

The Easter story

Jesus was with his followers in a garden. 'Sit here,' he said, 'while I go and pray.' While he was there a crowd of men with clubs and swords arrived to arrest him. They took Jesus to the house of the Jewish high priest where all the elders and chief priests of the Jewish temple were gathered together. They believed that what Jesus had been teaching and preaching to all the people was against the sacred Jewish laws, so they questioned Jesus closely. The chief priests and elders became more and more angry with Jesus. The high priest asked them, 'What do you think?' 'He is guilty and must die!' they answered, and then they started to hit Jesus and spit in his face.

The Jewish elders and chief priests put Jesus in chains, and the next morning they handed him over to the Roman governor. The Roman governor also questioned Jesus, but felt that Jesus had done nothing wrong, so he called to the crowds gathered outside. 'What shall I do with Jesus?' he shouted to them. 'Crucify him!' the crowds shouted back. The crowds were so angry that the Roman governor thought a riot might break out, so he decided to hand Jesus over to Roman soldiers to be taken to be crucified.

Jesus was taken to a hill where crucifixions took place and was nailed to a cross. After many hours of agony Jesus died. That evening a rich man who was a follower of Jesus took Jesus's body. He wrapped it in fresh linen and had it placed in a tomb which had been dug out of the rock. A large stone was placed over the entrance and sealed in place.

On the third day after Jesus had died some women, who had been friends of Jesus, went to visit the tomb. To their amazement the stone had been rolled away from the entrance of the tomb. They rushed inside, but Jesus's body had gone. Inside the tomb was a figure in bright, shining light. 'Jesus is not here,' said the figure. 'He has been raised from death.' The women were thrilled and terrified at the same time. Jesus was alive! They hurried off to tell Jesus's friends and followers. Jesus had died and now he was alive again.