

Jesus' Death and Resurrection from the Gospels

# THE EASTER STORY



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## FROM THE GOSPELS OF MATTHEW AND LUKE



THE EASTER STORY is a love story. It's the story of a loving God willing to sacrifice himself for the sake of his creation. The Easter story tells us how Jesus fulfilled all that God had promised. The last days of Jesus' life were filled with dangers and sadness. Jesus, the King of the Universe, would experience betrayal, rejection, insults, and physical, emotional, and spiritual terror. Through all, Jesus remained obedient to the end. On a Friday afternoon, he was crucified and died.

However, the Easter Story does not end with defeat and death. On Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead, conquering Satan, death, and the forces of evil. Jesus atoned for our sins, reconciled us with God, and gave us hope for a new future. Easter is a story of love, victory, and new life.



### THE LAST WEEK

*For three years, Jesus had traveled with his disciples, preached, healed, and announced the coming of God's kingdom. A week before his death, Jesus entered Jerusalem, taught his disciples and prepared them for his eventual death. As a final preparation, Jesus wanted to share the Passover celebration with his disciples. As Jesus said often, all of these things happened as fulfillment of God's promises to prophets in the Old Testament (see Matt. 1:22; Luke 18:31; 22:37).*

When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, "As you know, the Passover is two days away—and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified." Matt. 26:2

*In those days, the Jewish leaders were plotting to kill Jesus. Judas Iscariot approached them with a plan to betray Jesus. They had found their opportunity to get rid of Jesus.*





## THE LORD'S SUPPER

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*On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Jesus sent his disciples to prepare everything so they could celebrate together. As they ate together, Jesus announced that one of them would betray him, and identified Judas as the betrayer. As the Passover meal was being eaten, Jesus instituted a new celebration, the Lord's Supper:*

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom." Matt. 26:26-29

After the meal, Jesus began washing his disciples' feet. Peter objected, but Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." Jesus said, "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.... I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him." John 13:5-16

## JESUS PREDICTED PETER'S DENIAL AND THE DISCIPLES' WEAKNESS

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Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me." ... Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will." "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you." Matt. 26:31-35

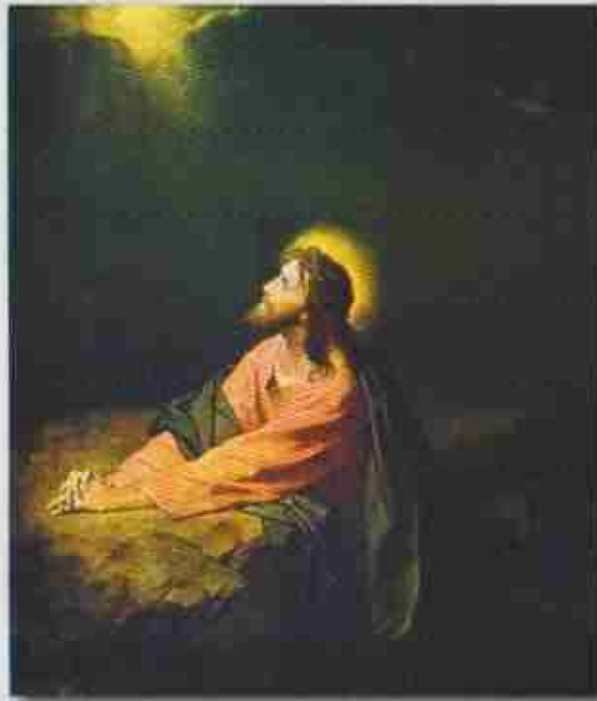
## JESUS' PRAYER IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

*Jesus and his disciples left the room and went to the Mount of Olives. There, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus asked his disciples to join him and watch over him while he prayed. But they could not remain awake.*

*Jesus prayed and agonized about the suffering he would experience. In all, however, he remained humble and obedient as he prayed:*

"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." Matt. 26:39

*After praying, he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners." Matt. 26:45*



## JESUS ARRESTED

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus replied, "Friend, do what you came for."



Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him.



"Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?" At that time Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled. **Matt. 26:47-56**

## **JESUS TRIED BEFORE THE HIGH PRIEST**

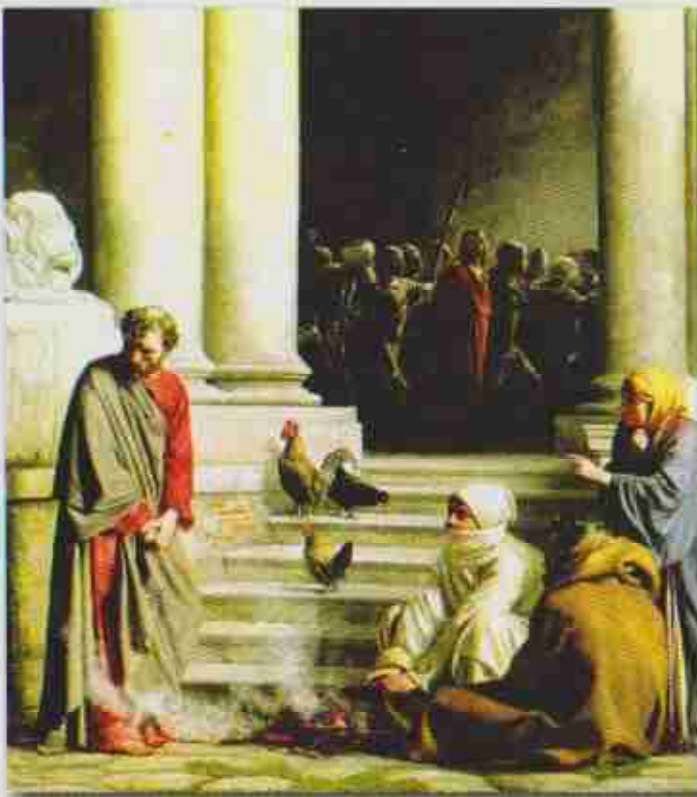
*Jesus was brought before the leaders of the Jews—the Sanhedrin. False witnesses were brought in, but their testimony did not agree. Without any evidence to condemn Jesus, the high priest accused him of blasphemy. But Jesus remained silent. So, the high priest said to him: "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."*

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?" "He is worthy of death," they answered. Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists.

Others slapped him and said, "Prophecy to us, Christ. Who hit you?" **Matt. 26:63-68**

## **PETER DENIED JESUS**

*Peter followed Jesus as he was brought before the Jewish authorities. While in the courtyard, people accused Peter of being Jesus' follower. Filled with fear, Peter denied Jesus three times. Then, the Gospels say, "Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: 'Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.' And he went outside and wept bitterly." **Matt. 26:75***



## TOWARD THE CROSS—FRIDAY

### THE DECISION TO KILL JESUS IS MADE

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Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people came to the decision to put Jesus to death. Matt. 27:1

At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them. "If you are the Christ," they said, "tell us."

Jesus answered, "If I tell you, you will not believe me, and if I asked you, you would not answer. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God."

They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?" He replied, "You are right in saying I am." Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips." Luke 22:66-71

### JUDAS HANGED HIMSELF

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When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. "I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood."

"What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility." So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself. Matt. 27:3-5

### JESUS BEFORE PILATE AND HEROD

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They bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate, the governor. Matt. 27:2

*After Pilate interrogated Jesus, the governor sent Jesus to Herod. Herod attempted to talk with Jesus, but he was more curious to see a miracle than interested in doing justice. After ridiculing him, Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate.*

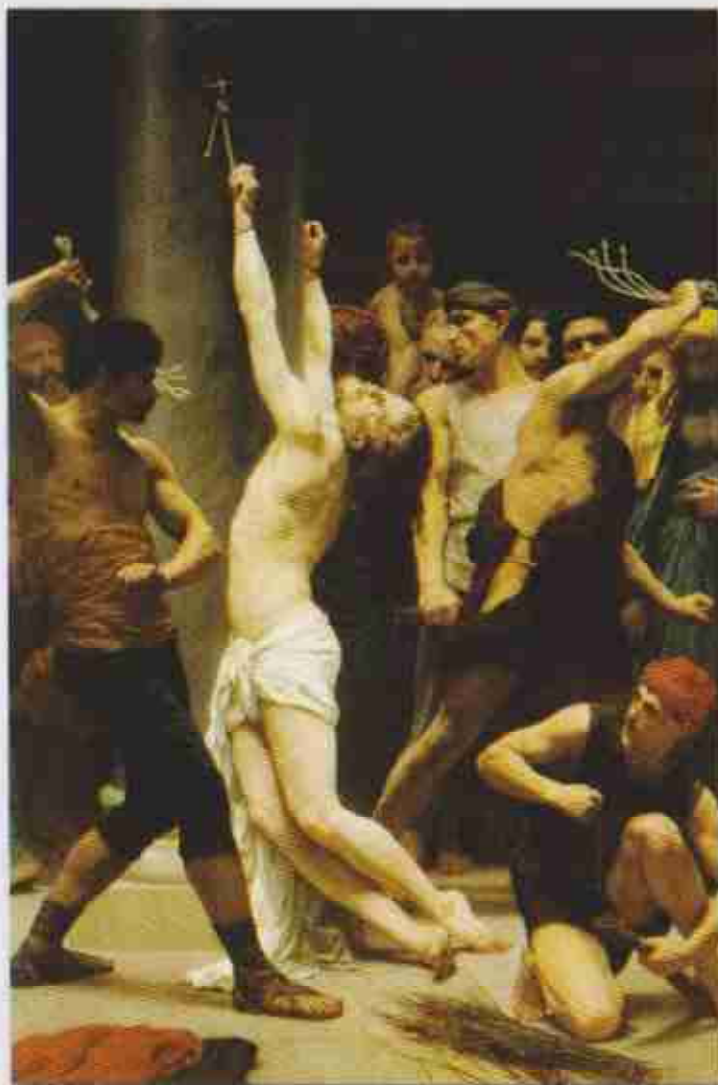




Now it was the governor's custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him." But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

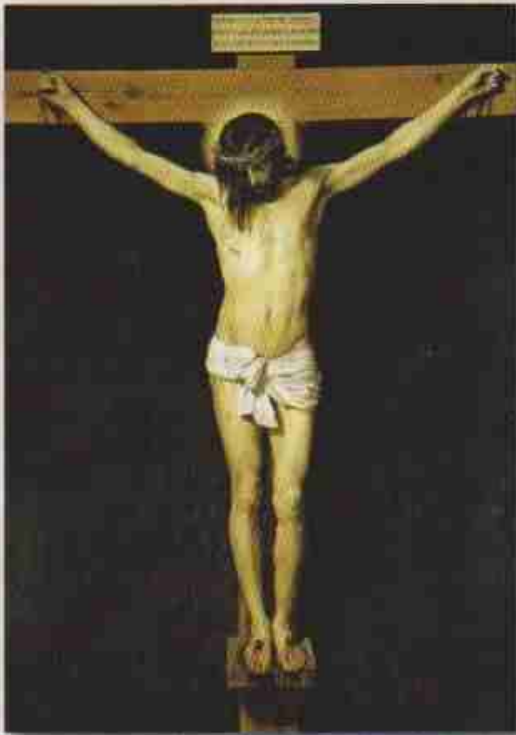
"Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor. "Barabbas," they answered. "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?" Pilate asked. They all answered, "Crucify him!" "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" All the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!" Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. Matt. 27:15-26



### THE SOLDIERS MOCKED JESUS

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. Matt. 27:27-31



## THE CRUCIFIXION

As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. Matt. 27:32

When they came to Golgotha, the place called the Skull, there they crucified [Jesus], along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. Luke 23:33–34

Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" Matt. 27:39–40

The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." Luke 23:36–43





## THE DEATH OF JESUS

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From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*”—which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. Matt. 27:45–50

It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom and the earth shook and the rocks split. Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last. Luke 23:44–46

When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!” Matt. 27:54

The soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus’ side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. John 19:32–34

Many women were there, watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee’s sons. Matt. 27:55–56

## THE BURIAL OF JESUS

As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. Matt. 27:57-60



The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. Luke 23:55-56

## THE RESURRECTION—SUNDAY

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" Then they remembered his words.





When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven disciples and to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. 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 24:1-12

### ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

*After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to many people—to more than five hundred people, according to the Apostle Paul (1 Cor. 15:4-5). Jesus' encounter with two of his followers on the road to Emmaus was especially compelling. As they walked and talked about all that had happened to Jesus, a man approached them and asked them about their conversation. They related to him all*



*that they had witnessed, and their confusion about the testimony of the women who visited the tomb on Sunday morning. Then, Jesus said to them:*

*“How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.*

*As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.*

*When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” Luke 24:25-32*

## JESUS APPEARED TO HIS DISCIPLES

*Then Jesus appeared to his disciples, greeting them, "Peace be with you." He reassured them and dispelled their doubts, showing them that he had indeed risen from the dead. He taught 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." Luke 24:36-44*

## JESUS AND PETER

*Toward the end of his time on earth, Jesus appeared to his disciples as they were fishing. After eating with them, Jesus approached Peter. Three times, Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" Peter affirmed his love for Jesus on each occasion. The last time, Peter answered Jesus, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." To this, Jesus answered, "Feed my sheep." Jesus had restored Peter after his denial on the night of Jesus' arrest. John 21:15-17*

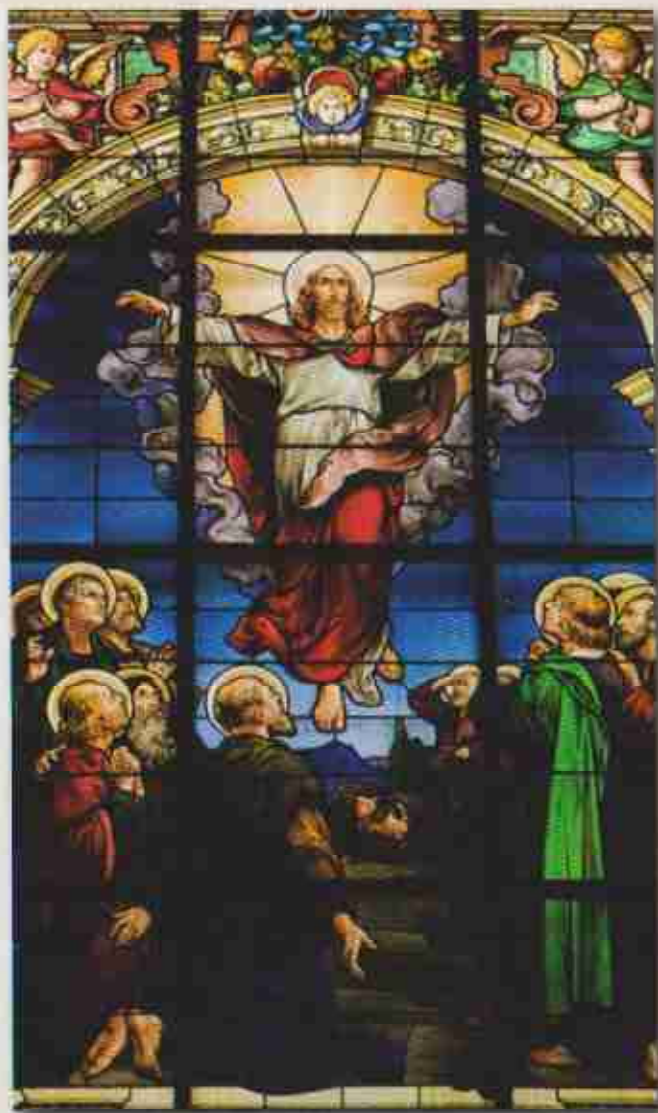
## THE GREAT COMMISSION

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matt. 28:16-20

## THE ASCENSION

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

Luke 24:50-53





## MEDICAL EFFECTS OF JESUS' TREATMENT

Injury	Description
Beating (Matt. 26:67-68; 27:30; John 19:3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blows to the head while blindfolded produced swelling, bruising, and damage to features.</li> </ul>
Flogging/scourging (John 19:1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus was tied to a post and whipped with a flagellum (whip with heavy leather thongs ending with lead or iron balls and bone pieces) until his skin and underlying muscles were shredded in bloody strips.</li> <li>• Flogging was designed to bring the victim close to death; it likely resulted in shock and major blood loss.</li> </ul>
Mocking/crown of thorns (Matt 27:29; John 19:2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The heavy robe would have stuck to Jesus' bloody flesh when torn off.</li> <li>• Thorns up to 1 inch long which pierced scalp tissue produced severe bleeding and pain.</li> </ul>
Carrying the cross beam (John 19:17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A beam weighing approximately 100 pounds was tied over Jesus' bloody shoulders; along with dehydration and exhaustion, it probably produced collapse.</li> </ul>
Crucifixion (Matt. 27:35; John 19:18)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iron spikes (5-6 inches) in his wrists and feet severed major nerves.</li> <li>• Hanging from wrists above the head made exhalation difficult; pushing up with the nailed feet allowed breathing, but it became difficult and finally impossible.</li> </ul>
Death (Matt. 27:50)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heart failure brought on by shock and suffocation may have been the final trauma that killed Jesus.</li> </ul>
Spear wound (John 19:34)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A flow of blood and water suggests that the spear ruptured the sac surrounding the heart, followed by the heart itself.</li> </ul>

# JESUS, GOD'S SOLUTION



JESUS TOOK OUR SINS, grief, and sorrows upon himself and brought them down into the grave with him. Just as Jesus rose to newness of life (Ezek. 36:26-27), God gives a new life to those who trust in him. Therefore, his death and resurrection allow us to begin a special relationship with the Lord Jesus. Confess him with your mouth and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. This faith may be expressed to God through heartfelt prayer, like the one below:

God, I believe that you sent Jesus into the world because of your great love.

I believe that Jesus gave himself for my sins and that you raised him from the dead. I ask for your forgiveness through Jesus, that I may receive the new life that comes through him. I want to confess Jesus as my Lord and put my trust in you.

Thank you for loving me as your child. Please continue teaching me and help me understand your words.

I am eager to hear from you and know you better. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.