

## RESURRECTION DAY 2025

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is that central moment in human history that serves as the foundational doctrine of Christianity. After having truly assumed human nature and submitted to an agonizing and shameful public death, the eternal Son of God was truly raised from the dead in his glorified physical body, no longer subject to decay and death. His resurrection validates his identity as the divine Son of God, demonstrates his irrevocable victory over death and the grave, and secures both the present salvation and future physical resurrection of believers.

1. Easter is not a biblical term; it's found only one time in one Bible, the KJV, in *Acts 12:4*. The Gr. word is *pascha*, *πάσχα*, n. asn. It means "Passover", referring to the annual Israelite festival commemorating Israel's exodus from Egypt.

**Acts 12:4 And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers [4 squads of 4 soldiers each] to keep him; intending after **Easter** to bring him forth to the people [to stand trial].**

2. Where did the name "Easter" come from?

*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. (This is not accepted by some historians.)* Got Questions?

What are the origins of Easter? <https://www.gotquestions.org/easter-origins.html>

3. It appears that the Passover event covered in the Bible coincided with the time of the festival just mentioned and of course it has been commercialized in our time in a big way. Show **PP**

4. Christians associate Easter or Resurrection Sunday with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Regardless of what it's called, it causes people to focus on what's next. After this life, then what?
5. What do people in America think about life after death?

**CBS News Poll: Americans' Views on Death, 4-27-14**

*Three in four Americans believe in the existence of heaven or hell, including 66 percent who think both exist. Eleven percent believe only heaven exists. Seventeen percent of Americans don't think either place exists.*

*According to the poll, many Americans who don't believe in heaven or hell are agnostic, atheist, or do not identify with a particular religion; 49 percent of this group says neither place exists, but 43 percent of them do believe in heaven or hell.*

**Three Out of Four Americans Believe in Life After Death,**

Breitbart News, by THOMAS D. WILLIAMS, PH.D. 12-31-14

*The survey, comprising a representative sample of 15,738 Americans between the ages of 18 and 60, found that 72% of adults in the United States believe in some sort of life after death, though not everyone holds the same vision of what this existence will be like. Just 37% of Americans believe in a bodily resurrection from the dead, though this figure varies considerably according to religious affiliation.*

*Those who attend religious services regularly are three times as likely to believe in resurrection as those who attend seldom or never; 61% of weekly attenders report belief, while only 22% of non-attenders do.*

There has been a commotion recently regarding what Pope Francis allegedly said about hell:

*Pope Francis said, "They are not punished, those who repent obtain the forgiveness of God and enter the rank of souls who contemplate him, but those who do not repent and cannot*

*therefore be forgiven disappear. There is no hell, there is the disappearance of sinful souls."*

*The Vatican said: "The Holy Father Francis recently received the founder of the newspaper La Repubblica in a private meeting on the occasion of Easter, without however giving him any interviews. What is reported by the author in today's article [in La Repubblica] is the result of his reconstruction, in which the textual words pronounced by the Pope are not quoted. No quotation of the aforementioned article must therefore be considered as a faithful transcription of the words of the Holy Father."* CNS News

By Michael W. Chapman, March 29, 2018,

<https://www.cnsnews.com/blog/michael-w-chapman/pope-francis-there-no-hell>

I bring this up not to disparage the Pope or the Catholic Church, we don't even know for sure what he said. I bring it up to point out how many people today are thinking about what will happen when they die.

I think that is good. Unfortunately, most people are very confused about life after death. They either think that: 1) there is no life at all after death, or 2) no one can know for sure whether they will go to heaven or to hell. Both of these assumptions are wrong according to the Word of God and fortunately, these people comprise only a minority of the population in America.

One thing is for sure, we all have a problem, our physical bodies are only temporary, they're perishable, they wear out and die. If we are to live forever, we need a new body that is designed to endure for eternity.

**1 Corinthians 15:50 I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.**

**2 Corinthians 5:1-2 For we know that if the earthly tent [physical body] which is our house is torn down [dies], we have a building from God, a house not made with hands [a resurrection body], eternal in the heavens. 2) For indeed in this house we groan,**

*longing to be clothed with our dwelling [resurrection body], from heaven;*

***1 Corinthians 15:53-54 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 54) When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."***

One thing is for certain, if Jesus Christ did not rise from the grave, neither will we. So what does the Bible say about this? Look at what He told His disciples:

Jesus told the disciples several times that He would be crucified and would rise on the 3rd day (***Matthew 16:21, 17:22, 20:18-19, Luke 9:21-22, 18:31-33, 24:6-7, 44-46***)

Did they believe Him? Where were they on that Sunday morning, the 3<sup>rd</sup> day? Were they at His tomb?

Paul confirmed what Jesus told the disciples:

***1 Corinthians 15:3-4 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, This is Written Evidence***

He also confirmed that Jesus appeared to many in His resurrection body.

***1 Corinthians 15:5-6 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; This is Eye Witness Evidence***

There was also – The empty tomb:

***Mark 16:6 And he [an angel] said to them [the women], "Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him. Physical Evidence***

The Jewish historian Josephus wrote about Christ's resurrection:

*"About this time appeared Jesus, a wise man (if indeed it is right to call Him man; for He was a worker of astonishing deeds, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with joy), and He drew to Himself many Jews (many also of Greeks. This was the Christ.) "About this time appeared Jesus, a wise man (if indeed it is right to call Him man; for He was a worker of astonishing deeds, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with joy), and He drew to Himself many Jews and Greeks. This was the Christ.)* **This is Extra-Biblical Evidence**

**Acts 2:24 whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because *it was not possible that He should be held by it.***

Martha was angry with Jesus because He wasn't there when her brother Lazarus died, knowing that Jesus could have healed him. He told her that He was the resurrection and the life:

**John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her [Martha], "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, 26) and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"**

The Apostle Paul said:

**Romans 6:5 For if [since] we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,**

The Apostle John said:

**1 John 3:2-3 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, *we shall be like Him*, because we shall see Him just as He is. 3) And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**

What a cause for excitement, our resurrection bodies will be similar to our Lord's! The immanent return of our Lord motivates

us to keep learning and applying Bible doctrine so that we will not be ashamed when He returns.

**Philippians 3:20-21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 21) who will transform the body of our humble state *into conformity with the body of His glory*, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.**

Job knew that someday he would receive a resurrection body.

**Job 19:25-26 And as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, And at the last He will take His stand on the earth. 26) "Even after my skin is destroyed, *Yet from my flesh* I shall see God;**

Daniel knew that believers will receive a resurrection body.

**Daniel 12:2-3 And many of *those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake*, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt. 3) "And those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.**

Facts:

1. Jesus Christ is the only one so far that has a resurrection body.

**1 Corinthians 15:20-23 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, *the first fruits* of those who are asleep. 21) For since by a man [Adam] came death, by a man [Christ] also came the resurrection of the dead. 22) For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive. 23) But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,**

2. Both believers and unbeliever will be resurrected.

**John 5:28-29 Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, 29)**

***and shall come forth; those who did the good deeds*** [believe the gospel] ***to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds*** [reject the gospel] ***to a resurrection of judgment.***

***Revelation 20:11-12 And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. 12) And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne,***

So the question is not, “**Is there life after death?**”

The question is, “**Where will you spend eternity?**”

### 3. The order of Resurrections:

#### **THE 1ST RESURRECTION HAS 4 PARTS**

- 1) The resurrection of Jesus Christ, the first-fruits. 1 Cor. 15:23; Rom. 1:4; 1 Thess 1:10; 2 Thess 2:8; 1 Peter 1:3.
- 2) Rapture of the Church - 1 Cor. 15:51-57; 1 Thess. 4:16-18
- 3) O. T. saints and Tribulational martyrs at 2nd Advent  
Daniel 12:13; Isaiah 26:19,20; Revelation 20:4
- 4) Millennial saints and those who survive the Tribulation

#### **THE 2nd RESURRECTION**

This one occurs at the end of the Millennium, and it is for **UNBELIEVERS ONLY**. (Great White Throne judgment)  
Matthew 25:41, John 5:28,29; 2 Peter 3:9; Revelation 20:12-15

### 4. What will our resurrection body be like?

Since our resurrection body will be like Christ's, we can get an idea of what ours will be like. It's important to note that Christ's resurrection was not a spiritual resurrection but a physical resurrection.



- a. We will be recognizable to others in our resurrection bodies just as Christ was in His.
- b. The resurrected body of Christ could eat, Luke 24:42-43,
- c. Christ's resurrected body had substance. It could be touched or felt — Matthew 28:9; Luke 24:39; John 20:17.
- d. His resurrected body possessed flesh and bones - Luke 24:39, 40.
- e. His resurrected body could walk through closed doors — Luke 24:36; John 20:19
- f. The resurrected body was able to appear and disappear — Luke 24:17
- g. The resurrected body of Christ could move horizontally or vertically— Acts 1:9-10, 1 Thess. 4:16-17

Resurrection is distinct from resuscitation or (reincarnation — Heb. 9:27) of the physical body. The resuscitated body will die again but the resurrection body will never die. HALLELUJAH!!!!

### Examples of-Resuscitation in the Bible.

Widow's son 1 Kin. 17:17-22

Unnamed man 2 Kin. 13:20, 21

Widow's only son Luke 7:11-15

Many saints Matt. 27:52, 53

Shunammite's son 2 Kin. 4:32-35

Jairus' daughter Matt. 9:23-25

Lazarus of Bethany John 11:43, 44

Dorcas Acts 9:36-40