believe. Just as the Israelites trusted God's promise and applied the lamb's blood to their doorposts, we apply the truth of Jesus' sacrifice to our hearts through faith. And just as death passed over the homes marked by the lamb's blood, eternal death has no power over those who belong to Christ. Because Jesus conquered death through His resurrection, those who trust in Him share in that victory. The Passover lamb saved Israel from physical death for a night; Jesus, the true Passover Lamb, saves us from spiritual death for eternity.

The Resurrection is the centerpiece of our Christian faith and it is the event that sets it apart from every other belief system. Jesus did not merely claim to be a prophet or a wise teacher, He declared Himself to be God and foretold that He would rise again on the third day and He did exactly what He said. His resurrection is the ultimate confirmation of His deity and His authority over sin and death. Because He took our place on Calvary, bearing the punishment we deserved, those who believe in Him share in His victory. His triumph becomes our triumph. His life becomes our life. Through faith in His finished work, we too overcome sin and death, not by our own strength but because Jesus has already conquered them for us.

For us Christians, Easter is more than a holiday; it is a sacred reminder of the most important event in human history. Jesus was not simply a good man, a gifted teacher, or a miracle worker. He was and is the Son of God, and His sacrifice on the cross forever changed the destiny of humanity. Through His death and resurrection, the barrier between God and humanity was torn down, and reconciliation became possible. We remember Calvary not with sorrow but with gratitude, because Jesus took our place when death was our sentence. Easter calls us to live in the light of that truth, to hold fast to the hope purchased for us, and to never forget the love that changed everything.

Bible Study Questions:

1. How does the secular celebration of Easter (rooted in springtime symbols of new life) contrast with our Christian meaning of Easter, especially in light of Romans 12:2 (NASB): "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect"?

2. What does Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday reveal about His kingship, especially when reading Matthew 21:9 (NASB), "Now the crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David; Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest!"?"

3. How does the Last Supper deepen your understanding of Jesus' mission, in light of Luke 22:19 (NASB), "And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body, which is being given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."?"

4. What does Jesus' willingness to suffer on Calvary teach us about sacrificial love, especially when reflecting on Isaiah 53:5 (NASB), "But He was pierced for our offenses, He was crushed for our wrongdoings; The punishment for our well-being was laid upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed."?"

5. How does the resurrection account challenge the idea that Easter is merely a cultural holiday, especially when reading Matthew 28:6 (NASB), "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying."?"

6. Why is it significant that Jesus predicted His own resurrection, as seen in Mark 8:31 (NASB), “And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise from the dead.”?

7. How does the resurrection set Christianity apart from other religions, especially in light of John 11:25 (NASB), “Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; the one who believes in Me will live, even if he dies”?

8. What does it mean to you personally that Jesus took your place on Calvary, as described in 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NASB), “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin in our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”?

9. How does Romans 6:4 (NASB), “Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life” shape your understanding of overcoming sin and death through Jesus?

10. Why is it essential to remember that Jesus was more than a teacher or miracle worker, especially when considering Hebrews 1:3 (NASB), “And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high”?

11. How does the truth that Jesus reconciled us to God through His death and resurrection, as stated in Romans 5:10 (NASB), inspire you to live differently, “For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”?

12. In light of Galatians 2:20 (NASB), which says, “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me,” how does your daily life reflect the reality that Jesus gave His life for you, and what areas of your heart or habits still need to be surrendered so that your life is truly worth the price He paid on the cross?