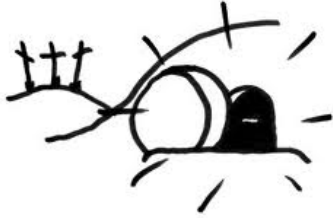


What do I believe, now Easter has ‘been and gone’?



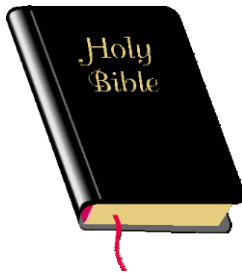
An empty tomb

You are someone who doesn't need convincing that Jesus is alive, because you have had a personal, spiritual encounter with him, and can see God answering prayers in most things.



Angels and miracles

You are someone who is open to God doing things in your life, but it sometimes takes something big to really convince you



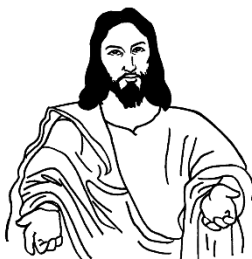
The Bible

You are someone who believes that Jesus is alive because it says so in the Bible. You believe it, but don't really understand it.



Miracles

You are someone who needs more obvious miracles to believe! You're a bit suspicious of most miracles and you have big questions about how reliable the Bible is.



Jesus in physical form

It would take Jesus himself to actually appear in front of you and show you his nail-scarred hands, for you to believe.

Adapted from 'More Easter Cracked' © Scripture Union 2012

If you need help using these resources, please contact: igniteenquiries@diocant.org

Find our Ignite resources: <https://canterburydiocese.org/ignite/ignite-resources>

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Easter timeline events

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey.

Jesus clears the Temple.

Jesus shares the Last Supper with his disciples.

Jesus sweats blood in the Garden of Gethsemane, while disciples asleep

Jesus is arrested.

Jesus appears before the Sanhedrin (Jewish Court).

Jesus appears before Pontius Pilate and is sentenced to be crucified.

Jesus crucified with two criminals and dies.

Jesus is buried in a tomb

Jesus resurrected three days later.

Last meal questions

If you were having one last important meal, before going away for a long time:

- Who would you invite?
- What would you say?
- What would you do?

Last meal questions

If you were having one last important meal, before going away for a long time:

- Who would you invite?
- What would you say?
- What would you do?

Kingly possessions and attributes

Wealthy

Palace

Army

Government

Crown Jewels

Warrior

Strong

Privileged

Coat of Arms

Ruthless

Nice clothes

Well educated

Servants

Royal Carriage

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

A S K H O N E S T V C T M C R
Q E I N P E R F E C T T N T J
S R N I Q D E F E N D E R N X
Z V D K T S L O V I N G W S F
S A V I O U R I L M V H W Q O
S N V I C T O R I O U S U F A
O T S B S E V W B G M S A K A
I H G S S W J M E R C I F U L
A V T I V Q F O R G I V I N G
P O W E R F U L A M H O F Q V
Q R Y R F T K L T W U X A H K
L O I V P C M Y I C M M I W V
R F J K I M L Y N R B N R G F
E Q A U I K M L G A L S T F O
N K B G W M X L K B E O C G H

DEFENDER
FAIR
FORGIVING
HONEST
HUMBLE
KIND
LIBERATING
LOVING
MERCIFUL
PERFECT
POWERFUL
SAVIOUR
SERVANT
VICTORIOUS
WISE

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

A S K H O N E S T V C T M C R
Q E I N P E R F E C T T N T J
S R N I Q D E F E N D E R N X
Z V D K T S L O V I N G W S F
S A V I O U R I L M V H W Q O
S N V I C T O R I O U S U F A
O T S B S E V W B G M S A K A
I H G S S W J M E R C I F U L
A V T I V Q F O R G I V I N G
P O W E R F U L A M H O F Q V
Q R Y R F T K L T W U X A H K
L O I V P C M Y I C M M I W V
R F J K I M L Y N R B N R G F
E Q A U I K M L G A L S T F O
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Pilate: this is your life script

Yes, Pontius Pilate, this is your life. And what an interesting life it's been so far!!

You were born in the Samnium region of Italy in 10 BC... (First slide) Here's a lovely picture of you as a baby, already dressing up as a roman soldier... Did you like dressing up as child?

Later, you attended school, where you excelled in maths (next slide). In fact, why don't you show off your maths skill now... How much is X times VI? (**60!!!**)

While at school, you never lost your love of dressing up (next slide) – I mean, getting ready for military life...

And of course, when you turned sixteen, you did in fact join the imperial roman army as a junior officer.

(next slide) Here's a photo of you practising one of the Roman army's most famous battle formation. What's this formation called again? (**Testudo – means 'Tortoise'**)

Now tell me, do you recognise this voice?

Voice from off stage. (“He was a lovely man, even if he wasn't as strong willed as I would have liked. Still, I did my best to whip him into shape!”)

Yes, it's your childhood sweetheart, your lovely wife, Claudia!

Do take a seat, Claudia...

And as you're getting yourself settled, I think (show next slide), yes, we've got a picture of your wedding day! Ah, look at you both... Claudia, you're as beautiful now as you were then, and Pontius, you're looking... older!

So, Claudia, what's it like being married this handsome chap!

Thank you, Claudia!

Well as your career progressed, you were given more and more responsibility (show next slide) Here you are leading your men into battle (next slide) and here's one of you commanding one of Roman's Legions.

And then you had a change of direction in your career. Do you remember what it was? ... Yes, that's right! Emperor Tiberius appointed you Prefect of the Roman Provinces of Judaea, Samaria and Idumæa. And in fact, (next slide) here's a picture of you looking a bit important in your Prefect Robes, while sitting on the judgement seat in Jerusalem.

Were those happy days for you, Pontius?

Of course, it's your time as Prefect of Judea that you are especially well known for. Do you still remember what or rather, who, made you so memorable, Pontius? **(Jesus)**

Yes, of course, it was sentencing that Jewish itinerant rabbi called Jesus to death by crucifixion, that your most remembered for. (next slide)

And here's a picture of Jesus standing there in front of you. You do look like you're actually pleading with him. Why was that Pontius?...

And Claudia, dear Claudia, if I can just bring you back in for a moment, I think that you actually had a dream about this Jesus, didn't you? Do you remember anything about that dream?...

Yes, in your recently published autobiography, 'Jesus, Pontius, and Me,' you claimed that your dream convinced you that Jesus was an innocent man, and that you pleaded with Pontius not to go ahead with the crucifixion? How did you feel when Pontius felt he had to go ahead and keep the angry mob of Jews happy?

Thank you, once again, Claudia.

But Pontius, as we finish this part of This Is Your Life, apart from executing the man who some believed to be the genuine Messiah, the actual Son of God, you did something else that you became world famous for, didn't you... (next slide)

You famously washed your hands of the whole affair, and even though you believed that this Jesus had not done anything wrong, you sent him off to be crucified...

Pontius Pilate, this is your life...

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Soldier's Monologue 1

“I just want to tell you about that night.

That man Jesus of Nazareth, well, Pilate, after all the toing and froing, in the end ordered him to be flogged.

There was such an atmosphere that night and we took him, Jesus that is, into the Palace and all the other soldiers came in to this big room– the whole troop!

We gave him a real lashing – much worse than usual. The thongs of the whip literally tore bits of his skin off! I mean, there was blood everywhere and the weal marks, they were like deep red glistening stripes across his back.

I've never seen a lashing like it – before or since. By rights he should have been dead! But he kept breathing. In fact, he mostly kept standing as well, even though we tried to beat him to the ground.

Afterwards, all the guys from the troop were there and we took off his tunic completely. Somebody got some thorns and made like a crown and shoved it down hard on his head – more blood! Trickling down his forehead and on to his face.

Then we got a purple robe and a staff to make him look like a king. We shouted ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ and bowed down, pretending to adore him. I mean, we were really taking the p... err, mickey out of him!

Then it got more and more nasty. We spat on him and then someone grabbed the staff and hit him in the face – a lot of us joined in.

The noise! All of us shouting... and his screams...

Looking back, it was awful... horrible. It even makes me shudder to think of it. No, I really don't know how he survived all of that.

But survive it he did and then we had to take him out to go up and be crucified... but that's another story...”

Soldier's Monologue 2

I was in charge of the execution. I did what I had to do, because I was under orders. But that doesn't mean that I enjoyed what I did.

I could see that he was different. He wasn't your usual villain. He wasn't a thief or a murderer or anything like that. He had something about him, which I could see, even through the blood and cuts and bruises that he had all over him.

Yeah, I could tell that he was different... But it was only after... you know... after we'd crucified him that I realised **how** different he was.

For starters, even after we'd banged the nails through his hands and his feet and hung him up on the cross, he actually said, "*Father, forgive them; they don't know what they're doing!*" I couldn't believe what I heard, 'cause if it had been me up there, I would either have been cursing everyone within earshot, or I would have pleading for someone to rescue me.

Then a few minutes later, Jesus tells this thief – a thief, mind you! – Jesus tells this thief that he's going to be with Jesus in paradise. I'd never heard anything like it in my life. A thief going to paradise? It's like Jesus really cared and had compassion for this bloke. It was also like he had the power... the authority... to give this man a place in heaven...

I tell you what, my head was buzzing with all that I saw and heard! And then right at the end, just before he breathed his last breath, he said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."

I can remember it all, just as if it was yesterday...

Soldier's Monologue 3

So, we did all that to him, yet Jesus – hanging from the cross – was able to forgive us for what we'd done to him, and then he promised the thief that he would be with Jesus in paradise that very day! Incredible! But it's what happened afterwards that left me gob smacked!

Because no sooner had he died, then, at the very same moment, that massive huge curtain - you know, the one in the Jew's precious temple – well, it was torn in half – against the grain of the cloth – from top to bottom! I mean, how is that possible?

And then also, at the same time, there was an earthquake that shook us all up something terrible! It was that bad, that even my favourite pub collapsed!

But that wasn't the strangest thing that happened!

No, the strangest thing that happened, was that the earthquake broke open some of the tombs and a load of folk who had died, were raised back to life, came out of the tombs, and went into Jerusalem – loads of people saw them, honest! And they weren't zombies or anything stupid like that! These were honest-to-God dead people who had somehow been miraculously brought back to life!

Well, I was amazed – and a bit scared! Never in all my days of soldiering, have I ever heard or seen anything like it – you couldn't make it up if you tried!

And so I couldn't help myself. I found myself saying, *“Surely he was the Son of God!”*

I mean, he must've been right?

Anyway, that's what I believed then, and it's what I still believe now. The question is, what do you believe?