



What Christians believe about Easter...



To: YOU, an awesome
amazing person!
Planet earth, Universe



What is
the best
gift you've
EVER
received?

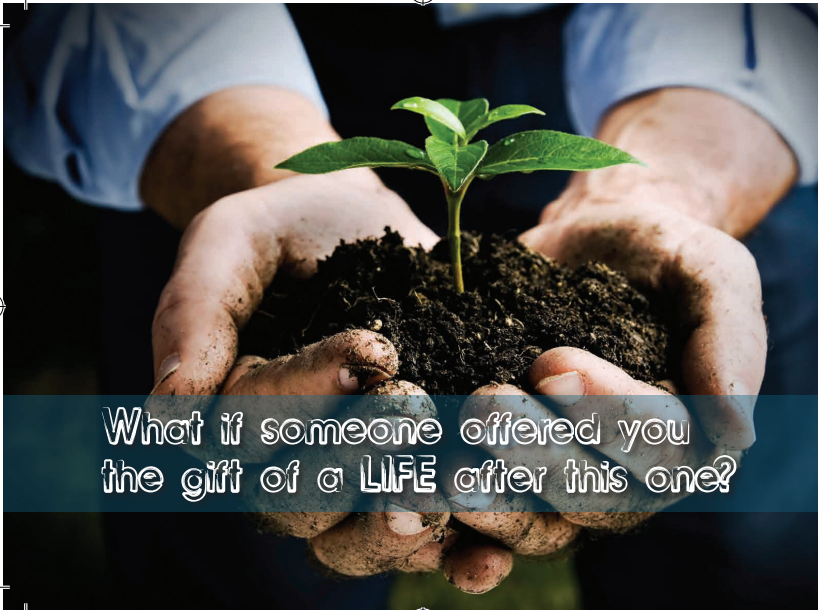
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Crumpler bag, converse shoes,
or ipod?

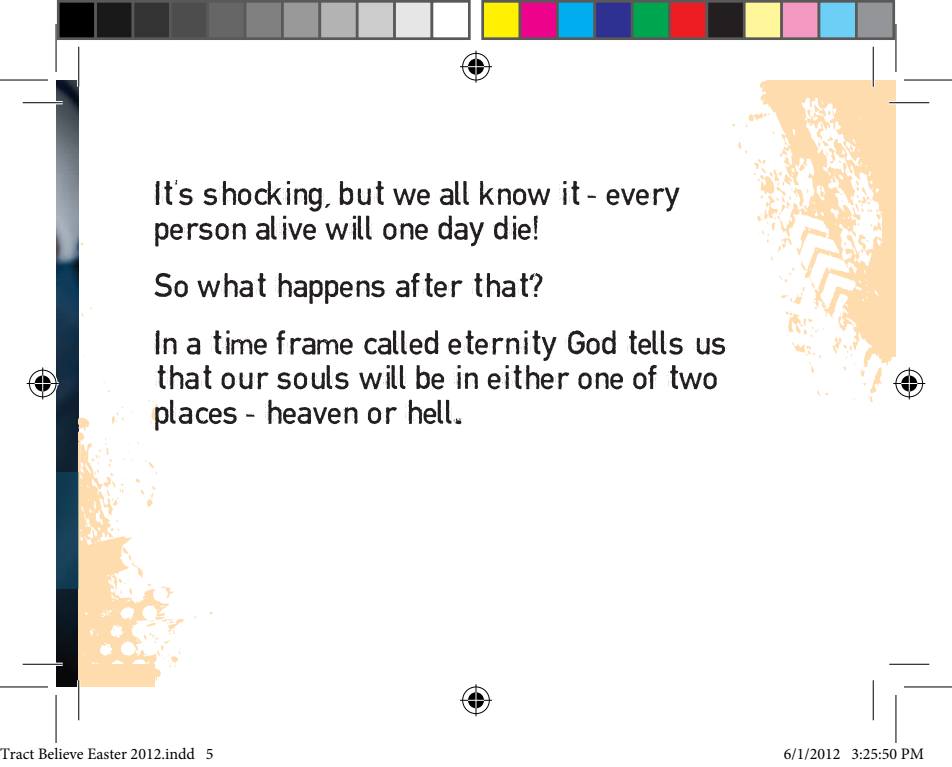
Perhaps a sports car, a house,
a diamond ring?

*And what would be the best gift
you could receive?*



What if someone offered you
the gift of a LIFE after this one?



A color calibration bar is located at the top of the page, featuring a series of colored squares (black, white, and various colors) and registration marks (crosshairs) for alignment. The text is centered on the page.

It's shocking, but we all know it - every
person alive will one day die!

So what happens after that?

In a time frame called eternity God tells us
that our souls will be in either one of two
places - heaven or hell.

Where
WILL
I go?





The Bible explains that heaven requires a perfect record.

Have we lied to our parents? Cheated in a test?
Hated somebody?

Imperfect, fallen, sinful - that's us.

Our wrongs are to God what a small bit of sewage in a drink of water is to us. Too much!


It might seem a small thing, but it's a big deal.
Heaven is basically out of the question.





Is there hope?






Yes, but it comes at a price. The miracle is
that someone paid that price for us - and
that is the Easter story.

Apparently, someone out there loves us a
lot more than we know.

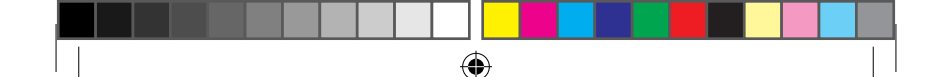
Who is He?



About 2000 years ago an innocent man was executed in Jerusalem by the cruellest means used by the Roman Empire. Scourged with a whip 39 times, He was nailed to a cross and left to die. They buried Him in a tomb, but death did not hold Him. 3 days later this man rose from the dead.

*He is the focus of Easter.
His name is Jesus Christ.*





Born in the small town of Bethlehem during King Herod's reign, raised in an obscure village to a carpenter's life, Jesus only lived about 33 years.

Yet the impact of what He did is still being felt 2000 years later throughout the world.



What
DID He
do?





He made the outrageous claim that He was the Son of God, as well as God's long-awaited 'King' for mankind.

He also promised that those who believed and followed Him would have everlasting life.





Could He
PROVE
His claim?





Consider the things He did.

Healing the disabled, blind and sick; bring the dead back to life, casting out demons, walking on water, turning water into wine, feeding five thousand people with 5 loaves and 2 fish, commanding a storm to cease...

...are but a few of His miracles.

Are there **OTHER** proofs?





MANY!

One overwhelming evidence is how He fulfilled more than 100 predictions, written between 500 and 2000 years before He came. All who dare to look at Jesus find themselves surprised!

But most astounding was that He rose from the dead on the third day (the Sunday).

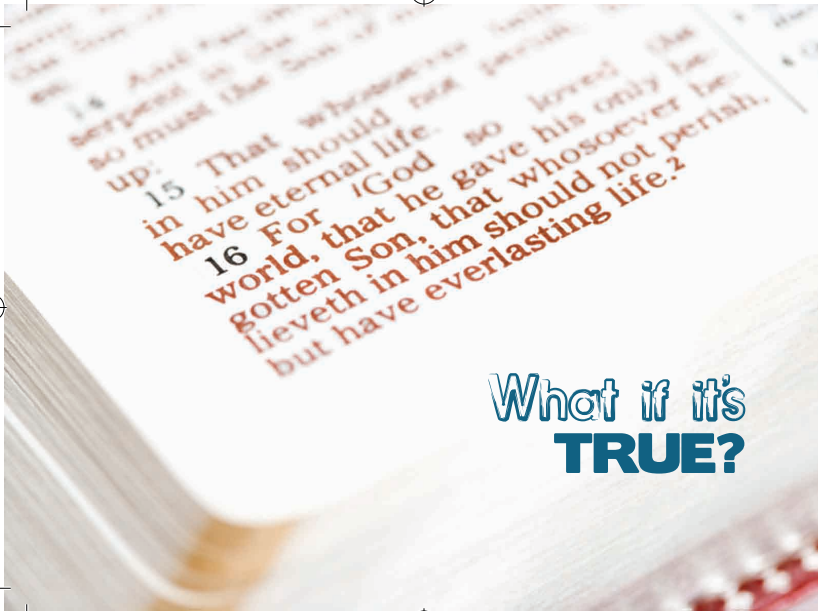
A close-up photograph of a computer keyboard. The central focus is a bright green key with a white question mark. To its left is a black key with the letter 'H', and to its right is a black key with the letter 'K'. Below the green key are black keys with the letters 'N' and 'M'. Above the green key, the text 'Did the people in His day' is written in a white, outlined font, and below it, the words 'BELIEVE THIS' are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The entire image is framed by a white border with crop marks and a color calibration bar at the top.

Did the people in His day
BELIEVE THIS

A GREAT MANY!

Before His death His disciples ran for their lives. But after He had returned to life these same men willingly died for their belief - 10 of the 11 remaining disciples were executed for their beliefs, not to mention many thousands of others at that time.

*People don't die for lies.
They had seen Jesus alive again!*



What if it's
TRUE?

Well over one billion people believe it is!

Many Christians claim a life changing experience - that it's not just religion but is real!

The New Testament is now verified as the world's most reliable ancient document! You could piece together all but a handful of the original text from quotes in ancient books alone, let alone the thousands of actual copies!

If it's true that Jesus did come to life again, then discovering Jesus is the very purpose for which we were born!

What has
this got to
do with
EASTER?





Jesus died on that weekend in about A.D.30, which is what Easter is about. The gift of Easter is this:

A problem needed fixing: Our wrongs required a just punishment.


And God did it: In love Jesus took our punishment upon Himself. The sin-stained record of our wrongs can now be wiped clean simply by asking and trusting. By being clean again we are restored as God's friends, restored to our purpose as God's 'workers' on earth to help others, and also restored to eternal life.





There has got to be a catch
somewhere, right?





Yes there is! Its like you get given a free movie ticket with popcorn, but you have to actually watch the movie and eat the popcorn.

So it's free in the sense that there is nothing any of us can do to 'earn' a clean record (no amount of good works can wipe the dirt stains of sin away).

But it's not just a 'ticket'. It's about being willing to turn back to God's plan for our lives, and Jesus' teachings explain what this is.



How do people
RECEIVE this gift?





By asking with faith through a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Son of God. Thank you for dying on the cross for my wrongs. Please forgive my wrongs and give me the gift of eternal life. Thank you that I am now your friend, and you are my heavenly 'Father'.

I commit to living my life by what you have told us in the Bible. Make me the kind of person you want me to be.





What's next?



Then, **to grow**, Christians practice three key habits.

1. They read the **Bible** to understand what Jesus was like and how God wants them to live.
2. They talk to God in **prayer**, seeking His blessing for others and His help in their lives so that they can live selflessly.
3. They attend a **Church** to learn about God from others and to have a few Christian **friends** so they can encourage each other in being faithful to God's ways.

It's like how a coal only stays hot when it is **IN** the fire.
The habits strengthen faith.



THE END - and the beginning...





So that is what Christians believe about
Easter:

*That God gave us an
AMAZING gift...*

*A gift that is available to all
who want it...*

...Even you!



Web links...





Check out Christianity at...
www.jesus.net
or www.lookingforgod.com

Why Jesus came (video)...
www.passageway.org

A 'Shining Lights' resource www.shininglights.co

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