

The Origins Of Easter;

Jesus had to die in order to pay the price to redeem the earth and man from the tyranny of Satan. By faith we accept his death as payment for our sins, God then includes in the package of Justification that we also are resurrected with Christ, therefore citizens of heaven and untouchable by the Adversary (Sanctification) and provides the Holy Spirit as an enforcer of HIS will.

Joh 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

Joh 3:15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

Joh 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Joh 3:17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Joh 3:18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

This is the most famous statement made in the bible; for good reason. It is the hard rock bottom of the basics of a belief in a Creator of the universe.

There is a creator; the intricate design of the natural world displays HIS genius in all things.

Life is a special part of the creation; [HE could have stopped with just rocks and water and had a lava lamp floating around in space] Life has value, it's variable and complex, and with the idea that it can be eternal, which is beyond our capacity to fully understand, it is apparent that Life is the whole point, the entire reason for creation. The earth is, as it is, to support – life.

In :16, It says that “whoever believes in the Son of God will have eternal life.” That's pretty straight up and doesn't require any interpretation.

So; Let's examine this idea, and see what it means to each one of us.

In the Book of Romans, the Apostle Paul writes;

Rom 10:9 because, if you confess with your mouth [publicly acknowledge] that Jesus is Lord [your guide and leader] and [have faith-absolutely] believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.[you will have eternal life]

Rom 10:10 For with the heart one believes and is justified,[granted a legal dismissal of all charges against you] and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Rom 10:11 For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” [Isaiah 28:16,]

In the Book of Ephesians, he gives more;

Eph 1:13 In him [Jesus] you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

Eph 1:14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Do you see the common denominator? Believe in the Son of God and you will have eternal life.

How does this come about? What happened to make this all work?

That is the story of the Easter celebration of the resurrection of Christ Jesus.

To be resurrected he had to die first. I know this is sad, but it is an important part of the story.

Joh 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

Num 21:5 And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." [manna = what is that?]

Num 21:6 Then the LORD sent fiery [copper colored, poisonous] serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.

Num 21:7 And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

Num 21:8 And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live."

Num 21:9 So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live. [the serpent on a pole is the symbol for medicine]

In this story from the Old Testament we see the simplicity of salvation. All they had to do was look at the symbol of their sin, the serpent, up on a post and they were saved from being snake-bit. Jesus said it is the same deal with him; Look to his death on the cross and realize that he went through all that for our benefit, and we too will be saved from a for-sure eternal death.

The Book of Exodus gives us the account of God through Moses rescuing the Hebrew people out of Egypt; [Reading assignment – Exodus 9:>12:]

After many plagues, Moses instructed the Israelites to paint a cross on their doors to mark their homes as believers, [this points to the blood of Christ shed for us, to protect us from destruction]. This instituted the Passover, a celebration of the Jews being released from the slavery of Egypt, and our release from the slavery of sin and death, by the saving grace of God.

The Passover starts on the 10th of the month with each household choosing a lamb for its celebratory meal. The lamb was to be young [like Jesus], unblemished [like Jesus], and a member of the regular flock [like Jesus]. They took the chosen lamb into their homes for 3 days [like Jesus; we see this as Palm Sunday], and you know, everyone in the house would love the lamb and hate to see it die [like Jesus].

On the 14th day at 3:00pm they killed the lamb to get it ready to cook for supper [Jesus died on the cross at 3:00 pm on the 14th day of the month]. He was put in a tomb, and after 3 days and 3 nights he rose from the dead. On Sunday morning the women and the disciples discovered the tomb to be empty and 2 men [in white] were there to say "Why do you look for him here? He told you he would rise up again." [Luke 24:1>:12]

These are the origins of our Easter celebration. Look for the story behind the symbols.