

APRIL 12, 2020

EASTER 2020

NORTH RIVER BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH



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"HE IS NOT HERE, BUT IS RISEN"

"He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again."

LUKE 24:6-7





Why Easter?

BY PASTOR DR. JOHN A. GEETER, JR.

Because Jesus really died and rose from the dead on the third day. Around 26 A.D., His family, friends and enemies saw Him die. They witnessed His whipping, beating, and crucifixion. Medical science research shows that water and blood coming out of the heart indicates puncture of the pericardium. The Jews made burial preparations for Him and the women brought 100 pounds of spices and linen to anoint His body after the Sabbath. The Governor, Pilate, in pleasing the Religious Leaders, made His burial public, sealed and secure. Joseph of Arimathea's tomb was used to lay His body in a high-profile, rich, secret disciple. The tombstone's size and weight would have taken 20 men to roll away and the supposed penalty for its guards sleeping on the job was death. However, since they could not refuse Jesus' Words, they were given great sums of money to say that His disciples stole the body while they were asleep. Jesus' resurrection was evident when He appeared to the

women, Peter, the two on the road to Emmaus, the 11 apostles, and over 500 eyewitnesses at once, in 12 different locations, all over 40 days. Nothing else could have transformed His cowardly disciples other than an authentic resurrection. Soon after this was the conversion of Saul of Tarsus and the establishment of many Gentile churches.

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Evidence of the Resurrection

THERE WAS AN EMPTY TOMB

The founders of all “religions” are buried in tombs or had their ashes sprinkled over foreign lands. Not Jesus; the truth is that the tomb was empty.

THE TOMB HAD A ROMAN SEAL

Clay or mortar was affixed to a rope (stretched across a rock) and to the tomb itself. The Roman seal was pressed into it. By breaking the seal, you break the law. By breaking the law, you die.

THE TOMB HAD SEVERAL ROMAN GUARDS STATIONED

In shifts, four men stood by the tomb around the clock. Experts in both torture and combat and not easily frightened, to fall asleep or leave their post would result in their own execution.

A STONE COVERED THE TOMB

The stone weighed about 2 tons (4,000 pounds) and stood seven or eight feet tall. It required more than several men to be moved.

POST-RESURRECTION APPEARANCES

Jesus appeared to over 500 people simultaneously, unable to be a hallucination. His disciples ate with Him, walked with Him and touched Him. Jesus cooked a fish fry (John 21:9) to re-commission Peter.

THE APOSTLES' MARTYDROM

Why experience a gruesome and painful death only to protect a lie? They were beheaded, fed to lions, boiled in oil, crucified upside down and burned alive.

SUNDAY WORSHIP INSTITUTED

Jews abandoned the Sabbath on the last day of the week, Saturday, and they began resting/worshipping on the first day, Sunday.

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THE CHURCH PREVAILED

If the Resurrection was a lie it would have died off long ago. The Christian Church is the largest institution today. Beginning with the apostles, the Pentecost, and still flourishing. It has conquered empires, withstood attacks (inside and out) and continues to grow, guided by the Holy Spirit. Like its Founder, Christ, it is both human and divine.

JESUS PROPHESED HIS PURPOSE & FUTURE

"And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again." (Mark 8:31)

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES

Hundreds of prophecies were offered centuries apart by God's prophets including Isaiah, Jeremiah, Zechariah, Hosea, Micah and more.

RESURRECTION IS UNIQUE TO CHRISTIANITY

No other religious leader ever backed up their "religious claim" with resurrection. Christ rose from the dead.

ANIMAL SACRIFICES ENDED

Deuteronomy 6 required that animal sacrifices be offered annually to atone for sins. After the Resurrection, the Jews stopped offering animal sacrifices to God because Jesus became the ultimate sacrifice once and for all time.

THE RESURRECTION IS EMBEDDED IN OUR HEARTS AFTER CONVERSION

The Holy Spirit reveals Christ to us intimately and powerfully. Blind and hardened hearts will not see God until they acknowledge Him (2 Cor. 4).

JESUS LIVED A MIRACULOUS LIFE

He healed the blind, deaf and dumb. He fed the masses, cured the lepers, and forgave the sinners. He made the lame walk and brought the dead back to life. He multiplied food, walked on water, and calmed storms with His voice.

JESUS IS THE ANSWER FOR THE WORLD TODAY

There is no point in suffering without Jesus Christ. Apart from Christ, the mysteries of God are unexplainable. Jesus, Himself, is the escape from eternal death.