

Fact Sheet for **“He Is Risen!”**

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ESV Genesis 1:1-2 ¶ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Then God said, "Let there be light." And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.
On the second day He separated the waters under the heaven from those above it.
On the third day He made the dry land to appear, and created the plants.
On the fourth He set the sun, moon, and stars in the heavens.
On the fifth He created the creatures of the sea and the birds that fly.
On the sixth He created the creatures that live on the earth.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. So He formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

ESV Genesis 2:16-17 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Then God made Eve from one of Adam's ribs. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. On the seventh day God rested. But Adam and Eve ate of that tree, and they reaped a sin nature and death for both them and their descendants. They would die physically, but they would also die spiritually if they chose to reject God. Thus began 6,000 years of human history. Very quickly sin would spread. Early on Cain would murder Abel. Then people began to multiply and God was grieved by their sin (Genesis 6:5-8).

God brought Noah and his family through the flood. They were the only people left on earth. God also saved the animals on the ark. God then made a covenant with never to destroy the earth with water again. He set a rainbow in the sky as a sign of that covenant. But Noah and his family brought along Adam's curse of death and their sin natures. Once more sin began to spread on the earth.

Then God called Abram and made a covenant with him (Genesis 12:3). Abram would encounter a priest of God named Melchizedek who would bless him. Abram would grow in his faith and God would change his name to Abraham. Isaac was born, then his son Jacob... the father of the twelve tribes of Israel. One of his sons, Joseph, would be God's provision for the family in Egypt.

After 430 years there Moses would lead them out on the evening of Passover. The lamb to be eaten for that meal was to be chosen four days earlier. He led them through the Red Sea to Mt. Sinai where they received the Mosaic Covenant with its hundreds of rules and regulations. Among those rules it included the seven feasts Israel was to observe¹, one of which was the Feast of First Fruits. They would find out only once they entered the Promised Land when it was to be observed. That Law would specify that priests must be descended from Aaron, himself a descendant of Levi.

However there was no sacrifice specified for deliberate sin. Those sins were only handled on the Day of Atonement, when the high priest would approach the Ark of the Covenant after making a sacrifice that covered Israel's sins that year.

As Joshua led them into the Promised Land they ate some of the produce of the land² and the Feast of First Fruits was set on the Sunday following Passover.

¹ Leviticus 23.

² Joshua 5:11.

Later one of their kings David, a descendant of Judah, wanted to build God a temple to replace the tabernacle. Instead God chose that it would be his son Solomon that would build it. However God made a covenant with David that his line would be the kingly line.³

The Messiah, the Christ, would one day be king. Read Psalm 27-9, a passage from a royal coronation Psalm.

The psalmists and prophets spoke of the Messiah and what He would encounter. Here are a few examples: Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2; Malachi 3:1; Daniel 9:25-26; Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:25-26; Zechariah 11:12-13; Isaiah 53:3-9; Psalm 22:16-18; Psalm 69:21.

But the Messiah would rise again (Psalm 16:10).

ESV Psalm 118:22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

Then the Christ came... born of a virgin... born in Bethlehem... of the tribe of David... announced by John the Baptist... rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the day the Passover lamb was to be chosen, hailed as king... on the exact day Daniel predicted 483 years earlier. On the day of Passover He was betrayed by Judas and crucified just as had been predicted. Then on the third day, on the Feast of First Fruits, just as He predicted and as David predicted in Psalm 16:10 Jesus rose from the dead! The penalty for sin was paid in full⁴.

We have a new high priest, not according to the Mosaic Covenant, but according to the priesthood that came before Moses, the priesthood of Melchizedek. The Mosaic Covenant has been replaced by the New Covenant in Christ (1 Corinthians 11:25). Adam's curse has hit us all (Romans 5:12). The Mosaic Law is unable to grant salvation (Romans 8:3-4). Salvation is by grace, through faith in Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9).

ESV Romans 3:19-30 ¶ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.²¹ ¶ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it--²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.²⁷ ¶ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith.²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.²⁹ Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also,³⁰ since God is one-- who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.

But beware what will take place one day. On that day all the dead will stand before God. Those who haven't placed their faith in Christ will be thrown into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:15). Those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ will instead enjoy the new heaven and new earth.

On that day Adam's curse will be completely reversed. In fact, this was even hinted at when God cursed the serpent in Genesis 3:14-15.

If you have never placed your faith in Christ you have a choice before you today. What will you do?

³ 2 Samuel 7:13, 16.

⁴ Romans 3:25; Hebrews 2:17; 1 John 2:2; 4:10.