

Was Jesus Crucified and Resurrected?

Disputed history

In comments to the StandInFaith ministry's [Facebook Page](#), many have disputed whether Jesus was crucified to death on the cross, and then resurrected from the dead.



In this article, I'll present proof from Quran-accepted sources that Jesus was crucified to death, then entombed, and resurrected after three days.

Quran says Jesus was not crucified or resurrected

The Quran teaches that Jesus was not crucified and killed on the cross, and therefore He wasn't resurrected. Instead, Allah 'exalted him to heaven' with plans for Jesus to return at the end of the age. Here is the text from Quran 4:157-158

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَقَوْلِهِمْ إِنَّا قَتَلْنَا الْمَسِيحَ عِيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ وَمَا صَلَبُوهُ وَلَكِنْ شُبِّهَ لَهُمْ
وَإِنَّ الَّذِينَ اخْتَلَفُوا فِيهِ لَفِي شَكٍّ مِنْهُ مَا لَهُمْ بِهِ مِنْ عِلْمٍ إِلَّا أَنْبَاعَ الظَّنِّ وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ يَقِينًا

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And [for] their saying, "Indeed, we have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the messenger of Allah ." And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him; but [another] was made to resemble him to them. And indeed, those who differ over it are in doubt about it. They have no knowledge of it except the following of assumption. And they did not kill him, for certain.

بَلْ رَفَعَهُ اللَّهُ إِلَيْهِ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَزِيزًا حَكِيمًا

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Rather, Allah raised him to Himself. And ever is Allah Exalted in Might and Wise.

Use Quran-Accepted Scriptures to Settle the Dispute

So that my information sources will be acceptable to Muslims, I'll only use Quran-accepted scriptures to reasonably prove the death and resurrection of Jesus. Why do I say 'Quran-accepted' scriptures? Simply because many Muslims have been taught that much of the overall Bible has been corrupted, so they don't accept its authority.

However, the Quran instructs Muslims honor the Torah (Moses' five books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy) and the Ingil (the gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) which "confirm the Torah." See the two Quran passages (5:44 and 5:46) below.

Therefore, I'll only use the Torah and Ingil for scriptural evidence for the historical crucifixion, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Quran 5:44 – The Torah is "Scripture of Allah"

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَا التَّوْرَةَ فِيهَا هُدًى وَنُورٌ يَحْكُمُ بِهَا النَّبِيُّونَ الَّذِينَ أَسْلَمُوا لِلَّذِينَ هَادُوا وَالرَّبَّانِيُّونَ وَالْأَحْبَارُ بِمَا اسْتَحْفَظُوا مِنْ كِتَابِ اللَّهِ وَكَانُوا عَلَيْهِ شُهَدَاءَ فَلَا تَخْشَوُا النَّاسَ وَاخْشَوْنِي وَلَا تَشْتَرُوا بِآيَاتِي ثَمَنًا قَلِيلًا وَمَنْ لَمْ يَحْكَمْ بِمَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْكَافِرُونَ ﴿٤٤﴾

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Indeed, We sent down the Torah, in which was guidance and light. The prophets who submitted [to Allah] judged by it for the Jews, as did the rabbis and scholars by that with which they were entrusted of the Scripture of Allah , and they were witnesses thereto. So do not fear the people but fear Me, and do not exchange My verses for a small price. And whoever does not judge by what Allah has revealed - then it is those who are the disbelievers.

Quran 5:46-47 –The Ingil (Gospel) Confirm the Torah

وَقَفَّيْنَا عَلَىٰ آثَارِهِم بِعِيسَى ابْنِ مَرْيَمَ مُصَدِّقًا لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ مِنَ التَّوْرَةِ ۗ وَعَايِنَاهُ الْإِنجِيلَ فِيهِ هُدًى وَنُورٌ وَمُصَدِّقًا لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ مِنَ التَّوْرَةِ وَهُدًى وَمَوْعِظَةً لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ ﴿٤٦﴾

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And We sent, following in their footsteps, Jesus, the son of Mary, confirming that which came before him in the Torah; and We gave him the Gospel, in which was guidance and light and confirming that which preceded it of the Torah as guidance and instruction for the righteous.

وَلِيَحْكُمُ أَهْلَ الْإِنجِيلِ بِمَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ فِيهِ ۗ وَمَنْ لَمْ يَحْكَمْ بِمَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ ﴿٤٧﴾

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And let the People of the Gospel judge by what Allah has revealed therein. And whoever does not judge by what Allah has revealed - then it is those who are the defiantly disobedient.

How does the Gospel of Jesus confirm the Torah? One important way the Gospel 'confirms' the Torah is by fulfilling God's 'appointed feasts.'

The Appointed Feasts of the Torah

The "appointed feasts" of the Lord are listed in the Torah, in Leviticus chapter 23. In addition to the seventh-day Sabbath, the 7 feasts are:

Spring Feasts:

1. **Passover** remembers the blood of a lamb protecting believers from the death angel, and the exodus from Egypt.
2. **Unleavened Bread** celebrates removing leaven (sin) from our households and our individual lives.
3. **Firstfruits** celebrates the first part of the barley harvest.
4. **Pentecost** celebrates the giving of the law on Mount Sinai. It occurs exactly 50 days after Firstfruits.

As I'll detail below... by His death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus perfectly fulfilled each of the Spring feasts from Passover to Firstfruits. Then, because His blood sacrifice was accepted in heaven, on the Day of Pentecost God sent the Holy Spirit to empower His disciples to become righteous.

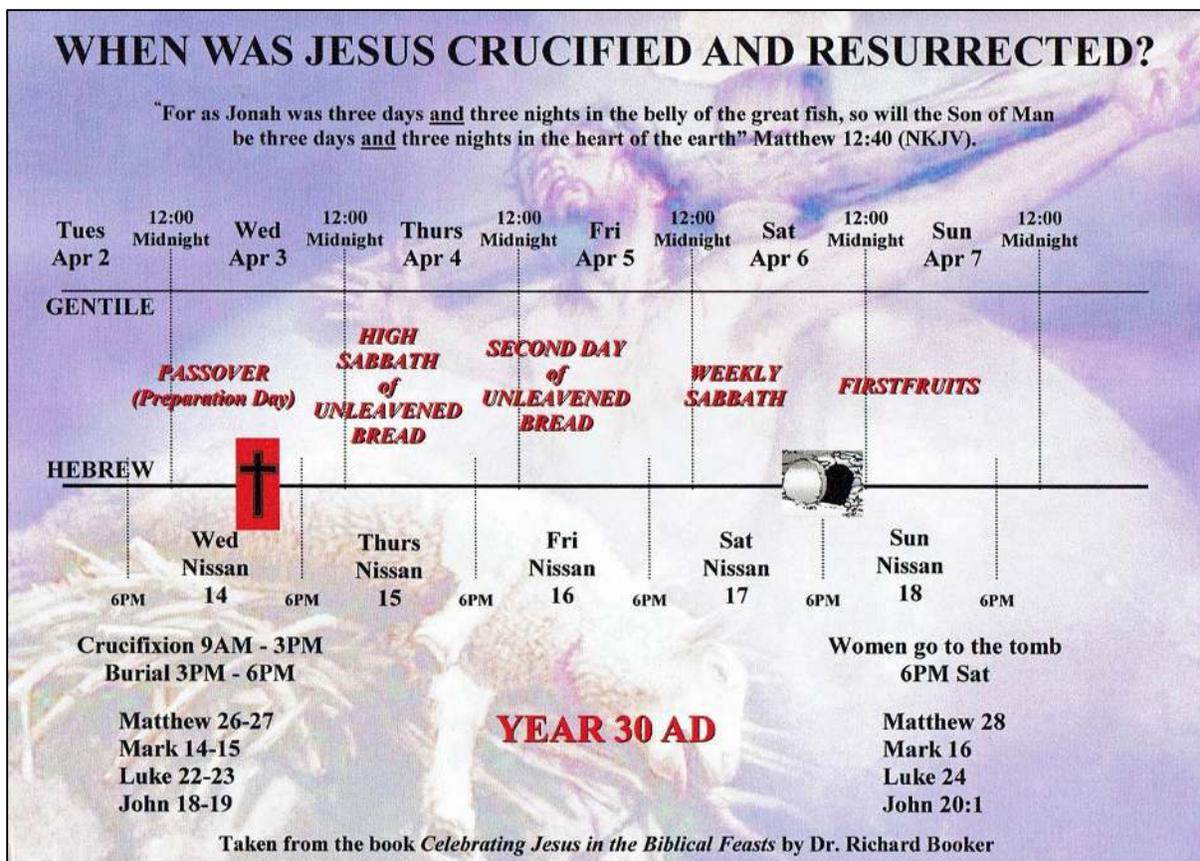
Just as Jesus perfectly fulfilled the Spring feasts, we expect Him to fulfill the autumn feasts of Trumpets, Atonement, and Tabernacles in the future.

Autumn Feasts:

5. **Trumpets** assembles the believers and announces God's judgement coming in 10 days
6. **Atonement** is where the Christ (our High Priest) enters the holiest place to offer blood on the mercy seat. On this day, God judges each person and their fates are sealed.
7. **Tabernacles** celebrates God making His dwelling place with mankind on the earth.

How did Jesus fulfill the Spring feasts?

Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection perfectly fulfilled the Spring feasts, exactly on schedule according to the Hebrew calendar, as you can see in the chart below:



Detailed Description of How Jesus' Death, Burial, and Resurrection 'Confirmed' the Spring Torah Feasts

1. Jesus was crucified from 9am to 3pm on the day of Passover. **Jesus is the spiritual fulfillment of the Passover Lamb.**
 - a. John the Baptist told his disciples "Look! The Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world." (John 1:29)
2. All four gospels attest to His death by crucifixion, with many miraculous signs occurring at that moment:
 - a. When Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, *He gave up His spirit*. At that moment, the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and many holy people were raised to life, later appearing to many in the city (Matthew 27:50-53)
 - b. "With a loud cry, *Jesus breathed His last*. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. (Mark 15:37-38)
 - c. The curtain in the Temple was torn in two. Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit. When He had said this, *He breathed His last*." (Luke 24:45-46)
 - d. Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, He bowed His head and *gave up His spirit*." (John 19:30)
3. Jesus was buried in Joseph of Arimathea's tomb before the Sabbath began at sunset on Wednesday, April 3, 30AD. (Matthew 27:60) Before putting Jesus' body in the tomb, Joseph and

Nicodemus embalmed the body with linen strips and 75 pounds (or 34 kilos) of myrrh and aloes. (John 19:39-40)

4. Jesus was the only man to ever live a sinless life. He is our **Unleavened Bread**; He is the bread of life that we must eat to gain eternal life. (all of John chapter 6)
5. Exactly 3 days later after Jesus' burial, God fulfilled Firstfruits by resurrecting Jesus from the dead, transforming Jesus' crucified, dead body into a living, immortal, incorruptible, spiritual body. This occurred after the Sabbath ended at sunset on Saturday, April 6, 30AD. Jesus is the firstfruits from the dead, the first of the resurrection harvest of mankind.
 - a. After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb... The angel said, "*He is not here. He is risen, just as He said.*" (Matthew 28:1, 6)
 - b. "When the Sabbath was over... very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise... the angel said, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here." (Mark 16:1, 2, 6)
 - c. "On the first day of the week, very early in the morning... the angel said, "*Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here. He has risen! Remember how He told you, while He was still with you in Galilee, "The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.*" Then they remembered His words. (Luke 24:1, 6-8)
 - d. Early on the first day of the week" (John 20:1) ... When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." (John 20:19-20)

In summary, all four gospels attest to Jesus' crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection. These events occurred in perfect correlation with the schedule of the Torah's Appointed Feasts. God is thus showing that Jesus was the fulfillment of the Spring Torah feasts.

Non-Christian Historical References to the Crucifixion and Resurrection

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<http://www.calloflove.org/files/DTE/Brochure%20files/Was%20Jesus%20Crucified.pdf> on the <http://www.calloflove.org/> website.

There are at least 17 ancient texts written by *non-Christian* historians and witnesses that record the various aspects of Jesus' earthly ministry. Most of these writings originated in the first to the mid-second century, and are consistent with information presented in the Bible. These secular texts all confirm that Jesus was crucified and that He rose again. Here are some of these trusted sources from history:

- **Flavius Josephus** (AD 38–100+), a Jewish historian, wrote about Jesus in his *Jewish Antiquities*: "...we learn that Jesus was a wise man who did surprising feats, taught many, won over followers among the Jews and the Greeks, was believed to be the Messiah, was accused by the Jewish leaders, was condemned to be crucified by Pilate, and was considered by the author to have been resurrected" (Wilkins, Michael J. *Jesus Under Fire*, Zondervan 1995). The same historian, in his book *The Jewish War* (volume eight, chapter three), reports in detail about Jesus and his crucifixion under Pilate.
- **Cornelius Tacitus** (AD 55–120), a citizen of first-century Rome, is considered one of the most accurate historians of the ancient world. An excerpt from Tacitus tells us that the Roman emperor Nero, "inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class ... called Christians ... Christus [Christ], from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty [the cross] during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus..." (Tacitus, A 15.44)
- The **Jewish Talmud**, a source decidedly not biased toward Jesus, agrees with the Bible about the major events of His life. From the Talmud: "On the eve of Passover they hanged Yeshu... Anyone who knows anything in his favor let him come and plead in his behalf. But, not having found anything in his favor, they hanged him on the eve of the Passover." (Sanhedrin 43a)

This is remarkable historical information considering that most ancient historians focused on the lives of political and military leaders, not on obscure rabbis (teachers of the Torah) from distant humble provinces of the Roman Empire. These ancient historians (Jews, Greeks, and Romans), though not Christians themselves, confirm the crucifixion event presented in the New Testament.

In addition to historic sources, the New Testament of the Bible, where Jesus' life is related in detail, is a valid source of information about Jesus. As a literary document, it provides better material about the words and deeds of Christ than any other ancient classical writing. The New Testament has far more manuscript portions than any other ancient text concerning the life of Jesus. In contrast to other classical works that have large pieces missing from their original manuscripts, no portion of the New Testament books is missing!

As for the Old Testament, there are 300 references, including 60 major prophecies, about a promised redeemer who was to die on the cross and then rise again. In the 1960's, Peter W. Stoner and Robert C. Newman wrote a book entitled *Science Speaks* concerning these prophecies and the laws of probability. In it, Newman and Stoner proved using only 8 of these 60 prophecies, that the probability of one man fulfilling all eight is equal to 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000. Jesus did not fulfill just eight of these prophecies. He fulfilled all the Old Testament prophecies that foretold His coming!

If you would like to read the list of the prophecies regarding Jesus, the Messiah, contact us with your request and we will provide you with a copy.

Why Was Jesus Crucified?

You may ask: "Why was Jesus crucified when both the Bible and the Quran confirm that He was sinless?"

"He said: I am only a messenger of thy Lord that I may bestow on thee a faultless son." Quran 19:19

"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." 1 Peter 2:22

Conclusion

- The Quran recognizes the Torah and the Gospels of Jesus as true scriptures, with the Ingil (gospels) "confirming" the Torah.
- In Leviticus 23 in the Torah, God ordained seven appointed times, or feasts; four in the Spring and three in the Autumn.
- All four gospels witness to Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.
 - His death occurred on a cross, exactly on Passover
 - His burial was by sunset on the Day of Passover
 - His resurrection occurred three days later, on the Day of Firstfruits
- Non-Christian (Roman and Jewish) historical sources also attest to Jesus' death by crucifixion.
- Assuming the Torah and Ingil (Gospels) are scripture, a reasonable person must conclude that:
 - The Torah prescribed the Spring feasts of Passover, Unleavened Bread, and Firstfruits
 - All four gospels agree that Jesus was crucified, buried, and resurrected in parallel with the Spring feasts
 - Non-Christian historical sources attest to Jesus' crucifixion as a historical event

- Therefore, Jesus was crucified to death, buried, and resurrected three days later, confirming and fulfilling the Torah feasts of Passover, Unleavened Bread, and Firstfruits.

What Next?

If you now believe Jesus was crucified to death, buried, and resurrected, what should you do? Here is a suggested path:

- Sincerely pray to God, asking Him to help you know and walk in His truth.
- Read the Ingil (gospels) to learn who Jesus really is, and what He did for us.
- If you believe, then repent of your sins, ask God in prayer to forgive you in Jesus' name, and be born-again by the Spirit of God.
- Be baptized in water, representing your death, burial, and resurrection in new life.
- Receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:4)
- Seek fellowship and support with other Christian disciples of God.
- Christian contacts for questions or assistance:
 - <http://www.calloflove.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/CallofLoveMinistries/>
 - <http://standinfaith.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/standinfaith.org/>