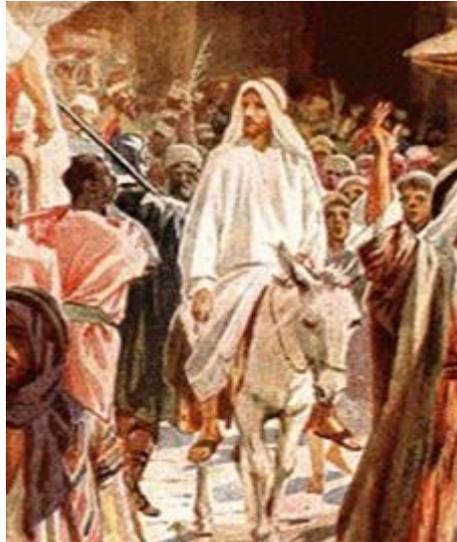


Jesus' death and resurrection

1) Jesus enters Jerusalem



The year is around 30 A.D and Jesus of Nazareth travelled to Jerusalem (the capital city of Israel) where the Romans were now in charge and ruling the city.

Now lots of Jews were hoping for a leader to come and overthrow the Romans and since Jesus had been teaching about the coming of the Kingdom of God, lots of Jews thought he was coming to throw the Romans out.

They thought this even more when he came into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey (the sign of a humble king). Lots of people grabbed palm leaves and started waving them and shouted,

"Blessed is the King, who comes in the name of the Lord." (Luke 19:38)

Some Jews thought that their new King, who could kill the Romans, had arrived.

Jesus' death and resurrection

2) The Last Supper



After riding into Jerusalem, Jesus borrowed a room so he and his disciples could have a Passover Meal. This was a meal to remember an Old Testament story where lamb's blood was put on the doors of Jewish people, so they could be forgiven and avoid God's judgement. It was a meal to remind them that God helped them escape Egypt and find a land of their very own and set up their own country - Israel.

During the meal however Jesus, rather than talking about the past, talked about himself as the new Passover lamb. He said he would have to die. He took bread from the table and broke it saying,

'Take, eat. This is my body.'

He then took the wine and drank it and said,

"Take, drink. This is my blood...Do this in remembrance of me."

He was trying to tell his disciples that he was going to have to die, just like the lambs used to in the temple. He was saying he was going to have to die, so people could be forgiven.

He also told his disciples that one of them would betray him and tell the Romans where he was. They all denied it.

Jesus' death and resurrection

3) Jesus is arrested

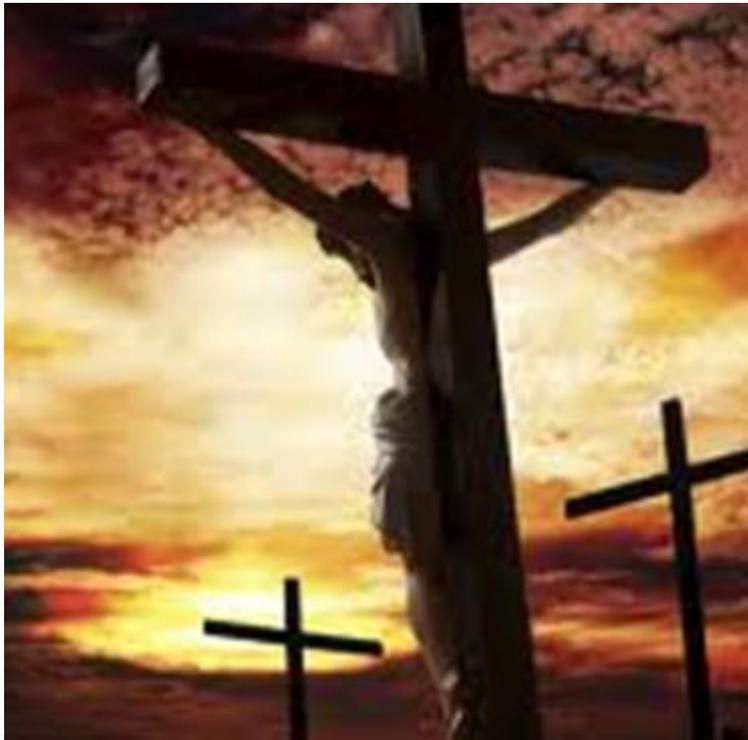


Jesus then went to a garden to pray for help from God, as he knew that he was about to go to his death and that it was going to be awful. Whilst praying Jesus wept blood because it was such a terrible thing he was going to experience. He asked God if he could not go and die, but said he would do whatever God wanted, so people could be forgiven.

Whilst in the garden, Roman soldiers came and arrest Jesus. They were led by Judas (one of Jesus' disciples), who had told them where Jesus was. A huge fight broke out as his disciples tried to protect him. However Jesus left with the soldiers peacefully.

Jesus' death and resurrection

4) Jesus is crucified



After being arrested Jesus was put on trial, first by Jewish leaders and secondly by Pilate (the Roman ruler of the area). The Jewish leader leaders found him guilty of blasphemy (speaking against God) even though he hadn't. Pilate didn't think he was guilty; however he was afraid of what people thought and lots of people wanted Jesus to die. So he sentenced him to death. To be crucified.

Jesus had to carry his cross to outside the city, where he was put on the cross, nails hammered through his wrists and feet and he was left on the cross to die.

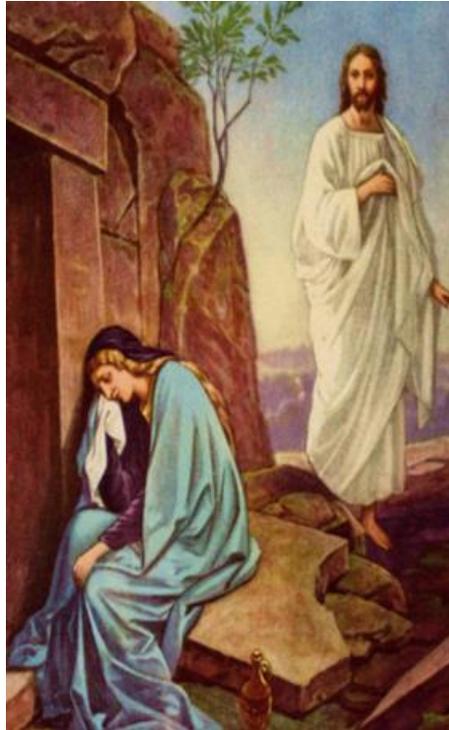
Lots of people mocked him whilst he was up on the cross, including a criminal who was on another cross near him. They mocked the idea he was a king.

Another criminal on a different cross, asked Jesus to forgive him.

As Jesus died, a Roman soldier who was next to the cross, said that Jesus must be God.

Jesus' death and resurrection

5) Jesus' resurrection



Jesus was dead.

However 3 days later some of the women, who knew Jesus (including Mary Magdalene), went to put spices on his dead body. When they got to the tomb, Jesus' body was not there! Then Jesus appeared to the women, who were totally amazed. They ran and told lots of Jesus' disciples. Some of them believed them; some of them doubted it was really true.

Jesus appeared to lots of his followers over the next 40 days, so lots of them started to believe that he had beaten death and come back to forgive anyone who asked him for God's forgiveness. Also they believed that if God forgave them, that after they die, they too would be resurrected, like Jesus, and live forever with God.

It was these followers, who then set up the first church and started telling everyone they could that Jesus had come back from the dead and that he could forgive them so they too could live with God forever.