

# ***EASTER FACTS AND FICTION***



*[What's it all about ?]*

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*Sunday 4 April 2010*



**What's it all about? A test...**

## ***1. Why now? Is 4 April 2010 special?***

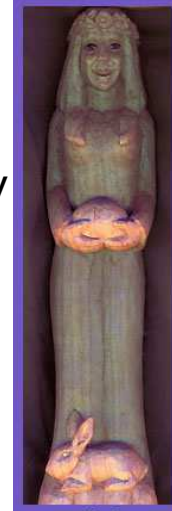
- First Sunday after full moon after Spring equinox (21 March)
- Anywhere between 22 March – 25 April



What's it all about? A test...

## 2. Why called "Easter"?

- **Eostre** = goddess of spring & fertility
- **Ostara** = festival of Eostre, April



What's it all about? A test...

## 3. Why the Easter bunny?

- Eostre's familiar spirit was **the hare**
- Hare = fertility, wisdom ...



What's it all about? A test...



#### 4. Why Easter eggs?

- Symbol of fertility
- Serpent's egg = "cosmic egg"
- Eostre's bird-hare legend



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Is that it ????

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## Christian Easter is ...



- Jesus lived and died ... BUT ...  
... *he didn't stay dead!!*
- Proof that :
  - Jesus was divine
  - His sacrificial death was accepted by God
  - There is life after death
  - We too can survive death
- Wishful thinking?



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## If no resurrection ...

- Christians are pathetic losers :
  - Believe a myth
  - Pray to a dead person
  - Trust destiny to a non-person
  - Focus on imaginary heaven
  - Hope it will all turn out OK
  - Think this life has eternal value
- Christianity is a sad cruel joke



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## The Bible says ... [I Corinthians 15:13-19]

there is no resurrection from the dead  
Christ has not been raised  
faith is pointless  
Christians are misrepresenting God  
there is no life after death  
Christians are to be pitied ...



## The Bible says ... [I Corinthians 15:13-20]

**IF** there is no resurrection from the dead  
**THEN** Christ has not been raised  
faith is pointless  
Christians are misrepresenting God  
there is no life after death  
Christians are to be pitied ...

***BUT IN FACT ...***



## The fact is ...

- Jesus was actually dead & buried ...  
... but didn't stay there

- Evidence ???
  - The tomb
  - Sightings
  - The church



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## Evidence? The **(not)** empty tomb

- Everyone knew the body was gone
- How?
  - Jesus wasn't dead?
  - Romans or Jews moved body?
  - Disciples stole body?
- If not, then what?
- Actually not empty
  - Grave clothes



## Evidence? Sightings

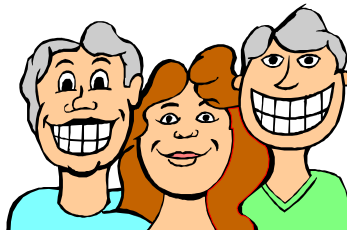
- People saw Jesus alive
  - Individuals, groups
  - 11 recorded occasions over 6 weeks
- Delusion? Wishful thinking?
  - Total shock, not expected
  - Not suggestive types
- If not fantasy, what did they see?



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## Evidence? The church ...

- ... then and now
- Not remembering a great teacher or leader
- But a personal daily encounter



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## So what ???

**IF** there **is** resurrection from the dead ...  
**THEN** Christ **has** been raised  
faith is **important**  
Christians are in touch with God  
there **is** life after death  
Christians are not so pathetic ...

***WHAT DO YOU THINK ?***

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## If it's true...

- Jesus is alive today!
- You can meet him here & now
- Don't take my word for it...

*He is Risen!*

*...find out for yourself...*

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