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Easter

Christ conquered death

These three words define the most important difference between Christianity and all other religions.

- No other Messiah ever predicted his own death and resurrection (Matthew 16:21)
- Based his claims about himself and his teaching on that prediction (John 2:18 -22; Matthew 27:40)
- And then kept that promise (Luke 24:6).

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John 19:28 - 30

After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

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Prophetic Fulfillments:

Peter Stoner, Chairman of the Departments of Mathematics and Astronomy at Pasadena College, was passionate about biblical prophecies.

With 600 students, he looked at eight specific prophecies about Jesus. They came up with extremely conservative probabilities for each one being fulfilled, and then considered the likelihood of Jesus fulfilling all eight of those prophecies.

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The conclusion to his research was staggering. The prospect that anyone would satisfy those eight prophecies was just 1 in 10^{17}

He described it like this:

"Let us try to visualize this chance. If you mark one of ten tickets, and place all of the tickets in a hat, and thoroughly stir them, and then ask a blindfolded man to draw one, his chance of getting the right ticket is one in ten. Suppose that we take 10^{17} silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas.

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They will cover all of the state two feet deep. Now mark ONE of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man, from their day to the present time, providing they wrote using their own wisdom."

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- 6. A virgin will give birth, and he will be called Immanuel (God with us). (Isaiah 7:14).
- 7. The Messiah will end up in Egypt. (Hosea 11:1).
- 8. The Christ will be born in Bethlehem. (Micah 5:2).
- 10. Jesus will have a sinless, blemish-free life and ministry. (Exodus 12:5).
- 21. Jesus will be a gentle redeemer of the Gentiles. (Isaiah 42:1–4).
- 26. Jerusalem will rejoice as the Messiah comes to her upon a donkey. (Zechariah 9:9).
- 27. He will be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver. (Zechariah 11:12–13).

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- 30. Like the Passover Lamb, none of the Christ's bones will be broken. (Exodus 12:46).
- 33. Christ's resurrection prophesied. (Job 19:23–27)
- 36. The Messiah's suffering would include thirst. (Psalm 69:21)
- 37. They would pierce Christ's hands and feet. (Psalm 22:16).
- 38. They would cast lots for Jesus' clothing. (Psalm 22:18).
- 48. The Messiah will conquer death. (Isaiah 25:7–8).

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Matthew 27:38 - 44

Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and another on the left. And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, "You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'" Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing.

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Matthew 27:45 - 50

Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Some of those who stood there, when they heard that, said, "This Man is calling for Elijah!" 48 Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink. The rest said, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him." And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

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Matthew 27:51 - 54

Then, BEHOLD, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many. So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

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1. Darkness for three hours

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NASA maps charting the paths of 5,000 years worth of solar eclipses and do, indeed, chart eight total solar eclipses. One of those total solar eclipses even falls in the year 33. However, the path of that eclipse was nowhere near Jerusalem. Instead, it was near Antarctica.

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1. Darkness for three hours

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Ex 10:22

"Then Moses stretched out his hand toward Heaven, and there was thick darkness in the land of Egypt three days. They did not see one another; nor did anyone rise from his place for three days. But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings."

- Preceded the death of the firstborn, or the substitute lamb.
- In the N.T. darkness preceded the death of the Firstborn Son who was the Lamb, our substitute sacrifice.

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1. Darkness for three hours

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• Redemption

Eph 1:7

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace..."

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1. Darkness for three hours

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Heb 2:14 - 18

"Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels He helps, but Abraham's descendants. **For this reason He had to be made like them, fully human in every way**, in order that He might become a merciful and faithful High Priest in service to God, and that He might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted."

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2. Veil torn in two

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Col 1:19 - 22

"For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to **RECONCILE** all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. And you, who once were **ALIENATED** and **ENEMIES** in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight..."

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2. Veil torn in two

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- **Alienated** - separated from fellowship with God.

- **Enemies** - Enmity, hostility.

Rom 8:6 - 7

"For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because **the carnal mind is enmity against God**; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be."

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2. Veil torn in two

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- Full knowledge
- 'desireable to make one wise'
- 'their eyes were opened'

Prov 14:12

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."

JESUS RECONCILED US TO THE FATHER

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3. Earthquakes

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- To establish the Law on Mnt Sinai
- The Law fulfilled - requirement met.

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3. Earthquakes

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Matt 28:1 - 6

Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. **HE IS NOT HERE; FOR HE IS RISEN**, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

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4. The dead are raised.

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- We have been Redeemed - forgiven
- We have been Reconciled - brought near, into fellowship
- We can be REBORN!

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HE IS RISEN!

22

- The witness of the heavens
- The witness of the law
- The witness of creation
- The witness of the grave
- The witness of death
- The Witness of the Father - Who raised Him up.

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4. The dead are raised.

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Rom 10:9

"If you confess with your mouth the LORD Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

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ALIVE!

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