



Dr. Joe K. Taylor, Senior Pastor, South Reno Baptist Church, Reno, Nevada • Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023
All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.

A. EASTER—THE BIG PICTURE

Crucifixion	Where He <u>paid for our sins</u> .	Matthew 27:45-56
Burial	Where He <u>bore our judgment</u> .	Matthew 27:56-66
Resurrection	Where He arose, <u>authenticating His sacrificial death</u> and <u>giving us hope</u> .	Matthew 28:1-8
Great Commission	Where He <u>charged the church</u> to respond by sharing the Gospel everywhere.	Matthew 28:16-20

B. EASTER—WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

“I believe the return of Christ is imminent, therefore the spreading of the Gospel is imperative.” – Pastor Joe

BRIEF PROPHECY UPDATE

1. The Conflict on the Temple Mount just this past week.

(Sources: CBS, Fox News, JPost, AL Jazeera. **NOTE:** The Bible predicts the world will hate Israel, once again, during the end time, cf., Zechariah 12:2-3, Romans 11, Revelation 16 and Ezekiel 38 and 39.)

2. China and Russia signed a “roadmap to closer military ties” just last month on **March 21, 2023**.

(Sources: WSJ, Reuters, AP, JPost, Military Times.) **NOTE:** This relates to prophecy of a 200-million-man army that will wipe out one third of the world during the tribulation, cf., Revelation 9:13-18 and Revelation 16:12-16.)

C. EASTER — FOUR TRUTHS FOR THE RESCUED

1. The devil could not stop Christ.

Matthew 27:45–53, NLT -⁵⁰ Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit. ⁵¹ At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart, ⁵² and tombs opened. The bodies of many godly men and women who had died were raised from the dead...⁵⁴ The Roman officer and the other soldiers at the crucifixion were terrified by the earthquake and all that had happened. They said, “This man truly was the Son of God!”

2. The cross could not defeat Christ.

Matthew 28:1–6, TLB -¹ Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to the tomb. ² Suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and rolled aside the stone and sat on it. ³ His face shone like lightning and his clothing was a brilliant white. ⁴ The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and fell into a dead faint. ⁵ Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be frightened!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified, ⁶ but He isn’t here! For He has come back to life again, just as He said he would...”

3. The grave could not hold Christ.

Matthew 28:5–7, NLT -⁵ Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. ⁷ And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you.”

4. Our Lives can be different—but only in Christ.

Colossians 1:13–14, NLT -¹³ For He has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, ¹⁴ who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

Rescued • Redeemed • Restored • Forgiven

“Easter is the celebration of your redemption—the legal transaction where Jesus traded His blood for your life.” - Pastor Joe