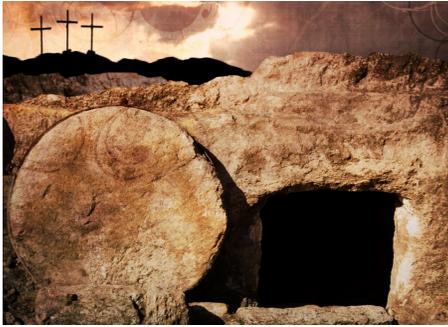


## Why is Easter so important?



Why is Easter So Important? On April 1, 2018 billions of people will be celebrating Easter. What's the big deal about it? When Jesus Christ rose from the grave after being dead for three days, it proved who He said He was.

John 8:25 *"Tell us who you are," they demanded. Jesus replied, "I'm the one I've always claimed to be. When you have killed the Messiah you'll realize that I am he."*

Jesus made some incredibly outrageous claims while He was here on earth. He said things like *"I'm perfect... I'm the savior of the world... I'm the only way to Heaven... I'm God."* *"Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one gets to God the father*

*except by means of me."* No religious leader ever made that kind of claim. No other leader claimed to be God. Buddha never claimed to be God, Mohammed never claimed to be God. Jesus made some outrageous claims. When He said, *"I am the way, the truth, the life"* -- the only way to heaven, that doesn't leave many options. There's not a whole lot of middle ground there. You either say, "Yes, He was who He said He was" or "No, He's not". He's either who He says He was -- the Lord -- or He's a liar or lunatic. Jesus said *"The way you'll know that I am who I say I am is I'm not going to stay dead. I'll come back to life after three days in the grave."*

He doesn't say, I am a way. He says "I am the way." There are a lot of people who will say, "I believe Jesus was a good teacher." There's only one problem with that. He didn't make that claim. He didn't claim to be a good teacher. He claimed to be God. If He wasn't who He said He was a fraud. When Jesus made statements like "I'm God", He's either who He said He was or He was the biggest fraud who ever lived.

He said in Mark 10:34 *"They will mock and flog and kill me but after three days I will come back to life again."* Why did they crucify Jesus Christ anyway? They crucified Him because of what He claimed. He claimed to be God. The religious leaders had two options. Either fall down and worship Him or kill the guy -- get rid of Him. There wasn't any alternative. So rather than worship Him, they killed Him.

The only problem was, He didn't stay dead. Three days later He came back to life. There's some humor in the Easter story. Can you imagine being a religious leader. You've publicly executed this guy in front of thousands of people. Everybody knows He's dead. He's in the tomb. And three days later you bump into Him on the street! The Bible says that the Romans put a large stone in front of the tomb and they put a seal over it and they put a 24 hour guard around it. They were only postponing the inevitable. He said, "I'm going to come back to life."

He said, *"I am the Son of God. Don't believe me unless I do the miracles of God."* Jesus said, *"Here's what I claim and here's what I'm going to do to prove it. If I don't do it, I'm not God. I'm a fraud."*

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a matter of public record. This was not something done in secret. It was big headlines in the Jerusalem Times. The whole city knew about it. Eventually the whole Roman Empire knew about it. It was big, big news. The guy was publicly executed and three days later He's walking around again. If CNN had been there it would have been live on mini cam. There are at least 15 incidences in the Bible alone of what Jesus did after He came back to life. He walked around Jerusalem for awhile, He talked to people, He ate with people. They touched Him. One time He spoke to over 500 people. This was common news.

Even if you don't accept the resurrection as a historical fact, do you realize you use Jesus Christ as a reference point every single day of your life? Every time you write out a check, every time you write down a date -- i.e. April 1, 2018 -- 2018 from what? Jesus Christ, the resurrection. It is the most significant event in history. It split all of history into A.D. and B.C. It's the most important event in history because God came to earth, walked around, and to prove He was God He was crucified and came back to life and walked around some more. Whether you believe it or not you still use Jesus Christ as a reference point every single day of your life. So what? How is this news that I can use?

Jesus, by resurrecting from the dead, not only proved He was who He said He was but it validates what He said was the truth. If Jesus wasn't who He said He was then how can you trust anything else He says. If He said, "I'm God" and then He didn't rise back to life how could you know you could trust anything else He said? Yet He did and since He proved He was who He said He was then we can be certain that what He says is the truth because God doesn't lie.

Because of Easter you can know God personally, you can be forgiven, you can start over and you can go to heaven when you die. If you have never accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior you can do so by praying this prayer:

"Dear God, Thank You for sending Your Son Jesus Christ to earth. I believe Jesus was who He said He was and proved it by rising from death. I want to discover and begin following Your plan and purpose for my life. I want to get to know You personally. Thank You, Jesus Christ, for dying for me and forgiving all my sins. I accept You as my Lord and Savior, and Your free gift of eternal life. Amen."