

Family reunions, holidays, hot cross buns, Easter eggs, and good food. Is this all that Easter is about?

Easter should be a time when the world remembers the sacrificial death of the Lord Jesus Christ for the sins of the world. He died that we might have life.

The Birth of Jesus

Centuries ago, prophets predicted that the Lord Jesus Christ would be born of a virgin in Bethlehem, a small town in Israel (see Micah 5:2; Isaiah 7:14). When the Lord Jesus Christ came to earth, angels heralded His birth, shepherds rejoiced at His coming, and the wise men travelled long distances to worship the new born King (see Luke 2:8-20; Matthew 2:1-2).

Why Jesus was Born?

This child, named Jesus is God's Son, sent by God Himself to die in the place of men, women, boys and girls so that they might be saved from their sins (see John 3:16). In dying on the cross, the Lord Jesus Christ took on Himself the punishment for sin that sinners deserve (see 1 Peter 3:18).



After His death, the Lord Jesus Christ was buried in a tomb in Jerusalem. However, three days later, God raised Him victoriously from the dead, confirming that the price for sin had been paid (see Mark 16:6; Luke 24:45-46). Following His death and resurrection, Jesus appeared to many people including his disciples and then ascended into heaven (see 1 Corinthians 15:3-6; Acts 1:9-11).

Messiah: Mighty Warrior or Meek Lamb?

At Christ's birth, Israel was looking for a warrior to rescue her from oppressive Rome. Jesus did not come as a conquering king, however, but as a meek servant - and most of Israel didn't recognize Him as Messiah (see John 1:11). Many in the world today still do not recognise Him as Lord and Saviour.



The prophets did foresee the promised Messiah as a Lion and conquering King (see Psalm 2; Genesis 49:9; Revelation 5:5). But they also described another aspect of Him: Messiah would be a Suffering Servant (Isaiah 53:1-12). His first coming wasn't about making the world peaceful, but making peace between God and man (see John 3:17).

Why No Peace?

Why do we lack peace? Our moral failings, called sin, have made us enemies to a Holy God (see Romans 3:23). There is a rift between God and man that cannot be repaired by religion or all the good things we may do (see Ephesians 2:8-9).

Sin taints everything. Our sin affects our families, our city, and our nation. It's that bad - we're all guilty. We will answer to a Holy God. Jesus came to give Himself as a sacrifice for our sins. He made peace possible between each of us and God. As Lamb of God (see John 1:29) He conquered our worst enemy, sin. Through Him, God offers reconciliation to any who will believe in Jesus and receive Him as Lord (see John 1:12; 3:16).

Eternal Life—God's Greatest Gift

The Lord Jesus Christ was born to suffer and die for all the sins of mankind. His sacrifice was the payment for all our sins, and is the only way we can make it into Heaven. It is a free gift of Jesus Christ: "For by grace are you saved through faith; and not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9).

'Grace' means a free gift, or undeserved favour. You can't earn Heaven—no one is good enough. Only Jesus, Who is fully God and fully man, has ever lived a perfect life. When we receive the gift of salvation, He imputes his righteousness to us. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23) To accept His forgiveness, turn to Christ to save you from your sins: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved." (Acts 16:31) He gave his life for you. There is no other way to Heaven: "Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no one comes to the Father, except through me." (John 14:6)

The Lord Jesus Christ's Second Coming

Just as prophets predicted that He would come into the world, Jesus Himself said that He would come again to the earth (see Matthew 24:30). His first coming was to pay the price for sin. His second coming is to judge the world. Those who are saved from their sins by the Lord Jesus Christ look forward to this day. They know that when they stand before Him they will be found "not guilty" (see Hebrews 9:27-28). *Are you ready for that day? Will you be acquitted?*



A Choice for Us

Each of us has a choice to make about Jesus. The bumper sticker may seem silly, but it is true:

No God, No Peace. Know God, Know Peace

Jesus is the foretold Prince of Peace. He can give you a peace that even frightening times cannot disturb. The question is, will you have Him as King of your life?

This year while you're celebrating Easter, remember why Jesus died. If you simply repent (turn from your sins) and put your faith in Jesus Christ as the one who took your punishment, He will save you from hell and give you abundant life forever. Jesus offers the greatest gift anyone could ever ask for. All you need to do is humbly accept it.

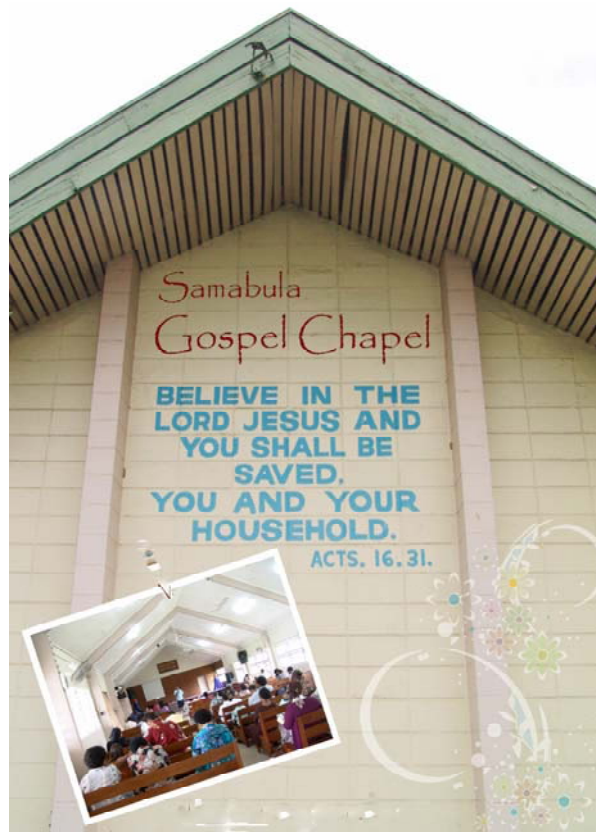
What to Pray?



Dear God, I am a sinner and need forgiveness. I believe that the Lord Jesus Christ shed His precious blood and died for my sin. I am willing to turn from sin. I now invite Christ to come into my heart and life as my personal Saviour.

If you have trusted Jesus as your Saviour, you have just begun a wonderful new life with Him. Now:

1. Read your bible everyday to get to know Jesus Christ better.
2. Talk to God in prayer every day.
3. Be baptised, worship, fellowship and serve with other Christians in a church where Christ is preached and the Bible is the final authority.
4. Tell others about the Lord Jesus Christ.



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