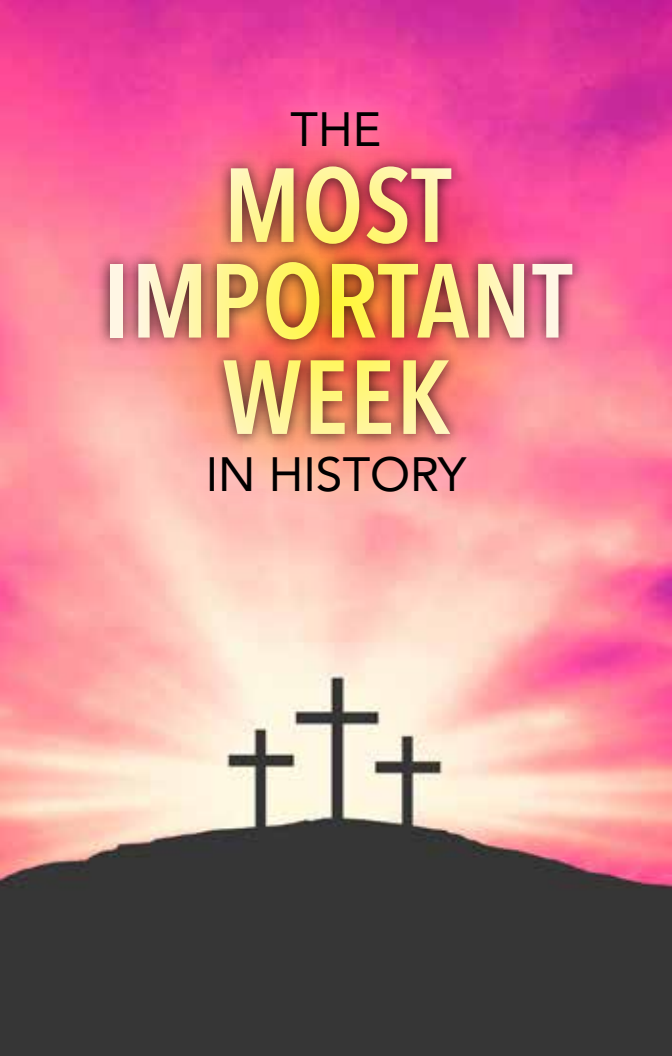
THE MOST IMPORTANT WEEK IN HISTORY



It would be difficult to exaggerate the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, something which is celebrated each year during Easter. The single greatest event that has ever happened not only impacted man's history and calendar, but his eternity.

This was no afterthought for God, but something He planned before the foundation of the world. Christ on the cross was as **"a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world"** (1 PETER 1:19-20).

The Old Testament prophets foresaw this event: **"The Spirit of Christ which was in them…testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ"** (1 PETER 1:11).

The animal sacrifices, which never took away sin, were a **"shadow of good things to come"** (HEBREWS 10:1). Christ **"appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself"** (HEBREWS 9:26 ESV). All those previous ages were pointing forward to this epic event.

We, **"on whom the end of the ages has come"** (1 CORINTHIANS 10:11 ESV), are the most privileged people in history. We live after the event of the cross. Isn't it easier to believe something after, rather than before the fact?

Some 484 years before Easter, an angel told Daniel that: **"from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince"** (DANIEL 9:25 NKJV), there would be 69 weeks of years, or 173,880 days. On exactly that date, Christ entered Jerusalem sitting on a colt, the foal of a donkey (MATTHEW 21:5).

But the angel told Daniel another prophecy: **"After the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself"** (DANIEL 9.26 NKJV). On Friday, April 3, AD 33, at 3 p.m., the hour of the evening sacrifice in the temple, Christ, the true Passover lamb, was cut off on a cross outside the city of Jerusalem.

So then, if Christ was not cut off for Himself, who was it for? The replies in the Bible are many: **"for the life of the world"** (JOHN 6:51), **"for all"** (1 TIMOTHY 2:6), **"for many"** (MATTHEW

26:28), **"for it [the Church]"** (EPHESIANS 5:25), **"for you"** (LUKE 22:20), **"for us"** (EPHESIANS 5:2), **"for the ungodly"** (ROMANS 5:6), **"for the unjust"** (1 PETER 3:18), **"for our sins"** (GALATIANS 1:4). But Paul said what every saved person has understood in the moment of his or her salvation: **"The Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me"** (GALATIANS 2:20). Have you seen the death of Christ in this way which is so personal and significant?

Thus, if you already know for whom the Messiah was cut off, don't delay further the need to repent of your sins and to personally trust Him for your eternal salvation. **"For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us"** (1 CORINTHIANS 5:7 NKJV).

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