

NOW THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD DREW NEAR, WHICH IS CALLED THE PASSOVER. AND THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND THE SCRIBES WERE SEEKING HOW TO PUT HIM TO DEATH, FOR THEY FEARED THE PEOPLE. THEN SATAN ENTERED INTO JUDAS CALLED ISCARIOT, WHO WAS OF THE NUMBER OF THE TWELVE. HE WENT AWAY AND CONFERRED WITH THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND OFFICERS HOW HE MIGHT BETRAY HIM TO THEM. AND THEY WERE GLAD, AND AGREED TO GIVE HIM MONEY. SO HE CONSENTED AND SOUGHT AN OPPORTUNITY TO BETRAY HIM TO THEM IN THE ABSENCE OF A CROWD. THEN CAME THE DAY OF UNLEAVENED BREAD, ON WHICH THE PASSOVER LAMB HAD TO BE SACRIFICED. SO JESUS SENT PETER AND JOHN, SAYING, "GO AND PREPARE THE PASSOVER FOR US, THAT WE MAY EAT IT" THEY SAID TO HIM, "WHERE WILL YOU HAVE US PREPARE IT?" HE SAID TO THEM, "BEHOLD, WHEN YOU HAVE ENTERED THE CITY, A MAN CARRYING A JAR OF WATER WILL MEET YOU. FOLLOW HIM INTO THE HOUSE THAT HE ENTERS AND TELL THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE, 'THE TEACHER SAYS TO YOU, WHERE IS THE GUEST ROOM, WHERE I MAY EAT THE PASSOVER WITH MY DISCIPLES?' AND HE WILL SHOW YOU A LARGE UPPER ROOM FURNISHED; PREPARE IT THERE" AND THEY WENT AND FOUND IT JUST AS HE HAD TOLD THEM, AND

THEY PREPARED THE PASSOVER. AND WHEN THE HOUR CAME, HE RECLINED AT TABLE, AND THE APOSTLES WITH HIM. AND HE SAID TO THEM, "I HAVE EARNESTLY DESIRED TO EAT THIS PASSOVER WITH YOU BEFORE I SUFFER. FOR I TELL YOU I WILL NOT EAT IT UNTIL IT IS FULFILLED IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD." AND HE TOOK A CUP, AND WHEN HE HAD GIVEN THANKS HE SAID, "TAKE THIS, AND DIVIDE IT AMONG YOURSELVES. FOR I TELL YOU THAT FROM NOW ON I WILL

NOT DRINK OF THE FRUIT OF THE VINE UNTIL THE KINGDOM OF GOD COMES." AND HE TOOK BREAD, AND WHEN HE HAD GIVEN THANKS, HE BROKE IT AND GAVE IT TO THEM, SAYING, "THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU. DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME." AND LIKEWISE THE CUP AFTER THEY HAD EATEN, SAYING, "THIS CUP THAT IS POURED OUT FOR YOU IS THE NEW COVENANT IN MY BLOOD. BUT BEHOLD, THE HAND OF HIM WHO BETRAYS ME IS WITH ME ON THE TABLE. FOR THE SON OF MAN GOES AS IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED, BUT WOE TO THAT MAN BY WHOM HE IS BETRAYED!" AND THEY BEGAN TO QUESTION ONE ANOTHER, WHICH OF THEM IT COULD BE WHO WAS GOING TO DO THIS. A DISPUTE ALSO AROSE AMONG THEM, AS TO WHICH OF THEM WAS TO BE REGARDED AS THE GREATEST. AND HE SAID TO THEM, "THE KINGS OF THE GENTILES EXERCISE LORDSHIP OVER THEM, AND THOSE IN AUTHORITY OVER THEM ARE CALLED BENEFACTORS. BUT NOT SO WITH YOU. RATHER, LET THE GREATEST AMONG YOU BECOME AS THE YOUNGEST, AND THE LEADER AS ONE WHO SERVES. FOR WHO IS THE GREATER, ONE WHO RECLINES AT TABLE OR ONE WHO SERVES? IS IT NOT THE ONE WHO RECLINES AT TABLE? BUT I AM AMONG

YOU AS THE ONE WHO SERVES. "YOU ARE THOSE WHO HAVE STAYED WITH ME IN MY TRIALS, AND I ASSIGN TO YOU, AS MY FATHER ASSIGNED TO ME, A KINGDOM, THAT YOU MAY EAT AND DRINK AT MY TABLE IN MY KINGDOM AND SIT ON THRONES JUDGING THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL. "SIMON, SIMON, BEHOLD, SATAN DEMANDED TO HAVE YOU, THAT HE MIGHT SIFT YOU LIKE WHEAT, BUT I HAVE PRAYED FOR YOU THAT YOUR FAITH MAY NOT FAIL. AND WHEN YOU HAVE TURNED AGAIN, STRENGTHEN YOUR BROTHERS." PETER SAID TO HIM, "LORD, I AM READY TO GO WITH YOU BOTH TO PRISON AND TO DEATH." JESUS SAID, "I TELL YOU, PETER, THE ROOSTER WILL NOT CROW THIS DAY, UNTIL YOU DENY THREE TIMES THAT YOU KNOW ME." AND HE SAID TO THEM, "WHEN I SENT YOU OUT WITH NO MONEYBAG OR KNAPSACK OR SANDALS, DID YOU LACK ANYTHING?" THEY SAID, "NOTHING." HE SAID TO THEM, "BUT NOW LET THE ONE WHO HAS A MONEYBAG TAKE IT, AND LIKEWISE A KNAPSACK. AND LET THE ONE WHO HAS NO SWORD SELL HIS CLOAK AND BUY ONE. FOR I TELL YOU THAT THIS SCRIPTURE MUST BE FULFILLED IN ME: 'AND HE WAS NUMBERED WITH THE TRANSGRESSORS: FOR WHAT IS WRITTEN ABOUT ME HAS ITS FULFILLMENT.'" AND THEY SAID, "LOOK, LORD, HERE ARE TWO SWORDS." AND HE SAID

TO THEM, "IT IS ENOUGH." AND HE CAME OUT AND

STRIKE WITH THE SWORD?" AND ONE OF THEM STRUCK THE SERVANT OF THE HIGH PRIEST AND CUT OFF HIS RIGHT EAR. BUT JESUS SAID, "NO MORE OF THIS!" AND HE TOUCHED HIS EAR AND HEALED HIM. THEN JESUS SAID TO THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND OFFICERS OF THE TEMPLE AND ELDERS, WHO HAD COME OUT AGAINST HIM, "HAVE YOU COME OUT AS AGAINST A ROBBER, WITH SWORDS AND CLUBS? WHEN I WAS WITH YOU DAY AFTER DAY IN THE TEMPLE, YOU DID NOT LAY HANDS ON ME. BUT THIS IS YOUR HOUR, AND THE POWER OF DARKNESS." THEN THEY SEIZED HIM AND LED HIM AWAY, BRINGING HIM INTO THE HIGH PRIEST'S HOUSE, AND PETER WAS FOLLOWING AT A DISTANCE. AND WHEN THEY HAD KINDLED A FIRE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE COURTYARD AND SAT DOWN TOGETHER, PETER SAT DOWN AMONG THEM. THEN A SERVANT GIRL, SEEING HIM AS HE SAT IN THE LIGHT AND LOOKING CLOSELY AT HIM, SAID, "THIS MAN ALSO WAS WITH HIM." BUT HE DENIED IT, SAYING, "WOMAN, I DO NOT KNOW HIM." AND A LITTLE LATER SOMEONE ELSE SAW HIM AND SAID, "YOU ALSO ARE ONE OF THEM." BUT PETER SAID, "MAN, I AM NOT." AND AFTER AN INTERVAL OF ABOUT AN HOUR STILL ANOTHER INSISTED, SAYING, "CERTAINLY THIS MAN ALSO WAS WITH HIM, FOR HE TOO IS A GALILEAN." BUT PETER SAID, "MAN, I DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT." AND IMMEDIATELY, WHILE HE WAS

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## THE STORY OF

# EASTER

WENT, AS WAS HIS CUSTOM, TO THE MOUNT OF OLIVES, AND THE DISCIPLES FOLLOWED HIM. AND WHEN HE CAME TO THE PLACE, HE SAID TO THEM, "PRAY THAT YOU MAY NOT ENTER INTO TEMPTATION." AND HE WITHDREW FROM THEM ABOUT A STONE'S THROW, AND KNELT DOWN AND PRAYED, SAYING, "FATHER, IF YOU ARE WILLING, REMOVE THIS CUP FROM ME. NEVERTHELESS, NOT MY WILL, BUT YOURS, BE DONE." AND THERE APPEARED TO HIM AN ANGEL FROM HEAVEN, STRENGTHENING HIM. AND BEING IN AGONY HE PRAYED MORE EARNESTLY; AND HIS SWEAT BECAME LIKE GREAT DROPS OF BLOOD FALLING DOWN TO THE GROUND. AND WHEN HE ROSE FROM PRAYER, HE CAME TO THE DISCIPLES AND FOUND THEM SLEEPING FOR SORROW, AND HE SAID TO THEM, "WHY ARE YOU SLEEPING? RISE AND PRAY THAT YOU MAY NOT ENTER INTO TEMPTATION." WHILE HE WAS STILL SPEAKING, THERE CAME A CROWD, AND THE MAN CALLED JUDAS, ONE OF THE TWELVE, WAS LEADING THEM. HE DREW NEAR TO JESUS TO KISS HIM, BUT JESUS SAID TO HIM, "JUDAS, WOULD YOU BETRAY THE SON OF MAN WITH A KISS?" AND WHEN THOSE WHO WERE AROUND HIM SAW WHAT WOULD FOLLOW, THEY SAID, "LORD, SHALL WE

STILL SPEAKING, THE ROOSTER CROWED. AND THE LORD TURNED AND LOOKED AT PETER. AND PETER REMEMBERED THE SAYING OF THE LORD, HOW HE HAD SAID TO HIM, "BEFORE THE ROOSTER CROWS TODAY, YOU WILL DENY ME THREE TIMES." AND HE WENT OUT AND WEPT BITTERLY. NOW THE MEN WHO WERE HOLDING JESUS IN CUSTODY WERE MOCKING HIM AS THEY BEAT HIM. THEY ALSO BLINDFOLDED HIM AND KEPT ASKING HIM, "PROPHESY! WHO IS IT THAT STRUCK YOU?" AND THEY SAID MANY OTHER THINGS AGAINST HIM, BLASPHEMING HIM. WHEN DAY CAME, THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ELDERS OF THE PEOPLE GATHERED TOGETHER, BOTH CHIEF PRIESTS AND SCRIBES. AND THEY LED HIM AWAY TO THEIR COUNCIL, AND THEY SAID, "IF YOU ARE THE CHRIST, TELL US." BUT HE SAID TO THEM, "IF I TELL YOU, YOU WILL NOT BELIEVE, AND IF I ASK YOU, YOU WILL NOT ANSWER. BUT FROM NOW ON THE SON OF MAN SHALL BE SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE POWER OF GOD." SO THEY ALL SAID, "ARE YOU THE SON OF GOD, THEN?" AND HE SAID TO THEM, "YOU SAY THAT I AM." THEN THEY SAID, "WHAT FURTHER TESTIMONY DO WE NEED? WE HAVE HEARD IT OURSELVES FROM HIS OWN LIPS." NOW THE FEAST OF

This is the story of Easter. All verses have been taken from NIV 1984, and small portions were removed in order to curate a narrative experience. We hope this helps you have a greater understanding of the whole story of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

*These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. **John 20:31***

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It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas... to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him... When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place.

(John 13:1-5, 12)

When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer..." And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

(Luke 22:14-15, 19-20)

After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me." His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant... Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas... "What you are about to do, do quickly," Jesus told him... As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night. (John 13:21-22, 26-27, 30)

[Then] they went to a place called Gethsemane... and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch." (Mark 14:32-34)

"Pray that you will not fall into temptation." He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation." (Luke 22:40-46)

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs... carrying torches, lanterns and weapons... 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. (Matthew 26:47a, John 18:3, Matthew 26:47b-49)

Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?... Friend, do what you came for." (Luke 22:48, Matthew 26:50)

Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him... asked them, "Who is it you want?" "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "I am he," Jesus said... When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear... Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?" (John 18:4-6, 10-11)

"No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour – when darkness reigns." (Luke 22:51-53)

Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him and brought him... to... the high priest... Then all the disciples deserted him. (John 18:12-13, Matthew 26:56)

The high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked. "You have heard the blasphemy..." They all condemned him as worthy of death. Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists... And the guards took him and beat him. (Mark 14:61-65)

Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate. "Are you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate. "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. The chief priests accused him of many things. So again Pilate asked him, "Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of." But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed. (Mark 15:1-5)

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place." "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact,

for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." "What is truth?" Pilate asked. With this he went out again to the Jews and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him."

(John 18:36-38)

Now it was the custom at the Feast to release a prisoner whom the people requested. A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did. "Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate... But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead. "What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?" Pilate asked them. "Crucify him!" they shouted. "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" (Mark 15:6-9, 11-14)

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, 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!" (Matthew 27:24-25)

Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified... 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... Then they led him out to crucify him. (Mark 15:15, Matthew 27:27-30, Mark 15:20)

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, 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... 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." It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining.

(Luke 23:32-34, 39-45)

About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice... "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?". [And He] said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink... Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit... It is finished..." When he had said this, he breathed his last. (Matthew 27:46, John 19:28-30, Luke 23:46a, John 19:30, Luke 23:46b)

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people. 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!" (Matthew 27:51-54)

The soldiers... came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, [so] 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)

As evening approached, Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. (Mark 15:42-46)

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... '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 and to all the others... But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. (Luke 24:1-9, 11)

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit..." Now Thomas... one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (John 20:19-22, 24-29)

After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God... 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... You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth... And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Acts 1:3, Matthew 28:18-20a, Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:20b)

By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word... that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time... Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. (1 Corinthians 15:2-7)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3:16-17)

[All] these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:31)