

Beyond the Basket
Why should I care about Easter
April 20, 2025
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1. The resurrection of Jesus is an _____

I Corinthians 15:3-7 "I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. ⁴ He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. ⁵ He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷ Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles."
(NLT=New Living Translation)

2. The resurrection of Jesus proves Jesus' _____

- Jesus claimed to be God

John 10:30-33 "The Father and I are one." Once again the people picked up stones to kill him. Jesus said, "At my Father's direction I have done many good works. For which one are you going to stone me?"³³ They replied, "We're stoning you not for any good work, but for blasphemy! You, a mere man, claim to be God." (NLT)

- Jesus claimed He could forgive sin

Matthew 9:4-6 "Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you have such evil thoughts in your hearts?"⁵ Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up and walk'?⁶ So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!" (NLT)

- Jesus claimed He could give us eternal life

John 4:14 "But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life." (NLT)

John 10:28 "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me." (NLT)

- Jesus claimed to have ultimate authority in heaven and on earth

Matthew 28:18 "Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth." (NLT)

- Jesus claimed to be the only exclusive pathway to heaven

John 14:6 "Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." (NLT)

Acts 4:12 "There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved." (NLT)

3. The resurrection of Jesus proves the crucifixion was _____

Colossians 2:13-14 "You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. ¹⁴ He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross." (NLT)

*I Peter 2:24 "He personally carried our sins in his body on the **cross** so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed." (NLT)*

I Corinthians 15:17 "And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins." (NLT)

4. The resurrection of Jesus provides an invitation to _____

John 10:10 "The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life." (NLT)

Matthew 11:28 "Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." (NLT)

John 4:10 "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water."

John 4:13-14 "Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. ¹⁴ But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life." (NLT)

John 5:39-40 "You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! ⁴⁰ Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life." (NLT)



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Discussion Questions:

1. How do we know the resurrection of Jesus was an actual historical event? Why is this important?
2. Jesus made five remarkable claims regarding Himself. Why is the resurrection so important to Jesus' claims?
3. Discuss why the crucifixion was all part of God's plan. Why was the crucifixion necessary?
4. What is the invitation God gives to us because of Easter? Share your own story regarding this.