

Proof To All

Text : **I Cor. 15: 1-19** ; **Acts 17: 30-31**

S#1.

S#2.

A. How did we come to celebrate this Sunday as Easter ?

1. There is a valid premise for it, but Easter does not appear anywhere in scripture.
 - a. King James required that the word “Easter” be put in his translation.
Acts 12: 4 – And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people. S#3.
 - b. “*pascha*” which is here translated “Easter” is translated Passover elsewhere.
 - c. All other translations, including the NKJV translate it as “Passover.”
Acts 12: 4 – So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover.
2. The Easter holiday celebrates a valid historical event, but is a result of “syncretism.”
 - a. Syncretism is defined as : the amalgamation or attempted amalgamation of different religions, cultures, or schools of thought.
 - b. Syncretism was the official mission philosophy of the Roman church. It was thought that it was too difficult to stop people from celebrating long established feast days so they assigned a Christian significance to them.
 - c. The origins of Easter are obscure. It is often assumed that the name *Easter* comes from a pagan figure called Eastre (or Eostre) who was celebrated as the goddess of spring by the Saxons of Northern Europe. According to the theory, Eastre was the “goddess of the east (from where the sun rises),” her symbol was the hare (a symbol of fertility), and a festival called Eastre was held during the spring equinox by the Saxons to honor her. (gotquestions.org)

B. Though Easter is not authorized by scripture, Christians are free to observe it.

Rom. 14: 5-6 – One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God. S#4.

C. We know that the resurrection of Jesus happened in the timeframe of Easter.

1. The Jewish Passover this year is from April 10-18. (15-22nd of Nisan .. lunar/Gregori)
2. We know that Jesus was sacrificed during the Passover. (day of preparation)

I. Jesus foretold His death and resurrection.

S#5.

S#6.

A. The creator took on the form of the created in order to rescue His creatures.

1. **Gen. 1: 27 – God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created Him.**

2. **John 1: 1-2** – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, **S#7.**
and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ...
¹⁴ – And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His
 glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

3. **Phil. 2: 5-8** – Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, **S#8.**
⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality
 with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form
 of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found
 in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to
the point of death, even death on a cross.

S#9.

B. The very purpose for which Jesus left Heaven was to be slain as a sacrifice.

1. John the baptizer identified Jesus as a sacrificial lamb.
 a. **John 1: 29** – The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, “Behold **S#10.**
the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.”
 b. Jesus was sacrificed as the ultimate Passover Lamb.
I Cor. 5: 7 – Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just
 as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.
 2. Jesus understood his function was to be sacrificed for sin.
John 12: 27 – Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, **S#11.**
save Me from this hour? But for this purpose I came to this hour.
 3. Jesus plainly stated that He was to be sacrificed.
Mark 10: 45 – Whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all.
⁴⁵ "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served,
 but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

C. While teaching Jesus foretold His death and resurrection. **S#12.**

1. **John 2: 19-21**– Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days
I will raise it up." ²⁰ The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years
 to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?"
²¹ But He was speaking of the temple of His body.
 2. **Matt. 17: 22-23** – And while they were gathering together in Galilee, Jesus **S#13.**
 said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into
 the hands of men; ²³ and they will kill Him, and He will be
raised on the third day." And they were deeply grieved.

D. Jesus was not murdered; He voluntarily sacrificed Himself as He planned. **S#14.**

1. **John 10: 17-18** – "For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down **S#15.**
 My life so that I may take it again. ¹⁸ No one has taken it away from
 Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it
 down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I
 received from My Father."

2. **Acts 2: 23-24** – This Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and **S#16.**
 foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men
 and put Him to death. **24** But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the
 agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

II. The resurrection of Jesus is an historical fact.

S#17.

A. Jesus was buried in a rich man's new tomb.

S#18.

1. **Matt. 27: 57-61** ... Joseph of Arimathea a rich counsel man was received by Pilot.
2. **Vs. 60** ... He laid the body of Jesus in his own new tomb.
 - a. The burial place was not defiled by previous bodies. (*Tombs reused & shared*)
 - b. The body of Jesus could not confuse for another body in the same cave.
3. **Vs. 60** ... Rolled a large rock over the opening.
 - a. Customarily, the stone would have been hand carved for this very purpose.
 - b. The stone was large enough so multiple people would be required to move it.
 - c. Thus, the stone would serve to secure the grave as well as seal in the odor.
4. **John 19: 39** ... Nicodemus helped Joseph prepare the body. (*Visited Jesus .. Jn 3*)
 - a. They wrapped the body in linen along with 100 lbs of aromatic spices.
 - b. It would have been customary to wash the body first, but they were in a hurry.
5. **Matt. 27: 61** ... The two Marys were watching all that was done.

B. After the day of preparation had passed, the Jews secured the grave.

S#19.

1. Pilot authorized guards and told the Jews to secure the tomb as best they could.
2. Jesus had many followers, not just the eleven. How many guards would you take ?
3. They put a Roman seal on the stone. The stone had to fit well to be sealed.
4. The Sadducees did not believe in a resurrection, but feared the body being stolen.

C. On Sunday morning after the Sabbath the tomb was empty.

1. There were several witnesses to the burial so the body had been there.
 - a. Joseph & Nicodemus
 - b. The two Marys
 - c. The servants who did the work and rolled the stone. (*Rich men don't work.*)
2. There were witnesses to the empty tomb.
 - a. The angels
 - b. The Women

- c. Peter and John
 - d. The Jews and the guards
3. The disciples did not steal the body.
- a. The grave clothes were still there. Thieves would not have unwrapped the body.
 - b. The disciples were afraid and hiding. They would not have risked the guards.
 - c. No group could roll away the stone without waking the guards. (*should not sleep*)

D. Jesus was seen to be alive by many people after His resurrection.

1. **John 20: 19** ... Jesus appeared to the 10 disciples, Thomas was absent.
2. **John 20: 26** ... He appeared to them again when Thomas was with them.
3. **I Cor. 15: 3-8** –For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, **S#20.** that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, **5** and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. **6** After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; **7** then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; **8** and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

III. Jesus was raised from the dead in bodily form.

S#21.

A. The Gnostics teach that only the spirit of Jesus rose from the grave.

S#22.

1. They argue he was able to pass thru doors so he couldn't have had a physical body.
2. **Luke 4: 28-30** .. Before His death Jesus was able to pass through a crowd unseen.
3. **Matt. 14: 22f** ... Before His death Jesus was able to walk on the sea.

B. The word resurrection demands that Jesus arose in His body.

1. Resurrection (*anastasis*) Literally means “to cause to stand again”
2. A thing or a person cannot “stand again” unless he has stood before.

C. The resurrected body of Jesus had substance.

1. **John 20: 24-29** ... Thomas put his fingers into the wounds of Jesus.
2. **John 21: 12-14** ... Jesus ate fish and bread
3. **I John 1: 1-2** ... The disciple were able to “**handle**” Jesus.

D. Jesus spent 8 weeks proving to His followers that He was resurrected.

S#23.

Acts 1: 3 – To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

IV. The resurrection of Jesus is the most significant event in human history. S#24.

A. The resurrection of Jesus was a unique and a onetime event.

1. Many were raised from the dead in the bible.
 - a. OT .. Widow's son, I Kg 17; Shunamite's son II Kg 4; man in Elisha's tomb 2K13
 - b. NT ..Widow's son Mk5, Jairus' son Jn11, Lazarus Jn11, Tabitha Ax9, Eutychus Ax20
2. These all died again.

S#25.

B. Only Jesus has the power over death and the grave so He will never die again.

1. **John 10: 18** – I lay down My life so that I may take it again. **18** No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again.
2. **Rev. 1: 18** – He placed His right hand on me saying, Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, **18** and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

S#26.

C. The resurrection of Jesus is the proof that He can and will fulfill all promises.

1. The resurrection proves Jesus is God and God cannot lie. (**Tit. 1: 2**)
Rom. 1: 4 – Who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,
2. The resurrection proves that Jesus will judge the world.
Acts 17: 30-31 – Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is **S#27.** now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, **31** because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."
3. Christians are saved, are born again through the resurrection of Jesus. **S#28.**
I Pet. 1: 3 – A Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

D. Our eternal salvation depends upon our faith in the resurrection of Jesus. S#29.

- I Cor. 15: 1-4** – Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I **S#30.** preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, **2** by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. **3** For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

S#31.

E. Our obedience in baptism is a manifestation of our faith in the resurrection.

Rom. 6: 2-7 – How shall we who died to sin still live in it? **3** Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? **4** Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, **6** knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; **7** for he who has died is freed from sin.

S#32.

CONCLUSION :

- A. The resurrection is one of the most important doctrines in Christianity. S#33.
- B. The resurrection distinguishes Christianity from all other world religions. S#34.
- C. The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our anticipation of Heaven. S#35.
S#36.
- D. We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus each and every Sunday in communion.

INVITATION :

- A. Are you living in anticipation of your resurrection ? S#37.
- B. As Jesus was resurrected, you will also be resurrected to eternal life. S#38.
- C. Where will you spend your eternity ? S#39.

S#40. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**I Corinthians 15: 1-19**

1 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; 7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; 8 and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me. 11 Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

12 Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; 14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. 15 Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; 17 and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

Acts 17: 30-31

30 Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.