

If the Easter Story is True!

#3229 25 0420P

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1 Peter 1:9 *Receiving the end of your faith,*
John 11:25 *I am the resurrection, and the life*
John 20:26 *Then Jesus came, the doors being*
Matthew 28:6 *He is not here: for he is risen,*
Matthew 7:1 *Judge not, that ye be not judged*

1 What if the Easter story is true? What if God has a specific plan to save our soul and He completed *His* part?

1 What if our sins would eventually destroy us forever? And what if a trusting faith in Jesus is the only way to escape the coming wrath?

2 There is overwhelming evidence that the Resurrection of Jesus actually took place, and because it did, that event *should* have a tremendous impact on us; on our attitudes; on what we value; and on *every* aspect of our life.

1 Understanding that and accepting the Lamb of God to change our life, is the single most important thing we will ever do or decision we will ever make. Nothing can be compared to it in importance because our choice to *accept* or *reject* Jesus will affect us for an eternity.

2 The resurrection of Christ is the supporting *pillar* and the *cornerstone* of the Christian life, as it concerns having a close relationship with God by *faith* or being separated from Him by *sin*. Someone has to intervene to restore the relationship—a perfect *God* requires a perfect *sacrifice*.

3 The Easter story informs us that the required sacrifice was provided by Jesus. Everyone on the face of the earth must make a choice—and everyone *will make* a choice one way or the other.

4 The Resurrection cannot be denied, and its meaning is profound! It is the *story* of unselfish love; the *offer* of forgiveness; and an *invitation* to accept the Lord Jesus to save our soul.

5 To keep our faith and trust on Jesus is worth more than all the money and gold in the world. The apostle told us that our faith in God results in **AV 1 Peter 1:9** “*Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.*”

6 Looking closely into that Resurrection morning we will appreciate its profound meaning and the heartfelt emotions of those who experienced the greatest of all events.

7 The apostle said to a group **AV Acts 2:22** “*Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:*

8 **23** *Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.*”

9 Many others gave messages—in fact, the entire theme of the New Testament is the living hope all true believers have by faith in the living Savior. The foundation of this living hope is what Jesus said to the woman **AV John 11:25** “*I am the resurrection, and the life.*”

10 Four gospel writers present the Resurrection in a unique way as the Holy Spirit inspired the

account. Each one wrote about certain elements to reinforce a spiritual truth that God wanted to convey.

11 **AV Matthew 28:1** “*In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.*”

12 Jewish people did not use names like Sunday, Monday, or Tuesday, but named them numerically—like one day after the Sabbath, or two days before the Sabbath, etc.

13 Ten hours may have passed since sundown Saturday—this is the third day the Lord has been *in the grave*. He was there *part* of Friday, *all* of the Sabbath, and to sunrise Sunday.

14 **AV Mark 16:2** “*And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.*” **Luke 24:1; John 20:1.**

15 Whatever took place that morning it was at the breaking of day. It is the *third day*, and many times Jesus said He would rise three days later.

16 The women who were there loved the Lord; they had followed Him everywhere. They had been at the cross when He died, and they were there when He was buried. Now they are back—loyal, devoted, but broken in heart.

17 These women arrive at daybreak to weep; to pray; and to just *be there*. They intended to anoint the body, but Joseph and Nicodemus had already done that.

18 They were walking along in the darkness **Mark 16** and discussing how to move the stone. They did not know it was guarded by soldiers and sealed and could not be opened.

19 They just thought of needing someone to move the massive stone. What they lacked in faith, they made up in courage, compassion, and commitment.

20 **AV Matthew 28:2** “*And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord*

descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.”

21 This is the second quake in three days. When God moves, the earth shakes. The song says: *God is going to shake the whole world up;* Lampa; Live For You.

22 The epicenter of the quake was at the tomb, so the women felt it. No one actually saw the Resurrection nor witnessed Jesus coming out of the tomb.

23 The angel moved the stone—not to let the Lord *out* but to let the disciples *in*.

24 When the disciples gathered eight days after the Resurrection AV John 20:26 “*Then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.*”

25 The same way He came *through* the wall of the room is the same way He went *out* of the door of the tomb.

26 As the women approach the tomb, they see it is open, the stone rolled aside, and an angel sitting on it.

27 Mary Magdalene was impulsive —she sees only that the stone is moved and the grave empty. She runs back to Simon Peter AV John 20:2 “*They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.*”

28 AV Matthew 28:3 “*His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow.*”

29 They see a blazing flash of lightning—the Shekinah glory of God—like the face of Moses when coming down from the mountain.

30 The women were startled and **4** “*For fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. 5 And the angel answered and said unto the women [not the guards], Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.*”

31 This angel was a witness of the greatest event in human history. What the guards witnessed terrified them! The women also feared, but the angel

says, “*Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.*”

32 At this point, Mary Magdalene is running back to the disciples while the angel assures the others, *I understand why you are here. You want to see Jesus.*

33 They are relieved to hear that and also AV Matthew 28:6 “*He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.*”

34 We can only think of AV Romans 6:4 “*Like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*”

35 OR NKJV 1 Peter 1:3 “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*”

36 The first angel is joined by a second—AV Luke 24:4 “*Behold, two men stood by them in shining garments.*”

37 The Ark of the Covenant in the OT and on both sides of the Mercy Seat there were angels.

38 Here in the empty tomb that morning with an angel on one side, an angel on the other, and Christ in the middle—is the Mercy Seat where Jesus paid the price for all sin.

39 Matthew 28:7 The angel says, “*Go quickly and tell his disciples: He has risen from the dead!*”

40 The women may have been tempted to *resent* the disciples’ absence and of their fleeing when Jesus needed them. The women could have thought, *Let them wait for the good news—We are the ones who stood by the Master.*

41 They forgot the words of their Master: AV Matthew 7:1 “*Judge not, that ye be not judged.*” Or AV Luke 6:37 “*Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven.*”

42 The angel says *Go quickly and tell his disciples*. We might think: Why were the women the first to meet the angel or see the Savior?

43 Many give opinions: *God rewards the faithful and the women were faithful to the Lord;* or *The deepest sorrow deserves the greatest joy.* The truth is *Because they were there!*

44 If we are *not there*, we will *not* experience the event. They were *there*, so they *saw, heard, and rejoiced!*

45 The closer we stay to the Lord, the more we experience His power. When we draw close to Him, He draws close to us.

46 By God’s mercy, grace, and forgiveness—we assemble today to worship as one, to pray in the Spirit, and to be blessed by God—as He can work in mighty ways when we gather in His Name.

47 May God enable us to see the importance of *being there* for whatever it is—whether it be at home with the family; at church for services; or to be there for anyone who needs us. We want to follow the example of loyal followers of the Lord.

48 The women *heard* the angel, *saw* the Savior, and they *experienced* the most profound event in the history of the world—*because they were there!*

49 May we be loyal enough to *be where Jesus is*, in the presence of His Spirit, and be faithful enough to follow where He leads, so we can experience all that He has for us while we look for the next major event—being raptured with the saints! *The Easter story is true!*

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