

So What's Easter Really About Anyway?

Dads' UNI

Table Of Contents

Introduction	2
1. Easter is the fulfilment of the Jewish Feast of Passover	3
2. Easter is the fulfillment of many Old Testament Biblical Prophecies	4
3. Easter is the incredible culmination of a Perfect Life lived	7
4. Easter is where the Justice of God meets the Mercy of God	8
5. Easter was the fulfillment of God's Plan to restore Mankind into a Relationship with Him	9
6. Easter is where Mankind became able once again to enjoy the Life that God had always desired for them.	10
7. Easter is the Birth Place of the Church	11
Easter In the 21st Century	12
The Ministry Of Dads' UNI	13

What is Easter Really About?

Introduction

We now live in a generation where many people have grown up without an understanding or appreciation of the sacred truths involved in church life. In light of this, I thought it was time to offer a basic explanation of why Christians get so excited about Easter.

Below I have listed 7 points that reveal the miracle of Easter and how we can all benefit from it!



What's Easter Really About Anyway?

1. Easter is the fulfillment of the Jewish Feast of Passover

When the Nation of Israel was in slavery in Egypt for 400 years God sent Moses to deliver them and lead them out of bondage and into the promised land of Israel. Pharaoh, who was the ruler of Egypt refused to let God's people go, so God sent many plagues upon Egypt to force them to release His people. (Exodus Chapter 12)



Pharaoh had previously forced the Israelites to abandon all their male babies so that they would die, in an attempt to maintain easier control over the slave population. In light of Pharaoh's continued refusal to release His people, God's final judgment was the death of every firstborn child in Egypt. God protected Israel by commanding them to kill a sacrificial lamb and placing some of its blood upon the lintels and doorposts of their

homes as a sign to identify them from the Egyptians.

When the Angel of Death came over Egypt it saw the sacrificial blood on the Israelite's homes and Passed Over them before releasing God's judgment upon the firstborn of Egypt.

Jesus was identified by God's prophet John The Baptist as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" In the same way the blood of an innocent lamb protected God's people from judgment in Egypt 1,000's years earlier, so Jesus was destined to be our sacrificial lamb that we also might receive God's forgiveness and mercy and that His judgment would also pass over us. (John 1:29)

2. Easter is the fulfillment of many Old Testament Biblical Prophecies

For thousands of years, God's prophets had spoken of the one who would come to restore the nation of Israel to its former glory and make it a light to the world. Many of these prophecies predicted that the Messiah would come at a specific time, at a specific place, and in a specific way to deliver God's people out of the bondage of sin and restore the kingdom to Israel.

For those who would like to search the scriptures themselves, we have provided below 44 Biblical Prophecies relating to the coming of the Messiah (Hebrew) or Christ (Greek) with the specific scriptures in both the Old Testament and also its New Testament fulfillment.



What's Easter Really About Anyway?

Biblical Prophecies Fulfilled in Jesus Christ

- Messiah would be born of a woman. (Genesis 3:15) (Matthew 1:20) (Galatians 4:4)
- Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. (Micah 5:2) (Matthew 2:1) (Luke 2:4-6)
- Messiah would be born of a virgin. (Isaiah 7:14) (Matthew 1:22-23) (Luke 1:26-31)
- Messiah would come from the line of Abraham. (Genesis 12:3) (Genesis 22:18) (Matthew 1:1) (Romans 9:5)
- Messiah would be a descendant of Isaac. (Genesis 17:19) (Genesis 21:12) (Luke 3:34)
- Messiah would be a descendant of Jacob. (Numbers 24:17) (Matthew 1:2)
- Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah. (Genesis 49:10) (Luke 3:33) (Hebrews 7:14)
- Messiah would be heir to King David's throne. (2 Samuel 7:12-13) (Isaiah 9:7) (Luke 1:32-33) (Romans 1:3)
- Messiah's throne will be anointed and eternal. (Psalm 45:6-7) (Daniel 2:44) (Luke 1:33) (Hebrews 1:8-12)
- Messiah would be called Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14) (Matthew 1:23)
- Messiah would spend a season in Egypt. (Hosea 11:1) (Matthew 2:14-15)
- A massacre of children would happen at Messiah's birthplace. (Jeremiah 31:15) (Matthew 2:16-18)
- A messenger would prepare the way for Messiah (Isaiah 40:3-5) (Luke 3:3-6)
- Messiah would be rejected by his own people. (Psalm 69:8) (Isaiah 53:3) (John 1:11) (John 7:5)
- Messiah would be a prophet. (Deuteronomy 18:15) (Acts 3:20-22)
- Messiah would be preceded by Elijah. (Malachi 4:5-6) (Matthew 11:13-14)
- Messiah would be declared the Son of God. (Psalm 2:7) (Matthew 3:16-17)
- Messiah would be called a Nazarene. (Isaiah 11:1) (Matthew 2:23)
- Messiah would bring light to Galilee. (Isaiah 9:1-2) (Matthew 4:13-16)
- Messiah would speak in parables. (Psalm 78:2-4) (Isaiah 6:9-10) (Matthew 13:10-15, 34-35)
- Messiah would be sent to heal the brokenhearted. (Isaiah 61:1-2) (Luke 4:18-19)
- Messiah would be called King. (Psalm 2:6) (Zechariah 9:9) (Matthew 27:37) (Mark 11:7-11)

What's Easter Really About Anyway?

- Messiah would be praised by little children. (Psalm 8:2) (Matthew 21:16)
- Messiah would be betrayed. (Psalm 41:9) (Zechariah 11:12- 13) (Luke 22:47-48) (Matthew 26:14- 16)
- Messiah's price money would be used to buy a potter's field. (Zechariah 11:12- 13) (Matthew 27:9- 10)
- Messiah would be falsely accused. (Psalm 35:11) (Mark 14:57-58)
- Messiah would be silent before his accusers. (Isaiah 53:7) (Mark 15:4-5)
- Messiah would be spat upon and struck. (Isaiah 50:6) (Matthew 26:67)
- Messiah would be hated without cause. (Psalm 35:19) (Psalm 69:4) (John 15:24-25)
- Messiah would be crucified with criminals. (Isaiah 53:12) (Matthew 27:38) (Mark 15:27-28)
- Messiah would be given vinegar to drink. (Psalm 69:21) (Matthew 27:34) (John 19:28-30)
- Messiah's hands and feet would be pierced. (Psalm 22:16) (Zechariah 12:10) (John 20:25-27)
- Messiah would be mocked and ridiculed. (Psalm 22:7-8) (Luke 23:35)
- Soldiers would gamble for Messiah's garments. (Psalm 22:18) (Luke 23:34) (Matthew 27:35-36)
- Messiah's bones would not be broken. (Exodus 12:46) (Psalm 34:20) (John 19:33-36)
- Messiah would be forsaken by God. (Psalm 22:1) (Matthew 27:46)
- Messiah would pray for his enemies. (Psalm 109:4) (Luke 23:34)
- Soldiers would pierce Messiah's side. (Zechariah 12:10) (John 19:34)
- Messiah would be buried with the rich. (Isaiah 53:9) (Matthew 27:57- 60)
- Messiah would resurrect from the dead. (Psalm 16:10) (Psalm 49:15) (Matthew 28:2-7) (Acts 2:22-32, 42)
- Messiah would ascend to heaven. (Psalm 24:7-10) (Mark 16:19) (Luke 24:51)
- Messiah would be seated at God's right hand.(Psalm 68:18) (Psalm 110:1) (Mark 16:19) (Matthew 22:44)
- Messiah would be a sacrifice for sin. (Isaiah 53:5-12) (Romans 5:6-8)

Jesus fulfilled every prophecy about the coming of the Messiah and revealed that the Kingdom of God was at hand and available to all mankind.

3. Easter is the incredible culmination of a Perfect Life Lived

Jesus was born when God's Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary's womb in fulfillment of what was told to her by the Angel Gabriel. His birth was divine and that is why He is called the Son of God. However, Jesus was still a man and He was required to live a perfect sinless life, keeping all the commandments of God, that He might become mankind's replacement on the cross and fulfill God's righteous requirement. (Luke 1:26-38)

Giving His life for the sins of mankind was always Jesus' goal in life, and one that He alone was qualified to fulfill.

Jesus walked this world with kindness and humility, healing the sick, raising the dead, and performing many wonderful miracles. His life revealed the goodness and kindness of our Heavenly Father and showed His great desire for mankind to be reunited with their Creator. (Acts 10:38)

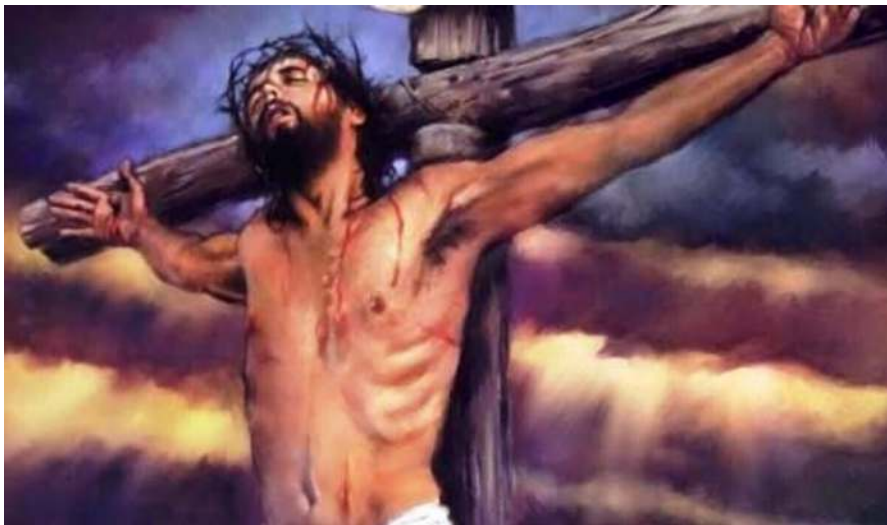


4. Easter is where the Justice of God meets the Mercy of God

God is the Creator and Judge of the whole world, and in that role, He requires that justice must be done. However, as our Heavenly Father, He also longs to show mercy if He can legally find a way to do it. He can not merely overlook wickedness and act like it doesn't happen. (Ezekiel 18:4) (Isaiah 53:6) (John 19:28-30)

Knowing that man had no way to pay for his sins, God prepared a way that mankind could receive His mercy and forgiveness while fully satisfying His requirement for Justice.

At Easter Jesus was crucified not for His own sins but the sins of all mankind, He was the perfect sinless sacrifice that was offered in our place to fulfill all the requirements of God's Justice and grant all mankind an opportunity to receive His Mercy! (Mark 8:31)

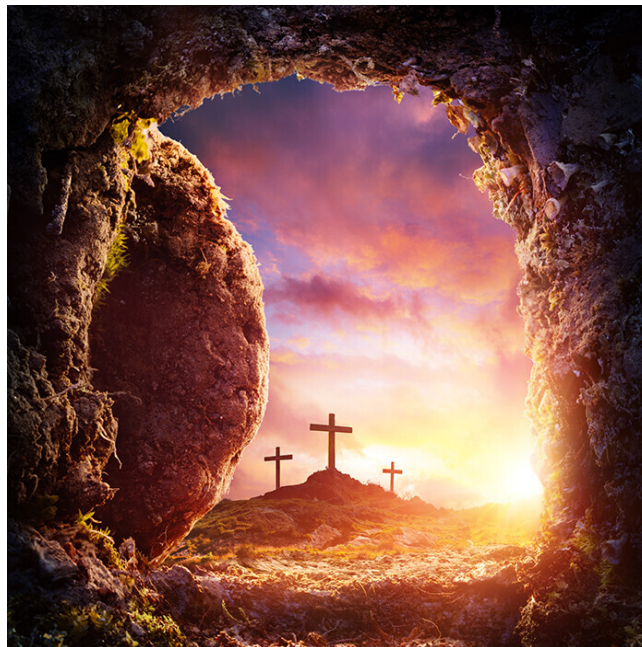


5. Easter was the fulfillment of God's Plan to restore Mankind into a Relationship with Him

Ever since Mankind fell into sin in the Garden of Eden, he has been estranged from God spiritually. When Adam and Eve sinned their very nature changed and they came under the power and influence of the one who had deceived them, namely Satan. (Genesis 3:14-15)

Jesus came to destroy the works of the evil one and to restore our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

All those who believe in Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection can be born again of God's Holy Spirit and be restored into a wonderful daily relationship with God. This relationship is a major part of God's plan for our lives as individuals and is a precursor to experiencing the joys of God's kingdom with Him forever. (Ezekiel 36:26-28) (John 3:3)



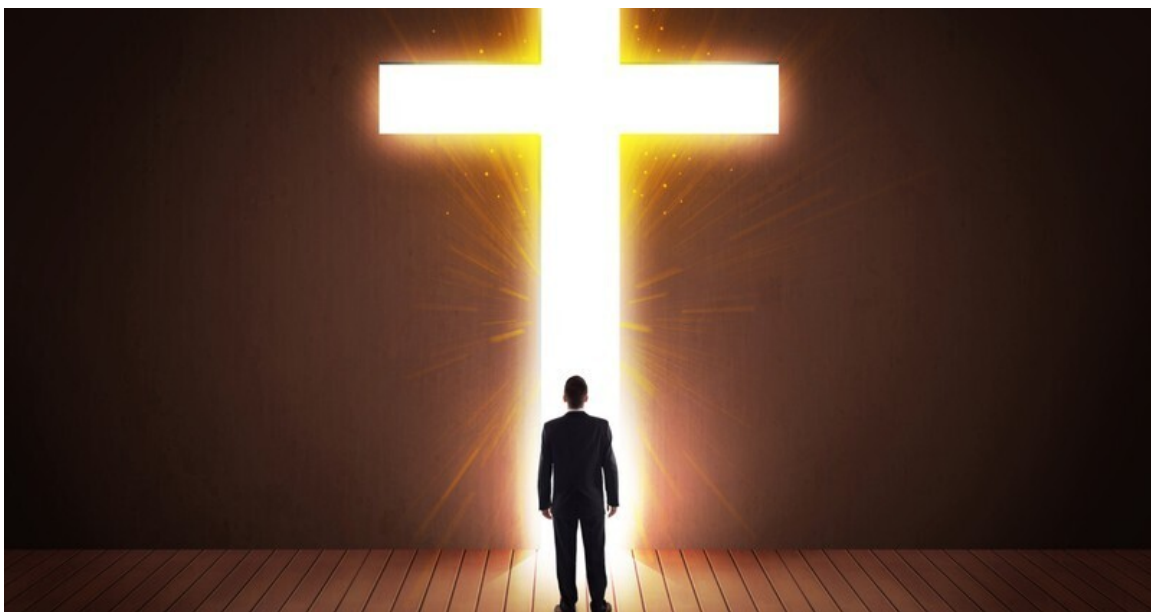
What's Easter Really About Anyway?

6. Easter is where Mankind became able once again to enjoy the Life that God had always desired for them.

When Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden of Eden it was because they had fallen into a sinful state through disobedience to God's command. With the entrance of sin into mankind came physical death and all generations that followed were subject to the loss and grief that death brings us all. (Genesis 3:22-24)

God in His mercy prevented Adam and Eve from living forever in a sinful state by stopping their access to the Tree of Life which was only found in the paradise of Eden.

The gift of eternal life is made available again to every person when the power of sin is broken over their lives through faith in Jesus Christ. A glorious future awaits God's children who have chosen to believe in God's Son and be restored into a relationship with our Heavenly Father. (John 3:36)



7. Easter is the Birth Place of the Church

Jesus spoke to His disciples numerous times about His upcoming death and how their sorrow would be turned to joy. Good Friday is the day when we celebrate Jesus' death on the cross, why do we call it Good Friday you ask? Because His death made a way for our sins to be forgiven before God it was a very good Friday for mankind. (Matthew 27:45-54)

The miracle of Easter didn't stop with our sins being paid for by Jesus on the cross, an even greater miracle occurred on Easter Sunday when Jesus physically rose from the grave, after conquering death and revealed Himself to His disciples numerous times proving to them that His resurrection was real. (Matthew 28) (1 Corinthians 15:3-8)

The Christian Church was begun on Easter Sunday and has continued throughout the ages to follow Jesus' command to go into all the world and preach the good news of God's Kingdom to every nation and every generation. (Mark 16:15-18)



Easter In the 21st Century

The reason why this is still important to us in the 21st century is that we still face many of the same challenges that people did 1,000's years ago. Mankind still longs for a real relationship with God our Heavenly Father, still struggles with the concept of sin and its negative results in our lives, and we still need a Saviour to help us to find God's forgiveness and our way back to the security of an eternity in Heaven. (John 14:1-3)

We hope you have found this explanation of the celebration of Easter and its importance in each individual's life helpful.

God Bless



The Ministry Of Dads' UNI

Dads' UNI is an Online Ministry based in Australia and is focused on providing simple biblical teaching to assist young men in Growing Families God's Way.

All Dads' UNI resources are provided free of charge, and we encourage those who enjoy our teachings to share them freely among family and friends.

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