

The Easter Story – as told by Jaime Riggs

March 27, 2026



Hello, Friendship! My name is Jaime Riggs. My husband, Travis, and I have been married for 21 years, and we have 5 children. ALL BOYS! Yes, our house is loud and active! I am glad to be able to be here in person with you, since we were just online for our story of Christmas. Hopefully, you were able to listen to that story, but just in case, here's a reminder:



Mary was a young Jewish girl who was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph. One day, while she was alone, the Bible tells us that an angel appeared to her! The word angel means “messenger”.

The angel told her that she was very favored by God and that He had chosen her to carry His son. And this was not just any baby; it was the Savior of the world! Mary must have been shocked! Mary wondered how all of this could be. How could she be pregnant? She was only engaged and a virgin. The angel told her not to worry, that God’s Spirit would move and do a miracle.

God also sent an angel to her soon-to-be husband to tell him the news as well. The angel told Joseph to take Mary as his wife, and he obeyed God. Soon after, Mary did become pregnant by the Spirit of God, and she began to carry this son, whom the angel had said should be named Jesus, which means God is salvation!



The Bible says that Mary birthed the baby, named him Jesus, wrapped him in cloths, and laid him in an animal’s feeding trough, which is called a manger.

We celebrate the special day that God sent His Son to be born into the world on December 25th each year. And we don’t just give it one day. We celebrate it for a whole season! The Christmas Season. It’s that special!



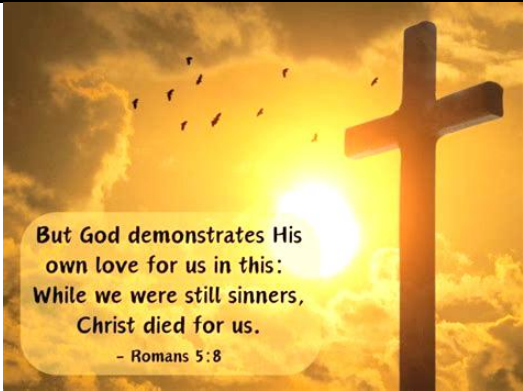
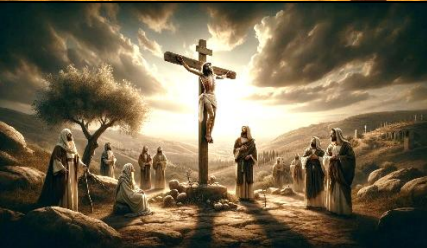

The story of the birth of Jesus is a story filled with wonder, mystery, angels, courage, danger, and suffering. It is, most importantly, a story of Hope. It’s a story that tells of God’s great love for us. He was willing to send His Son to earth, to be born as a lowly baby, to live a sinless life, and later die in our place. And that leads us to what we are going to talk about today.

The Easter story.

Just like the story of Christ’s birth, this story is filled with wonder, mystery, angels, courage, danger, and suffering. It is also, most importantly, a story of Hope.

It’s a story that tells of God’s great love for us.

	<p>Most of Jesus' first 30 years of life are not recorded for us, but we do know about the last three years before his death.</p> <p>The Bible tells us that Jesus taught about God and how to follow Him.</p>
	<p>He did many miraculous things, like healing the blind, the paralyzed, and the sick or diseased people.</p> <p>Unlike other "religious" leaders, Jesus sought out the lonely, afraid, and sick.</p>
	<p>Jesus showed the way to be in a right relationship with God. That it was not by doing good works, or being born a certain ethnicity, but it was about believing and trusting in Him, since HE was the son of God and through Him was the way to have a relationship with God.</p> <p>Because of these claims and all that Jesus was teaching the people, the religious leaders of the day hated him. They came up with a plan to get rid of Jesus. They were going to kill him. They arrested Jesus and put him on trial for crimes he did not commit.</p>
	<p>He was innocent because He was sinless. The Bible tells us that never once did Jesus, the Son of God, do anything wrong. He obeyed his Father, God, completely and totally.</p>
	<p>You see; you and I - we are sinners. We are all born into sin because our parents are sinners, and no one here today can honestly stand up and say, "I have never thought, said, or done ANYTHING wrong."</p> <p>The Bible tells us that what we earn because of our sin is death and separation from God. And friends, that's a big problem for us.</p> <p>For you see, God is holy. And by that very fact, he is unable to be in the presence of sin. So what can we do? How can we make it right? How can our sin debt be paid? The only way that can be is for someone to pay the debt of sin on our behalf. But who can do that? Only One who is sinless, dying in our place can do that.</p> <p>This is what Jesus did for you and for me. For the whole world.</p> <p>You might be saying, but how? How could He do this? Remember back to our Christmas story? Jesus was not born of man; he was born of God through a woman. He was not born into sin. And as I told you a minute ago, He never had any sin of His own.</p>

	<p>So, since He was both man and God, he was able to take on the punishment for all of mankind.</p>
	<p>But “WHY would He do that?” is maybe the better question.</p> <p>The answer to that is love.</p> <p>Dear friend, you might not have arrived here in the building feeling very loved or valued today. You may not feel worthy or wanted.</p> <p>But I have awesome news for you today! The God of the universe knows you, loves you, and made a way for you to have a relationship with Him through the giving of His only Son’s life by death on the cross.</p>
	<p>That’s right. After Jesus’ unfair trial, some angry men hung him from a Roman cross, and there he bled and died. His death paid the penalty of sin that we owe. After his death, some of his friends took his body and buried it in a borrowed tomb. There he stayed for 3 full days.</p> <p>Now comes the best part of the story!</p>
	<p>Very early on the Sunday morning, after Jesus had died and been buried, some women came to the tomb. When they got there, they found that the body of Jesus was gone!</p> <p>Can you imagine what would have been going through their minds? They had seen him die, and they knew he was dead. They saw him being laid in that tomb, and now he was gone. I’m sure they wondered, “Did someone take him away? What could have happened?” The Roman soldiers had put a huge stone in front of the tomb so that no one would steal the body, and yet now that stone was moved away, and the body was gone.</p> <p>So, the women stood there, unsure of what to do. Then they saw angels, messengers from God. The angels asked them why they were looking for the living among the dead. The angels told them that Jesus had risen and that they should go and tell the rest of his followers that he was alive.</p> <p>What an incredible thing! This man Jesus, who had told them he was God, had now proven it by doing something supernatural - that only God can do! He had come back from the dead.</p> <p>This is the story of Easter!</p> <p>By Jesus's sacrifice on the cross, we can have the gift of a right relationship with God through his life. Jesus took our sins upon himself and died in our place, then he rose from the dead, defeating death.</p> <p>Death did not win. It does not have the final word!</p> <p>God won! God always wins!</p>

	<p>And now people like you and me can experience life fully and forever with God because of his great love for us.</p>
	<p>If we want to be close to God, it is possible. All the wrong things that we've done that have kept us separate and distant from God, can be forgiven. We can be close to God and live forever with him if we believe this true story of the Gospel: that Jesus came, that He died, and that He rose again. We can ask Him to forgive us of our sin and wrongdoing and turn away from it. We can put our faith and hope in Jesus and his work on the cross in dying for our sins, and we can be saved!</p> <p>Easter is the story of how Jesus died on a Friday, but he actually came back to life when he defeated death by rising again on a Sunday.</p>
	<p>Because of that, Christians celebrate Easter on a Sunday morning each spring. Actually, we celebrate it every Sunday.</p> <p>It's why Christians meet on Sundays each week to celebrate all that God has done for us.</p>
	<p>The story of Easter, the story of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, means that Jesus was more than just a prophet or a good teacher. Jesus proved that He was God by doing something that no one else before, or since, could do - defeating death by rising from the dead.</p> <p>This miracle changes everything. It can change everything for you. Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved!</p>

Easter Story Resources

You can find the Easter story in the Holy Bible.

The best places are in the book of Matthew, Chapter 28, verses 1-10; the book of Mark, Chapter 16, verses 1-13; the book of Luke, Chapter 24, verses 1-12; and the book of John, Chapter 20, verses 1-18.

If you would like to read the Bible in your own language, try these apps:

