



The background features several flowing, wavy bands of color. At the top, a thick band of red and orange flows from left to right. Below this, the background is mostly white. At the bottom, there are more flowing bands, including a prominent one in shades of yellow and orange that curves across the lower right, and another in red and orange on the lower left. The overall effect is dynamic and celebratory.

REMEMBERING THE RESURRECTION

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- Today, much of the world pauses to remember the death/burial and resurrection of Jesus.
 - In a broken and evil world that increasingly is rejecting him, this day serves as an often unwelcome reminder that there is more to life than the “here and now”.
 - **Psalm 90:10**

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- It is my desire that all of mankind would live with a realization that a day of judgment is coming.
BUT, in so doing, I want them to know that there is hope.
 - And that hope is because of the resurrection of Jesus.

The reality of the resurrection

- Recorded in all 4 gospels
- Throughout the New Testament, the resurrection is continually referenced! It is addressed as an actual historical event (totally different from the approach of Egyptian/Greek/Roman mythology)

The reality of the resurrection

- It is as the very core of the Christian faith.
- The resurrection is the one event that distinguishes “Christianity” from all other belief systems.
- **Disprove the resurrection, the Christian faith fails**
- **PROVE the resurrection, all other systems of faith fail.**

The reality of the resurrection

- The evidence for the empty tomb is overwhelming. Here are some reasons I believe Jesus arose from the dead.
- Because I believe the Bible is the inspired word of God. **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (John 17:17)**
- The Bible declares Jesus arose from the dead – **1 Corinthians 15:1-4, Acts 2:23-33, etc.**

The reality of the resurrection

- I believe Jesus arose from the dead.
- There are multiple accounts of His resurrection.
- The gospels can be shown to be independent witnesses.

Also, Paul - **1 Corinthians 15:8**

The reality of the resurrection

- I believe Jesus arose from the dead.
- Jesus was seen by multiple witnesses after He arose
- **1 Corinthians 15:1-8**
Leaders (same group multiple times)
A group of over 500 (still alive as Paul wrote)
By James the brother of Jesus AND Paul, both confirmed skeptics prior.
His appearance to several women first

The reality of the resurrection

- I believe Jesus arose from the dead.
- The tomb was empty
- Acknowledged by the majority of scholars (including skeptics & unbelievers)
 - Various natural theories are presented to explain the empty tomb
 - But all have greater issues that dismiss their probability

The reality of the resurrection

- I believe Jesus arose from the dead.
- The conversion of Paul and James, the Lord's brother
- James did not believe while Jesus taught (**John 7:5**), yet later he became a leader of the church in Jerusalem (**Galatians 1:19**)
- Paul, a zealot against Christians converted on the road to Damascus (**Acts 9:3-6**)

The reality of the resurrection

- I believe Jesus arose from the dead.
- The recorded conversion of many, from all walks of life AFTER He arose!
- **Colossians 1:23**, in a few decades it was said the gospel had been preached “to every creature under heaven”. While hyperbole, the point is unmistakable – the gospel had spread widely through the empire.
The fact of the Christian faith is even acknowledged by a few external, hostile sources.

The reality of the resurrection

- I believe Jesus arose from the dead.
- The impact of the Christian faith on the world throughout history, TO THIS DAY.
- Why are we here? Why is the Bible still the top best seller of all time? Why has so much attention been given to its translation, study and distribution?

The reality of the resurrection

- I believe Jesus arose from the dead.
- NOTE this observation of Paul:
- **1 Corinthians 15:12-19**, “...*if in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most pitiable.*”

HOW the Bible teaches us to remember the resurrection

- The Bible makes frequent reference to the resurrection.
- **Romans 1:3-4**, Jesus was “...*declared to be the Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.*”

HOW the Bible teaches us to remember the resurrection

- The Bible makes frequent reference to the resurrection.
- **Philippians 3:8-11**, Paul gave up everything, “...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

HOW the Bible teaches us to remember the resurrection

- WHEN we obey the gospel
- Our hope of salvation depends on the death & resurrection of Jesus
- **Romans 10:9-10**, belief
- **Acts 2:38, 17:30-31**, repentance
- **Romans 10:9-10**, confession
- **Acts 2:38, Romans 6:3-4ff**, baptism

HOW the Bible teaches us to remember the resurrection

- The weekly observance of the Lord's Supper
- Instituted by Jesus, **Matthew 26:26-28**
- Emphasized by Paul – **1 Corinthians 11:23-26ff**
- WHEN they partook – Sunday – **Acts 20:7**
NOTE: Jesus arose on Sunday (**Mark 16:1-2, Matthew 28:1, Luke 24:1, John 20:1**)
We partake and remember EVERY Sunday!

HOW the Bible teaches us to remember the resurrection

- As we consider what awaits us after this life
- We live with the hope of the resurrection
- **1 Peter 1:3**, begotten to a living hope...
- **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**, Paul gave assurance of a resurrection because Jesus arose
- **1 Corinthians 15:18-19**, *If in this life only we have hope...*

HOW the Bible teaches us to remember the resurrection

- As we consider what awaits us after this life
- MOST, want to live longer and anticipate living in a place where we do not need to worry about the brokenness that is around us. Heaven is such a place! **Revelation 21:4**
- WE have confidence in this BECAUSE Jesus arose from the dead!

What about “Easter”?

- Today, this day is set aside as a special day to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus
- While a noble gesture, the Bible nowhere speaks of this annual observance!
- History records the observance of “Passover” (the precursor to Easter) and “Pentecost” in the 2nd century AD (about 100 years after the completion of the Bible).
It was introduced by man!

What about “Easter”?

- NOTE: Even then, the “Passover” observance was a set day of the year, not a set day of the week.
- Our current time of observance was not established until the Council of Nicaea ~325 AD.

It was set to the first Sunday, following the first full moon, following the “vernal equinox” (first day of spring). Hence between March 22-April 25th

What about “Easter”?

- **Biblical concerns:**

- It is based on and appeals to the traditions of men.

Matthew 15:1-9

Galatians 4:8-11, “...you observe days and months and seasons and years. I am afraid for you, lest I have labored in vain.”

- Traditions of man makes worship more about what MAN wants than what God wants.

(Colossians 2:20-23)

What about “Easter”?

- **Biblical concerns:**
- It appeals to the silence of scripture
2 John 9, *“whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ...”*
1 Corinthians 4:6, *...that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.*
- Silence is NEVER a safe course in worshipping God

What about “Easter”?

- **Biblical concerns:**
- It minimizes the commitment required of the Christian – **Galatians 2:20, Romans 12:1-2, 2 Corinthians 5:17, etc.**
- God wants us to remember Him continually, not just a few days each year!

Concluding thoughts

- I am grateful that people DO pause to remember the resurrection of Jesus.
This day gives the agnostic/atheist/unbeliever an unwelcome reminder that Jesus lived and impacted history!
- BUT, we must be careful that we do NOT set aside God's directives attempting to follow Him (**Matthew 7:21-23**)

Concluding thoughts

- What we do today is no different than any other Sunday when we gather together.
- We invite you to give Him your life.

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**HOW DO YOU
REMEMBER HIS
RESURRECTION?**

Let us pray!

