



THE GREATEST MAN THAT EVER LIVED..

THE EASTER STORY

by Andrew Adeleke

According to a BBC website, "Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the most important Christian festival, and the one celebrated with the greatest joy". The website went further to state that "The date of Easter changes each year, and several other Christian festivals fix their dates by reference to Easter." However, despite this apt description of the single most important Christian festival, many people in today's world especially in the west can only relate Easter with either the Easter Bunny (reportedly from a pagan origin) or the Easter egg. Outside the church, it appears the meaning of Easter is lost on several people.

Help came from an unlikely source when Hollywood legend, Mel Gibson produced the blockbuster movie "Passion of the Christ". He reportedly spent 12 years and \$25million dollars on this movie that impacted the whole world. From California to London, Cinemas were filled with Christians and non-Christians who had gone to see this work of art that in most cases ended up making several sober at the end. Such was the graphic details and the quality of the production that the movie was an instant success. It was simply a movie describing the last moments of Jesus Christ on earth, details of His suffering and eventual death on the cross. Many people reportedly sought more knowledge about Jesus after watching this film.

The scenes dramatised in the Passion of the Christ, represent part of the significance of Easter. The Movie described the period Jesus fulfilled His ministry on earth which is to suffer and die for the sins of the world so that whosoever believe in Him can be saved. His destiny while on earth is fulfilled in His death and resurrection.

The Christian faith is centred on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ 2000 years ago in Israel. In fact, the name "Christian" means the followers of Christ; therefore

you cannot separate Christianity and Jesus Christ. Despite many attempts to discredit Him, the story of Jesus still points to the fact that this was the greatest man that ever lived. He was born of a virgin and at the tender age of 12 was teaching men who were overwhelmed by the wisdom that came out of his mouth. His real ministry which lasted for 3 years from the age of 30 has impacted the world up till today.

The greatest significance of Easter is the fact that Jesus Christ is no longer in the grave. Easter is a celebration for all Christians, there were many prophets that came to the world at one time or the other in history, but they all died, and we know their grave, however, Jesus Christ's grave is not known till today because he resurrected. What men fear most is death, but Jesus conquered death so that we can live with Him in eternity.

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The story of Jesus is the greatest story ever told, and with all the evidence in the bible, without His death and resurrection (which Easter celebrates) humanity is doomed. He was born particularly for one purpose, to reconcile humanity to God. His death has brought us life and his resurrection is the proof that eternal life awaits all genuine followers of Jesus. Therefore, Easter is simply the most significant festival in Christendom as it represents the restoration of hope for man, and epitomises the victory of Jesus over death.

Easter also represents restoration of hope, joy, happiness, time etc. Whatever you have lost, the example of the resurrection of Jesus is all you need to remind you that Jesus finished the work several years ago, and whatever you lost can be restored. You can start again!