

The Story of Easter

复活节的故事

复活节是一个基督教节日，用来庆祝耶稣基督的复活。对基督教信仰来说，那是一个最重要的神圣日子。在大约2000年前的那一天，上帝以一种独特而非常重要的方式来显示他对世人的爱。

Easter is a Christian festival that celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the most important holy day of the Christian religion. On that day nearly 2000 years ago, God showed His love to man in a unique and very important way.





耶稣出生在古罗马帝国的犹太省，也就是为人所知的今日之巴勒斯坦和以色列，他的父母是犹太人。他教导人们有关于上帝，又医治病人，帮助那些寂寞、悲伤和被压迫的人。他的一生应验了旧约圣经里犹太先知们所预言的“弥赛亚”（意思是指“救世主”）。

Jesus was born in the ancient Roman province of Judea, a land now known as Palestine and Israel, to Jewish parents. He taught people about God, healed the sick, and helped people who were lonely, sad, and downtrodden. In His life He fulfilled prophecies about the *Messiah* (meaning “Savior”) that had been spoken of by Jewish prophets, and which were recorded in what is now The Old Testament of *The Bible*.



很多人相信耶稣是他们的救世主，于是他们跟随他。但是有些人却嫉妒他。耶稣的敌人们就计划要杀害他。

耶稣早就知道这些计划，有一天他告诉那十二位最亲近他的跟随者，也就是为人所知的门徒们，“我将被定死罪，但是三天后，我将会复活。”

Many people recognized Jesus as their Savior and followed Him. But others were jealous of Him. These enemies of Jesus made plans to kill Him.

Jesus knew of these plans, and one day He told His twelve closest followers, who are known as His *disciples*, “I will be put to death, but three days later, I will be raised to life.”



在犹太人逾越节前一天的一个特定时刻，耶稣和他的门徒们前往耶路撒冷。当人们看见他来到时，就把衣服和树枝铺在路上喊着说：“赞美上帝！那奉主名来的，是应当称颂的！”

在逾越节那天，当耶稣和他的门徒一起坐下来吃晚餐时，他提醒门徒们他不久就会离开他们了。他邀请他们一起喝酒和吃面包来纪念他，直到有一天，他会在天堂里再和他们一同吃喝。现在当基督徒们聚在一起时，通常会举行这个仪式，就叫做“同领圣餐”。

A day before the Jewish festival of Passover, Jesus set out for Jerusalem with His disciples. When the people saw Him coming, they shouted, “Praise God! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”

On the main day of the festival, as Jesus sat with His disciples at supper, He reminded His friends that He would soon leave them. He asked them to drink wine and eat bread together in remembrance of Him, until the day He would eat and drink with them again in Heaven. When Christians gather together, they often perform this ceremony, called communion.



之后，知道他即将受到严酷的折磨，耶稣带着他的门徒们到城外的一个花园里祷告。

隔天早晨天亮，祭司长们已经计划好要杀害耶稣，他们派遣守卫到耶稣祷告的地方去捉拿他。

Then Jesus went with His disciples to a garden outside the city to pray before the ordeal He knew was coming.

The next morning, the chief priests, who by this time had finished their plans to kill Jesus, sent their guards to the garden where Jesus was praying and took Him captive.



耶稣的敌人们将他带到罗马总督彼拉多面前，在那里他们要求耶稣被处死刑。然后士兵们带着耶稣出去钉十字架，也就是说要把他钉在用木头做的十字架上直到他死去。

Jesus' enemies brought Him to the Roman governor Pontius Pilate, and there demanded that Jesus be executed. Pilate did as they asked. Then the soldiers led Jesus out to crucify Him, which meant nailing Him to a wooden cross to hang there until He died.



到了晚上，一个财主名叫约瑟去见彼拉多，要求耶稣的身体。约瑟和其它的人就把耶稣的身体从十字架上取下来，用干净细麻布裹好，安放在约瑟的新坟墓里。他们又把一块大石头滚过来，堵住墓门，然后约瑟和其它的人便离开了。星期天的清晨，几位跟随耶稣的妇女来到坟墓旁。当她们到达时，她们发现墓前的石头已经被移开了。

In the evening, a man named Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Joseph and others took His body down from the cross and put it in a new tomb, carved out of solid rock. A huge stone was rolled across the entrance to the tomb, and Joseph and the others went away. Early Sunday morning, several women who were followers of Jesus went to the tomb. When they arrived, they saw that the stone had been rolled away.



她们看见有一位年轻人在那里，他的颜面发光如闪电，衣服洁白如雪。那位颜面发光的人对她们说：“不要害怕，耶稣不在这里。但是照他所说的，他已经复活了。”在以后的四十天里，耶稣的门徒们和上百位其它的人都看过耶稣。

There they saw a young man whose face shone and whose clothes were white as snow. The man with the shining face said, “Don’t be afraid. Jesus is not here, but He has risen as He said.” For the next forty days, Jesus was seen by His disciples and hundreds of other people.



这就是传统复活节故事的由来。它是从“耶稣受难日”（复活节前的星期五）开始，那天代表耶稣死在十字架上，然后在复活节星期天结束，我们在那天庆祝耶稣从死里复活。他的死亡移除了分开我们和上帝之间的罪恶桥梁，他的复活显示有力量能给予我们新生命。

From this story comes the tradition of Easter. It begins with Good Friday, which represents the day Jesus died on the cross, and ends on Easter Sunday, which is a day to rejoice because Jesus rose from the dead. In His death He took away the barrier of wrongdoing that separates us from God, and in His resurrection He showed His power to give us new life.

一个简单的比喻来解释耶稣为我们所做的一切，那就是我们都像小孩子一样，我们会犯错并应受罚，而无法享有到天堂的特权。但是耶稣就像是我们的哥哥，经由他的死亡，为我们承担该受的惩罚。借着接受他的宽恕，我们可以被原谅，并拥有一个他要赐给我们充满爱和快乐的生命，而且在来生可以在天堂和他永远在一起。

A simple analogy is that we are like children who have been bad and deserve punishment rather than the privilege of going to Heaven. But Jesus is like our older brother who, through His death, took our punishment for us. By accepting His pardon, we can be forgiven, have the loving and happy lives He wants us to have, and be with Him in Heaven in the afterlife.

