

# JOURNEY

THE ROAD TO NEW LIFE



**On this Journey,  
what Road are you on?**

**Today...  
The Road to Freedom**

**JOURNEY**  
THE ROAD TO NEW LIFE

# When is Easter?

March 27

Choose ONE of FOUR worship services

7:45, 9:00, 10:15, 11:30 am

# When is Easter?

Easter Sunday

**2016 March 27**

2017 April 16

2018 April 1

2019 April 21

2020 April 12

2021 April 4

# When is Easter?

The four Gospels make it clear that Jesus was crucified in conjunction with the Jewish Passover (Matthew 26:17-19; Mark 14:12-16; Luke 22:7-15; John 18:28,39; 19:14). The Gospels make it clear that Jesus was raised from the dead three days later, on the first day of the week (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:2,9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1,19). Biblically speaking, then, Christ's resurrection should be celebrated on the first Sunday after the Jewish Passover meal. However, this is not the case. Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. This method of determining the date of Easter often results in Easter being before Passover and/or displaced far from Passover. Easter can potentially be observed anywhere between March 22 and April 25.

In church history, there was a significant amount of debate that went into determining when Easter would be observed. Dating Easter in conjunction with the vernal equinox and full moon had nothing to do with the biblical account of Christ's resurrection or the Passover. It was pagan practices that the Church "absorbed" and attempted to Christianize that resulted in Easter's being linked to the vernal equinox and the full moon. The only thing that is biblical regarding when Easter is now observed is the fact that Easter is always on a Sunday.



# Culturally... What is Easter?

It is thought that the word *Easter* comes from a pagan figure called Eastre who was celebrated as the goddess of spring by the Saxons of Northern Europe. A festival called Eastre was held during the spring equinox by these people to honor her. The name for a celebration of the sunrise and a change of season was eventually applied to the Christian celebration of the resurrection of Christ and the new era He heralded. The goddess Eastre's earthly symbol was the rabbit, which was also known as a symbol of fertility.

The German tradition of the Easter Bunny migrated to America in the 1800s, likely accompanying German immigrants, many of whom settled in Pennsylvania. Over the past 200 years, the Easter Bunny has become the most commercially recognized symbol of Easter. In legend, the Easter Bunny brings baskets filled with colored eggs, candy, and sometimes toys to the homes of children on the night before Easter, in much the same way as Santa Claus is said to deliver presents on Christmas Eve. The Easter Bunny will either put the baskets in a designated place or hide them somewhere for the children to find when they wake up in the morning, giving rise to the tradition of the Easter egg hunt.

# Why are these symbols for Easter?

- Bunnies
- Eggs
- Candy
- New clothes



- \*People are desperately searching for new life
- \*These items represent new life but don't provide new life
- \*Only Jesus provides new life

**Biblically...**  
**What is Easter Sunday?**

**Resurrection Sunday**



# Resurrection Sunday

Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. They were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” Looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large. Entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, “Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him.” Mark 16:2-6

# Why do we need Easter?

Genesis 2-3

Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. The Lord God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.” Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.”

Genesis 2:15-18

Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden’?” The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’ ” The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Genesis 3:1-5



When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

Genesis 3:6-7

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” He said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.” And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” Genesis 3:8-13

The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you will go, and dust you will eat All the days of your life; and I will put enmity Between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.”

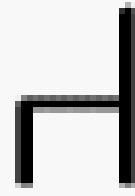
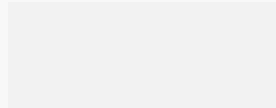
Genesis 3:14-15

# How is Genesis 3:15 fulfilled?

Jesus said, “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.” John 6:38-40



Sinful Man



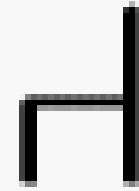
Holy God



Sinful Man

Death  
Eph. 2:1  
Rom. 6:23

Sin  
Separates  
from  
God  
Isaiah 59:2  
Rom. 3:23



Holy God

Eternal Life  
Jn. 17:3

Sinful Man



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Holy God

Eternal Life  
Jn. 17:3

- you were dead in your trespasses and sins  
Ephesians 2:1
- the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23
- your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God  
Isaiah 59:2
- for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God  
Romans 3:23
- This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:3

Sinful Man



Death  
Eph. 2:1  
Rom. 6:23

Good Works

Religion

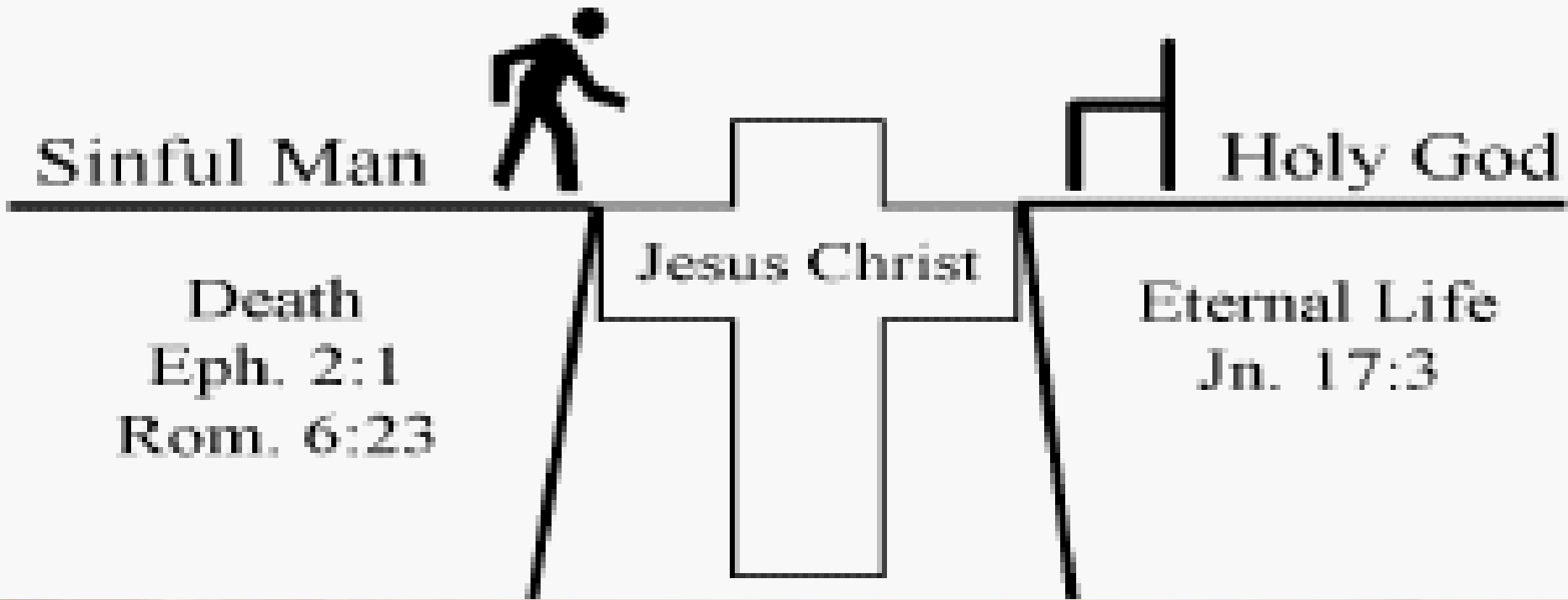
Morality

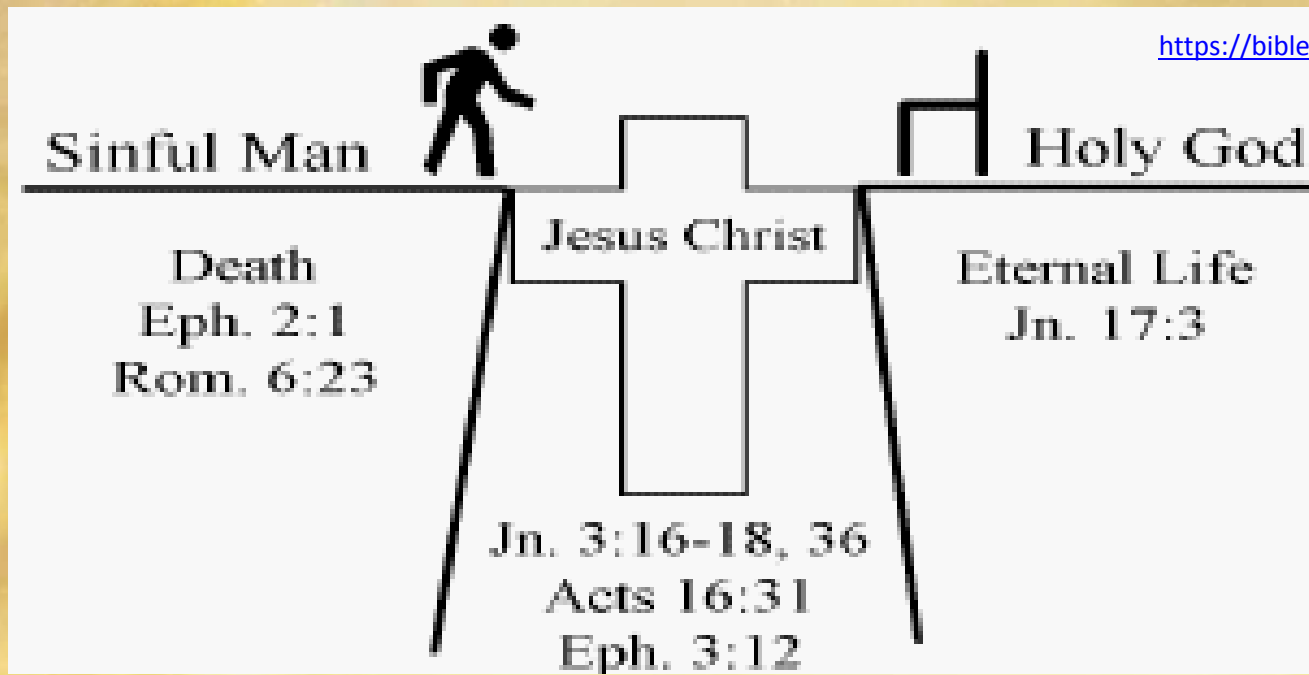
Holy God

Eternal Life  
Jn. 17:3

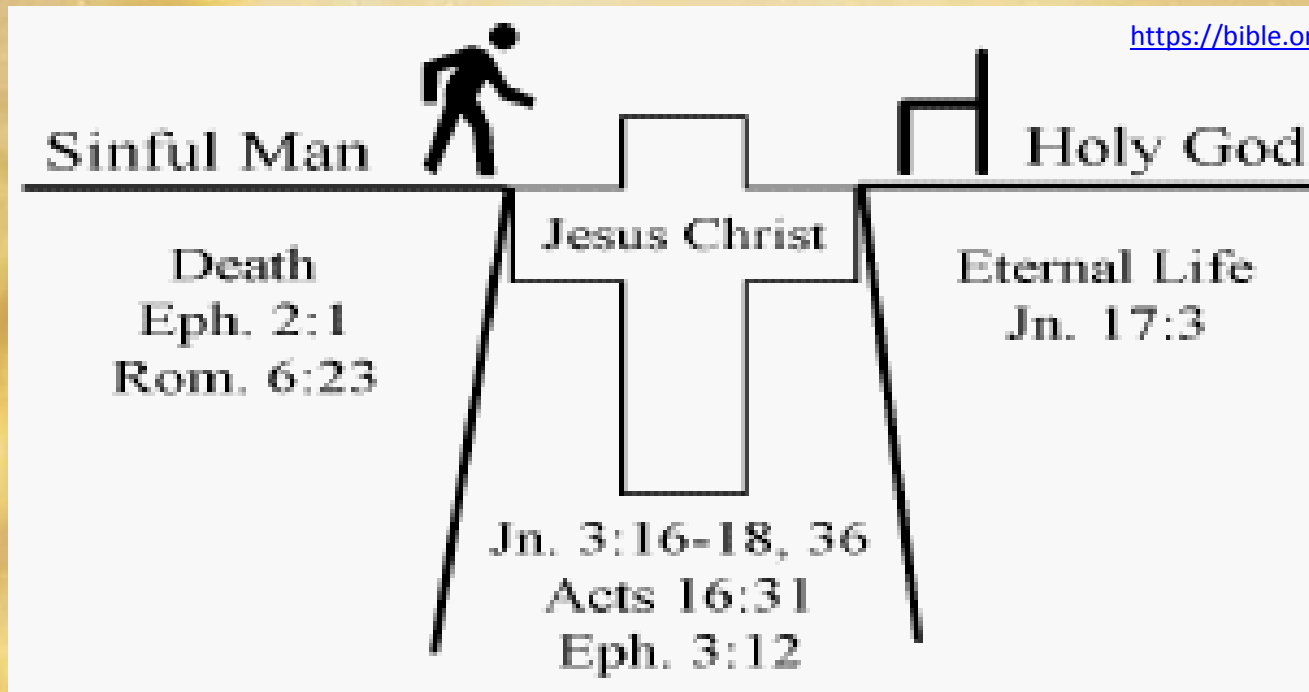
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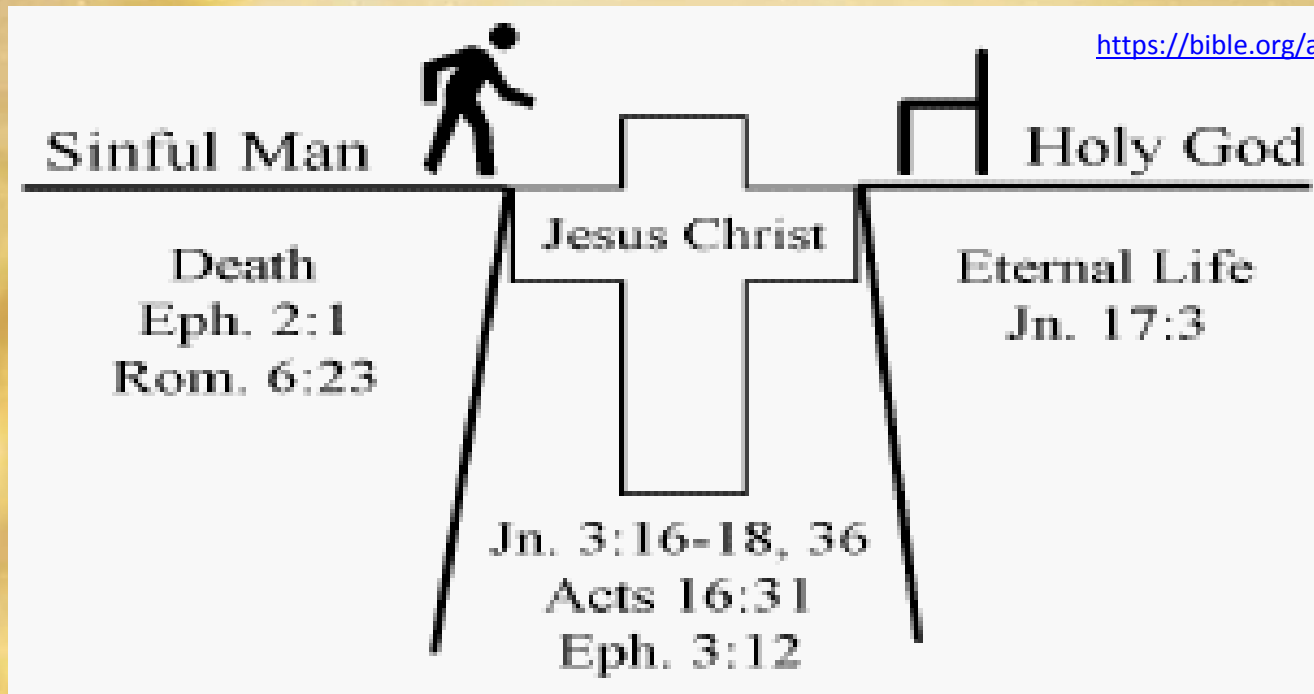
For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. John 3:16-18



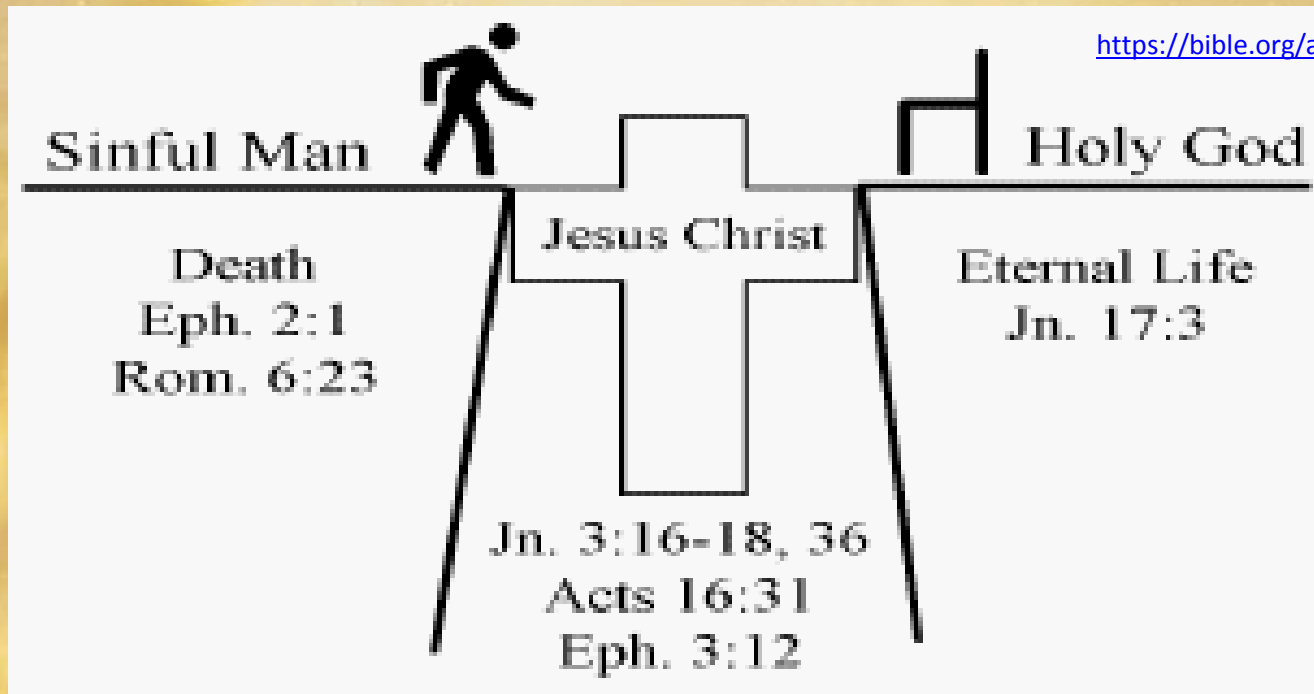
Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household. Acts 16:31

we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.

Ephesians 3:12



He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him. John 3:36



For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God  
Ephesians 2:8



# An Easter Love Story

**JOURNEY**  
THE ROAD TO NEW LIFE