

John 20.1-18

No Greater News!!

1 Reason we Like IDEA of Easter is we're MORTAL – All Will DIE
MANY Religions have HOPE of RESURRECTION

Millions of MUSLIMS given LIVES as Ultimate JIHAD
Sincerely Expecting to ARRIVE Pleasure-filled PARADISE

MORMONS expect to become GODS in their Own Personal Heavens
They and their MANY WIVES will Populate Own UNIVERSE

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES zealously Distribute TRACTS and TESTIFY
Hoping they will be one of 144,000 of ISRAEL who are SEALED

Some look for NIRVANA becoming Absorbed in Cosmic Consciousness

All HOPING for Something GOOD beyond their GRAVES

HUGE DIFFERENCE between Resurrection Ideas of Christianity & All Else...

RISEN CHRIST! --- Claimed "Way, Truth, Life" – Then ROSE from DEAD

Muhammed, Buddha, every Other Religious Leader Still in GRAVE

If Christ is risen – then nothing else matters. And if Christ is not risen – then
nothing else matters. Jaroslav Pelikan

MOST Reliable Source for PROVING Truth of CLAIMS of Xtianity > BIBLE

ORIGINAL Source Documents written by Eye-Witness Followers of Jesus

See 2 things from 4th and Final Gospel – by John the Beloved Disciple

1. New Realities

2. New Relationships

1. New Realities

John AUTHOR makes Painstaking Effort to Write TRUE HISTORY

CAREFULLY Records Many EXACT Names of PEOPLE and PLACES....

Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was an olive grove John 18.1

Simon Peter... struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) John 18.10

They bound him (Jesus) and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. John 18.12,13

The Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. John 18.28

Pilate...brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour. John 19.13,14

Carrying his own cross, he (Jesus) went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). Here they crucified him, and with him two others-one on each side and Jesus in the middle. John 19.17,18

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. John 19.25

Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus... accompanied by Nicodemus...At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb...they laid Jesus there. John 19.38-42

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed John 20.1

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" John 20.18

IF all this is MYTH or IMAGINATION > NOT GOOD News

BIG Outrageous LIE > PROMISES of LIFE, Forgiveness, Eternal Blessings

a. Events

For US EASTER > Flowers, Pretty Dresses, and Chance to DANCE & EAT

1st FOLLOWERS of Jesus > Empty TOMB was FINAL INDIGNITY

Final LASH on VICTIMIZED PIERCED, MUTILATED Body of BELOVED

Jesus who Endured Agony of Cross has NO FINAL REST > BODY STOLEN!

LOVE – only Love – BROUGHT MARY to TOMB – Final Act of DEVOTION

NOT Faith or Hope – NO ANTICIPATION of Resurrection – DEAD, GONE!

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices *so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body.* Mark 16.1

FINAL ACT of DEVOTION > Respect of DEAD > Preparation of CORPSE

JEWS > Believed SOUL of DECEASED Hovered over CORPSE for 3 DAYS

EXPENSIVE TOMBS > Covered with DISC-LIKE Stone Rolled Down Sloping

Groove COVERED ENTRANCEWAY > Needed Several Strong Men to OPEN

WOMEN? > Maybe the Soldiers would be KIND ENOUGH to HELP OPEN??

ALREADY OPEN!!! ONLY BAD NEWS! Grave Robbing NOT UNCOMMON

MULTIPLIED Mary's DESPAIR > was @ CROSS > Saw Jesus Savagely Killed

➤ NOW...BODY Apparently STOLEN

➤ DISCIPLES, finding NOTHING, GONE HOME!

MARY comes back to TOMB > Crushed, Confused > JUST to CRY

vs. 11-13 Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him."

b. Evidences GOSPEL Unique Biography, Not End at Death > Jesus LIVES!

1) Physical > The NOT QUITE EMPTY Tomb

EGYPT > Bodies were EMBALMED // ROME & GREECE > CREMATED

JEWS > Neither Embalmed, Nor Cremated > NOR do they use COFFIN

Body Wrapped in Linen Bands / Enclosed w/ Dry Spices / Laid Face Up in Tomb

Linen Cloth round BODY to Shoulders > Head & Neck Cloth like TURBAN

vs. 5-8 He (John) bent over and looked (*blepo* – mere sight) in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw (*theoreo* – more intense, ‘theorize’) the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus’ head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw (*oraō* – to see with understanding) and believed. > WORDS: INTENSE EXAMINATION

IF was RESUSCITATION > Jesus would STRUGGLE Out of TIGHT CLOTHS

Leaving them IN GREAT HEAP of CLOTH & SPICES // YOUR Dorm Room?

RESURRECTION of Jesus VERY Different > RESUSCITATION of Lazarus

The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said, ‘Take off the grave clothes and let him go’

John 11.44

A glance Jesus grave clothes proved the reality, and indicated the nature, of the resurrection...like a discarded chrysalis from which the butterfly has emerged...

John Stott

CRITICS have Offered Alternative THEORIES of the Resurrection Story....

If BODY STOLEN?? Naked? How did HE ESCAPE from Graveclothes??

If Grave ROBBERS > Would Not LEAVE Expensive LINEN, Costly SPICES

If NEVER DIED (Swoon) Healed in COOL of TOMB?

Why were Graveclothes found in FORM of CORPSE?

If women went to WRONG TOMB? Why Jesus-shaped GRAVECLOTHES?

CLEAR Evidence points to WELL-ATTESTED Fact of RESURRECTION
SPIRITUAL Body PASSED THRU Grave Clothes // & thru LOCKED Doors

CLEAR, Adequate, Convincing EVIDENCE of Resurrection of Jesus Christ
IF Someone WILL NOT BELIEVE > CHOICE > Abundant, Solid EVIDENCE
FAITH NOT Wishful THINKING > Power of God, Visible Activity in History

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the best attested fact in history. Matthew Arnold

As a lawyer I have made a prolonged study of the evidences for the first Easter day. To me the evidence is conclusive, and over and over again in the High Court I have secured the verdict on evidence not nearly so compelling...As a lawyer I accept it unreservedly as the testimony of men to facts that they were able to substantiate.

Sir Edward Clark

2) Practices > SABBATH Keepers become LORD'S DAY Worshippers

v. 1 Early on the first day of the week

Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. *On the first day of every week*, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income

1 Corinthians 16.1-2

On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit...

Revelation 1.10

NT Focus NOT on WHEN – ie. what DAY – WORSHIP > but WHO, and HOW

EVIDENCE of CHURCH > In ALL NATIONS > Growing > Worshipping HIM

3) People > CHANGED by MEETING Risen Jesus > THEN and NOW

MARY > 1st Preacher of Resurrection Gospel > Woman's Testimony INVALID

It is strange that a more competent witness could not be found. John Calvin

SARCASTIC JIBE > those who Claim Easter Message is Human INVENTION

IF SO > INVENTOR was PRETTY STUPID > Base Tale upon WOMAN!

vs. 14-16 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out... his sheep follow him because they know his voice John 10.2-4

In that moment Mary experienced her own resurrection, for she was reborn. Faith had died, but now it came leaping from its tomb. Hope had evaporated, but now it gathered again around the person of the Lord. James Boice

JOHN / Author > First Disciple to BELIEVE in the RESURRECTION

Stood at CROSS > Watched HIM DIE > Blood and Water from SIDE

The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. John 19.35

v. 8 Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. *He saw and believed.*

This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true. John 21.24

PETER > v. 10 Then the disciples went back to their homes

Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, *wondering to himself what had happened.*
 Luke 24.11-12

PROCESS of Belief > Soon will MEET Risen Lord behind LOCKED DOORS

TRANSFORMATION > BOLD Witness in City where JESUS KILLED
 ALL APOSTLES > Held Fast to Same TRUTH > Lived & DIED for Risen Lord

Without having a reliable testimony to the emptiness of Jesus' tomb the early Christian community could not have survived in Jerusalem. W. Pannenberg

2. New Relationships

a. Jesus

...who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 1.4

1) Relationship OF Jesus: With His Father

v. 17 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'

DOES NOT SAY > OUR Father and OUR God > Not at OUR LEVEL

He was with God in the beginning. John 1.2

I and the Father are one. John 10.30

Jesus is SON of GOD and GOD the SON > UNIQUE, EXCLUSIVE Relation

...his one and only Son... John 3.16

2) Relationship WITH Jesus: Our Elder Brother

Jesus is SAVIOR, GOD, and BROTHER to His Followers

v. 17 Go instead to *my brothers* and tell them....

Previous use WORD 'BROTHER' in John > Half Brothers, Sons of Mary & Joe
 NOW He Speaks of DISCIPLES as BROTHER > Jesus our ELDER BROTHER
 ONLY NOW > After Resurrection > Does Jesus Call DISCIPLES BROTHERS

Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. Hebrews 2.11

3) Relationship TO Jesus: Ascended Lord

v. 17 Jesus said, 'Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father.'
 WHY Forbid Mary HOLDING ON to Him?? Seems UNNATURAL, HARSH
 >>> NEW RELATIONSHIP > Old Friendship but NOT Old FAMILIARITY
 BODY of Jesus NOW GLORIFIED > Risen, Exalted MAN in HEAVEN

NOT Baby Jesus in CRADLE / NOT Bloody Jesus on CROSS

JESUS seen by PAUL on DAMASCUS ROAD > Light, Power, Glory

...our Lord Jesus Christ...the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. 1 Timothy 6.14-16

b. Father > RESURRECTION God's Receipt > Proving DEBT is Fully PAID

He was delivered over to death for our sins and was *raised to life for our justification.* Romans 4.25

ACQUITTED, NOT GUILTY, VINDICATED, PARDONED > JUSTIFIED

SUBSTITUTIONARY ATONEMENT > He Died in OUR PLACE > FOR US!

...'it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish' ...*Jesus would die* for the Jewish nation, and not only for that nation but also *for the scattered children of God* John 11.50-52

v. 17 ...and your Father... and your God

INVITATION to the FAMILY of GOD > VERY SURPRISING, AMAZING

NOT ONLY LEGALLY RIGHT with God our Judge > JUSTIFICATION

Invited into HIS EMBRACE > Sons, Daughters > ADOPTED into Family

To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God - *children born not of natural descent*, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. John 1.11,12

Only OPPORTUNITY to become CHILD of God > BELIEVE in His Son, Jesus
BIBLE Never calls UNBELIEVERS > Children of God > Creatures, NOT KIDS
ONLY Know God as FATHER > Through HIS SON > JESUS, Elder Brother

c. Believers

v. 17 my brothers...my Father and your Father...my God and your God

Luke's FIRST Description of GATHERED Church after PENTECOST:

All the believers were together and had everything in common. Acts 2.44

You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but *fellow citizens with God's people* and *members of God's household* Ephesians 2.19

You were cleansed by the same blood, regenerated by the same Spirit. You are citizens of the same city, a slave of the same master, a reader of the same Scriptures, a worshipper of the same God...They are your brothers, sisters, your fathers, mothers and children in God. Whether you like or dislike them, you belong to them...Whether they have done much or little for you, Christ has done all. He demands that your indebtedness to him be transferred to your new family.

John White

TRANSFORMATION of Jesus Body // NEW BODY for BELIEVERS Too!

Believers will be RISEN with CHRIST > NOT RESUSCITATED

OUR BODIES tie us to EARTH > Weakness, Sickness, Bad Character

...Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and *to die is gain*. Philippians 1.20,21

D.L. Moody: Bright, Young Girl, 15 Years Old > Sudden, Serious Illness
Terrible Pain, Partial Paralysis, Nearly Blind

DR. to Parents: 'I am afraid she has SEEN HER BEST DAYS'

GIRL > NO, Dr., my best days are coming, when I see the King in His Beauty

d. Scripture > EMPTY TOMB Loud Amen to CLAIMS of ENTIRE BIBLE
Jesus was BIBLE Man, TAUGHT Scripture > FULFILLED /DEFINED by OT
HEBREW Bible is KEY to Understand JESUS // He is Key to Know the OT

v. 9 (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

Resurrection > IMPRIMATUR of DIVINE AUTHORITY on SCRIPTURE

GREAT LAWGIVER > MOSES

If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. John 5.46

Risen LORD ran a 40-day BIBLE SCHOOL > Book of LIFE, TRUTH, POWER

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: *Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.*" Then he *opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.*
Luke 24.44-45

e. World > Mary was FIRST Preacher of Good News of RESURRECTION
MARY Needed BIGGER View of Jesus > Looking for CORPSE not CHRIST
HEARD His VOICE > Saw Him RISEN IN Power and Glory > Living Savior

Then READY TO GO > v. 17 Go instead to my brothers and tell them...

v. 18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

COMMON VERBS in Final Chapter of ALL 4 GOSPELS >>> GO!! TELL!!

EVEN BETTER NEWS > SURPRISING Victory after APPARENT DEFEAT!

Early 1800's Battle of WATERLOO > British Gen. Wellington v. NAPOLEON

PRE – Radio, Telephone, Internet > SIGNALMEN Relayed Important Message

Announcement Relayed across Continental EUROPE > Eng. Channel SHIP

Ship Near ENGLAND COAST > Signal 'WELLINGTON''DEFEATED'

Then FOG Enshrouded the Signal SHIP

Message of DEFEAT Quickly RELAYED to LONDON > Nation in GLOOM

2 or 3 Hours Later > FOG LIFTED > Complete Message Sent and Received

WELLINGTON DEFEATED THE ENEMY!

After THREE DAYS > Fog of GLOOM & DESPAIR > LIFTED! He is ALIVE!

THOSE who HEAR > Sent to GO and TELL Others > AROUND WORLD!

TODAY > Clubs and Cathedrals and Caves > Followers of JESUS Meeting!

The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations Luke 24.46-47

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John 20:1-18

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ²So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" ³So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. ⁸Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰Then the disciples went back to their homes, ¹¹but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹²and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. ¹³They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. ¹⁵"Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.