

EASTER 2020

This Easter, I'm interested in: THE SAME MESSAGE!

SAME PERSON

① THE INDIVIDUAL vs. 3 — "He showed himself alive after his passion..."
* Easter is about many things that mean something to us & family but it is mainly about Him!
Easter statistics (see notes)
STATS

SAME BODY

② THE INVESTIGATIONAL vs. 3 — "40 days" "many infallible proofs"
* He lived/died/was buried as a man but He was God of very God!
* All, as a man, in a body — meaning He was raised in a body!
(the same body)

* DIRECT EVIDENCE (eye-witness accounts) (12 — see notes)

A Truth — Jew's hate because they deny a bodily res.
Muslims — Muhammad is still in the grave
Atheists — Jesus is ALIVE!
Hindus — it disproves reincarnation
Buddhists — Buddha's bones are in his tomb

* INDIRECT EVIDENCE

- * Transformed Disciples
- * Theme of Preaching
- * Existence of Early Church
- * Growth of Christianity

SAME MESSAGE

③ THE INSTRUCTION — "speaking of the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God"

* What does all this religious/resurrection "stuff" say to us today —
There is Hope
There is Help
There is Healing
There is Hope!

The Gospel — Death/Burial/Res. I Cor. 15:1-6

— All/Everything — so that a person can become a part of the Kingdom of God —

Jal. 3:3 — "... verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God."

"I Barvett's Dad — Charles, Sr. survived 3 weeks before Easter 1998 (a year later 2020's cal) that matches 2020's cal! Passed, 4-2-98 wed prior to Easter"

"YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN!"

EASTER 2020

THE MESSAGE
Easter Sunday

"— THE SAME MESSAGE —"

Intro. — Some of my earliest recollections of Easter go way back to my childhood days. Easter egg hunts, coloring eggs, cracking them on family's heads, great food, fellowship, visiting family.

— Everyone has, no doubt, their favorite memory of those Easter days —

— One day in particular stands out to me when I was already grown and in the ministry. Momma & Daddy were still alive and they were over visiting us for Easter. As we left church that morning, I asked Daddy how he enjoyed the service. He said, "It was fine but didn't you preach that same thing last year?" (Looking for approval, pat on the back but none got none)

→ The truth is that every Easter is a reminder of the same thing — The Resurrection of Jesus Christ —

* Most of us will, this Easter, eat the same meal, enjoy the same traditions, visit many of the same family, attend the same church, etc.

... AND HEAR THE SAME MESSAGE — He is Risen!

* A message — the Apostles never got tired of — the early church embraced — martyrs clung to as they faced death — the Bible exclaims/records for all time/eternity — that brings salvation/hope

* — our Bible does not end at the death/burial of Jesus but goes on to the Resurrection!

→ Thomas Jefferson's edition of the Bible — once issued a copy of: NO miracles/ref. to supernatural just moral teachings and stored at the death/burial — Acts 1:3

Check out these 2019 Easter statistics:

Easter Holiday Spending

Total annual spending on Easter-related goods	\$18.1 Billion
Total annual spending on Easter candy	\$2.5 Billion

Easter Candy

Pounds of Easter candy purchased annually	120 Million
Number of Jelly beans made for Easter	16 Billion
% of Easter candy purchased that is chocolate	89%
# of chocolate bunnies made each year	91 Million

Top 5 Easter Candies of 2019

- Reese's Mini Peanut Butter Chocolate Eggs (53%)
- Chocolate bunnies (48%)
- Jelly beans (48%)
- Hershey's Eggs (45%)
- Peeps (34%)

% of Americans see Easter as a "Religious Holiday" or "Jesus' Resurrection"

Demographic	Religious Holiday	Jesus' Resurrection
All Adults	67 %	42 %
Women	66 %	43 %
Men	68 %	42 %

The witness evidence for the physical resurrection of Christ is massive. Compared to the evidence for other events from the ancient world, it is overwhelming. During the first 11 appearances alone, Jesus appeared to more than 500 people over a forty-day period of time (Acts 1:3). On all 12 occasions, Jesus was seen and heard. 4 times he offered himself to be touched. Jesus revealed his crucifixion scars on 2 occasions. In 4 testimonies the empty tomb was seen, and twice the empty grave clothes were viewed. On another 4 occasions, Jesus ate food. The sum total of this evidence is overwhelming confirmation that Jesus arose and lived in the same visible, tangible, physical body of flesh and bones he had possessed before his resurrection body. This continuous investigation produced infallible proofs that **Jesus is the Living Savior.**

Introduction: Congress once issued a special edition of the Bible, called the Thomas Jefferson Bible. It was a copy of our Bible, but it had no reference to the supernatural. In making his selection for this edition, Jefferson copied only the moral teachings of Jesus. The closing words are, "There laid they Jesus, and rolled a great stone to the mouth of the sepulcher and departed." But the Bible doesn't read like that, for Jesus burst the bonds of death. It's written in Acts 1:3, "**He showed Himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs.**"

Jesus lived as a man, died as a man, and was buried as a man. But He was God of very God, and "**He arose again the third day according to the Scriptures.**" He was raised from the dead **in the same body** that was nailed to the cross.

Direct Evidence

Post-Resurrection Appearances of Christ

1. **To Mary Magdalene** (John 20:10-18)
2. **To the Women** (Matt. 28:1-10)
3. **To Peter** (1 Cor. 15:5; cf. John 20:3-9)
4. **On the Emmaus Road** (Mark 16:12; Luke 24:13-35)
5. **To the Ten** (Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-23)
6. **To the Eleven** (John 20:24-31)
7. **To the Seven Disciples** (John 21)
8. **To Commission the Apostles** (Matt. 28:16-20; Mark 16:14-18)
9. **To Five Hundred** (1 Cor. 15:6)
10. **To James** (1 Cor. 15:7)
11. **At the Ascension** (Acts 1:4-8)
12. **To Paul** (Acts 9:1-9; 1 Cor. 15:8)

This is a truth that upsets the:

- JW's—who deny a bodily resurrection
- Muslims—Mohammed is still in the grave
- Atheist—Jesus Is Alive!
- Hindus—no reincarnation takes place
- Buddhists—Buddha's bones are in his tomb

Indirect Evidence.

In addition to all the *Direct Evidence* for the bodily resurrection of Christ, there are other lines of corroboration (*Indirect Evidence*).

1. The Transformed Disciples
2. The Theme of Apostolic Preaching
3. The Existence of the Early Church
4. The Growth of Christianity

Evidence for the resurrection of Christ is compelling. There are more documents, more eyewitnesses, and more corroborative evidence than for any other historical event of ancient history. The secondary, supplementary evidence is convincing; when combined with the direct evidence, it presents a towering case for the physical resurrection of Christ. In legal terminology, it is "beyond all reasonable doubt."