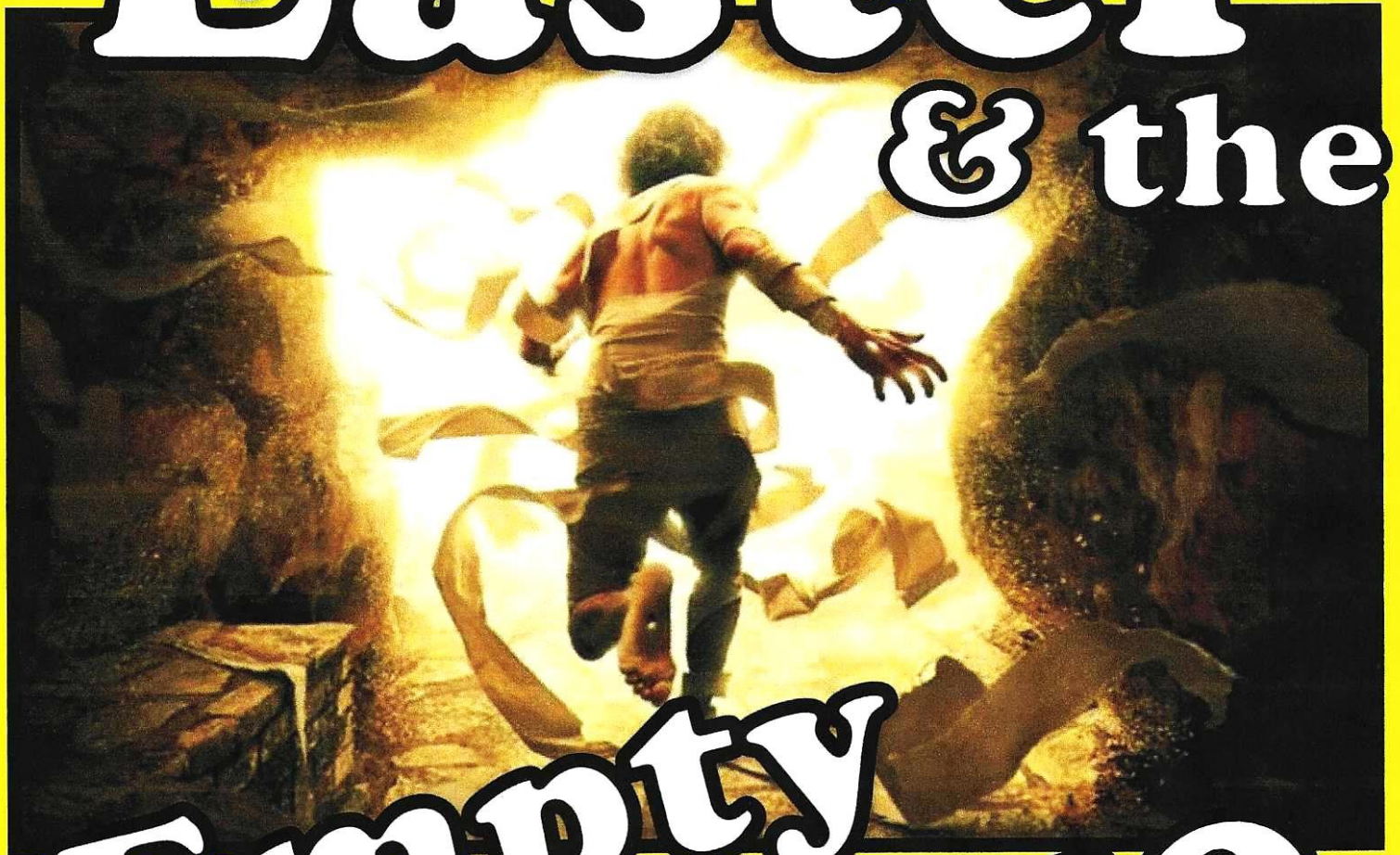
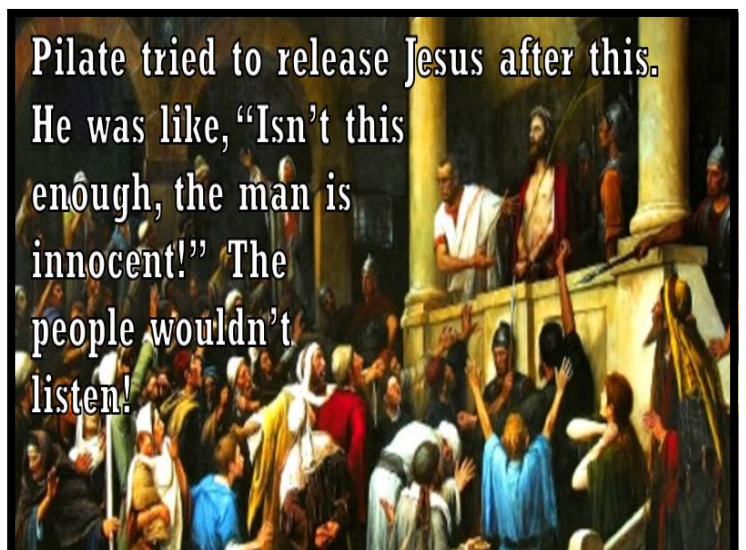
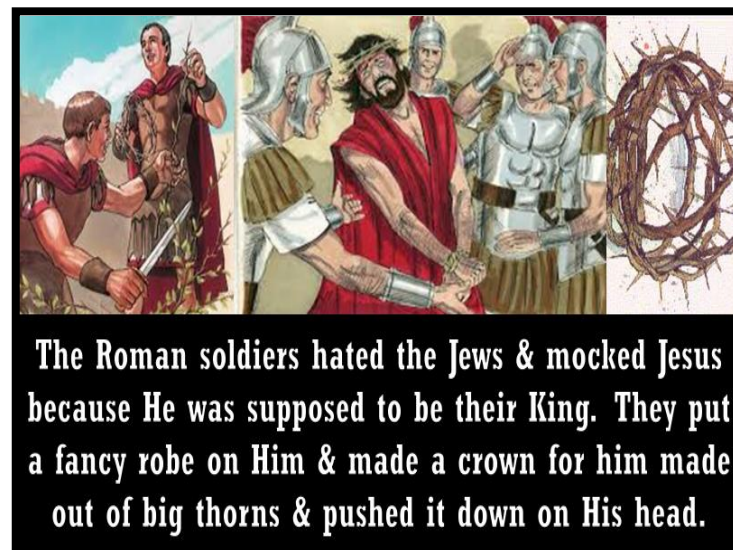
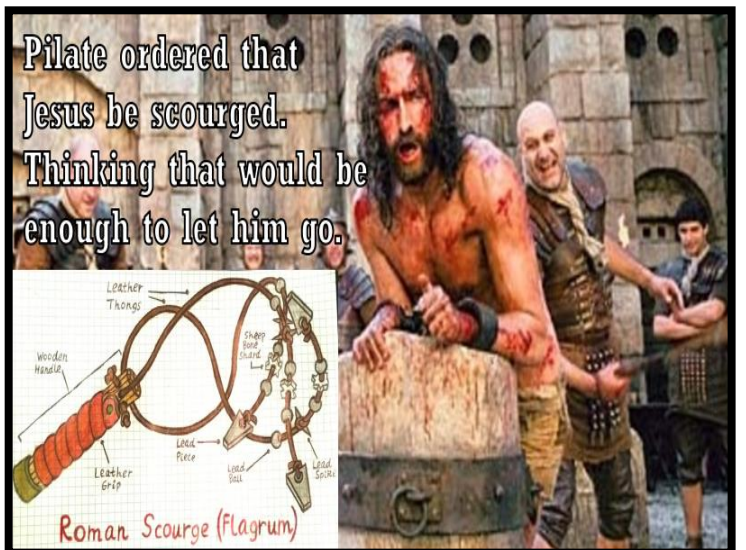
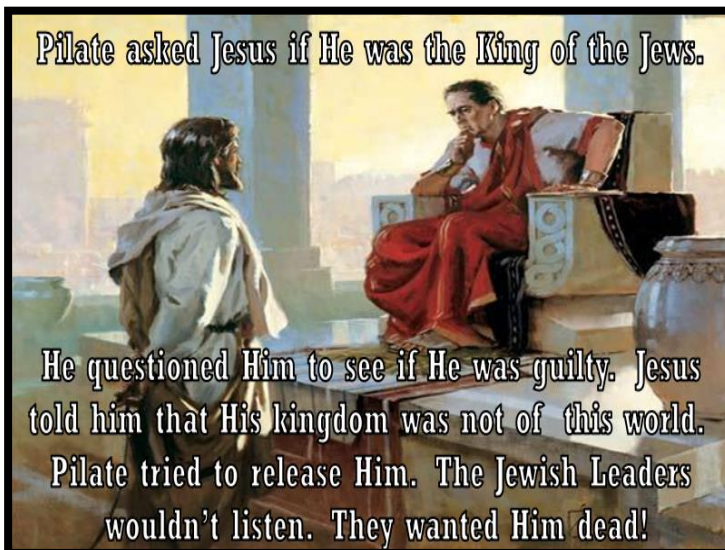
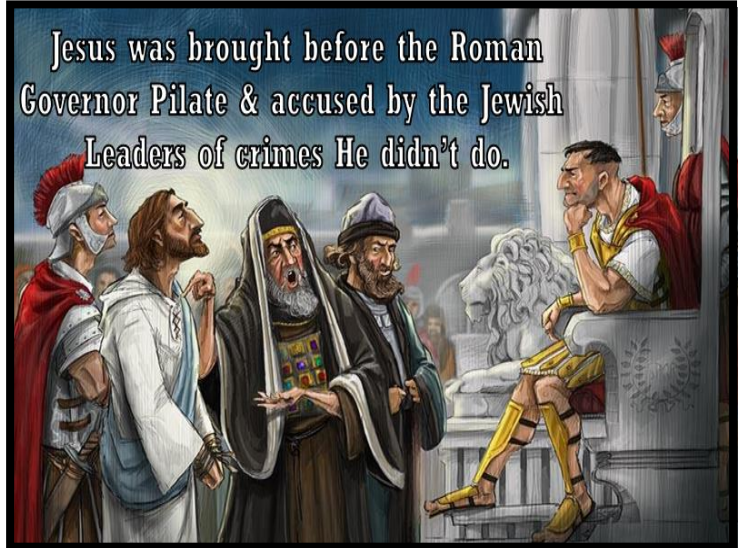
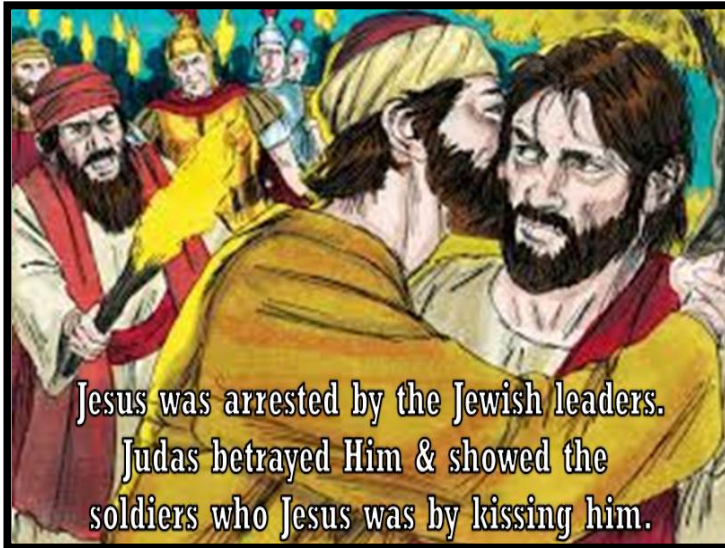


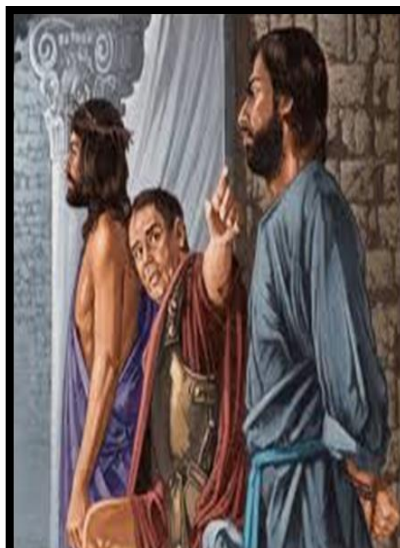
Easter & the



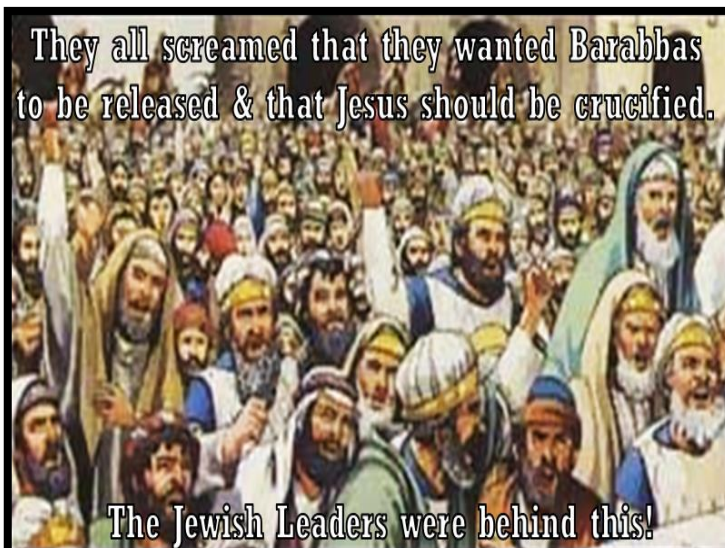
Empty Grave





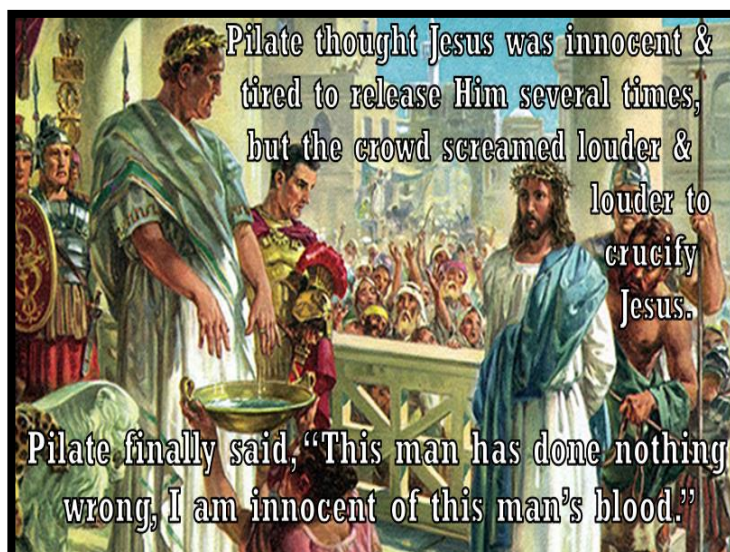


It was the custom to release one prisoner at the festival every year so Pilate asked if they wanted Jesus their King, or Barabbas who was a murderer to be released.



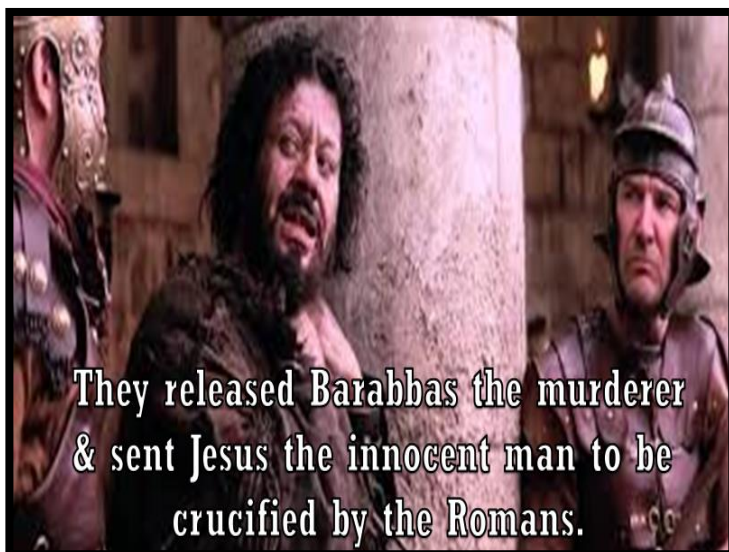
They all screamed that they wanted Barabbas to be released & that Jesus should be crucified.

The Jewish Leaders were behind this!

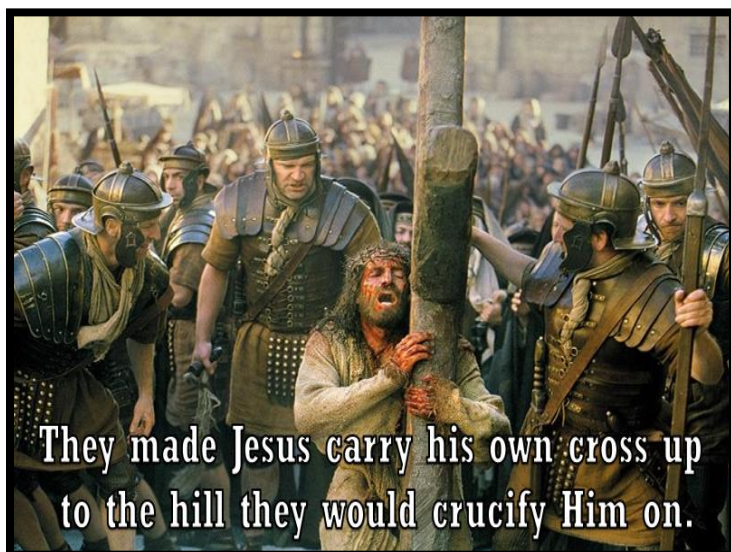


Pilate thought Jesus was innocent & tried to release Him several times, but the crowd screamed louder & louder to crucify Jesus.

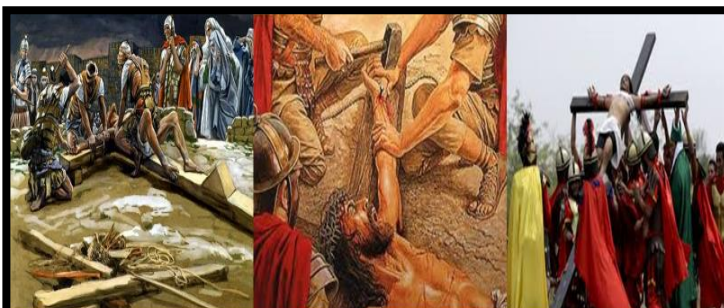
Pilate finally said, "This man has done nothing wrong, I am innocent of this man's blood."



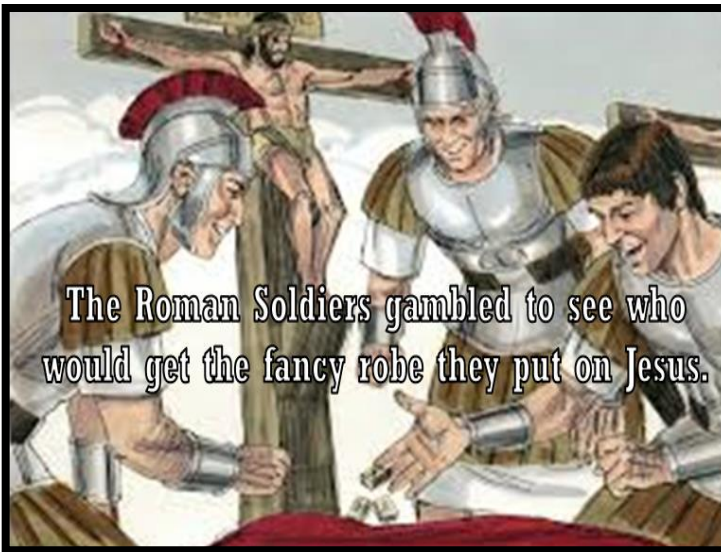
They released Barabbas the murderer & sent Jesus the innocent man to be crucified by the Romans.



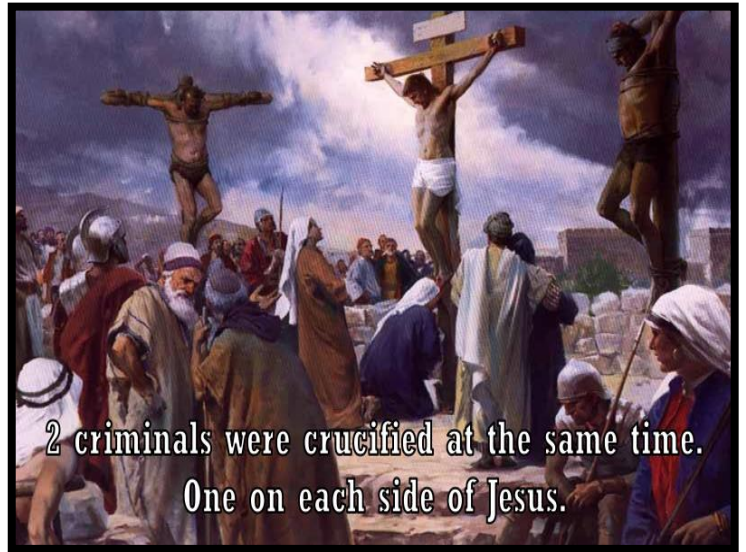
They made Jesus carry his own cross up to the hill they would crucify Him on.



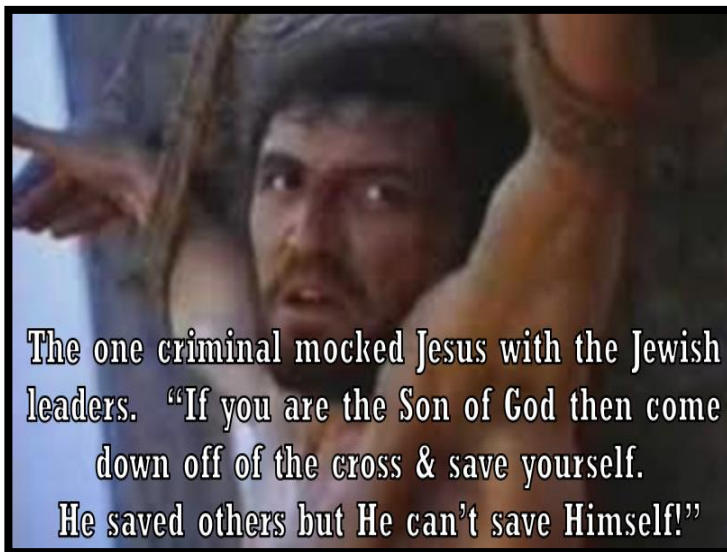
Jesus was nailed to the cross & lifted up to die. Pilate had a sign put above Him in Aramaic, Latin & Greek that said, "Jesus of Nazareth, The King of the Jews."



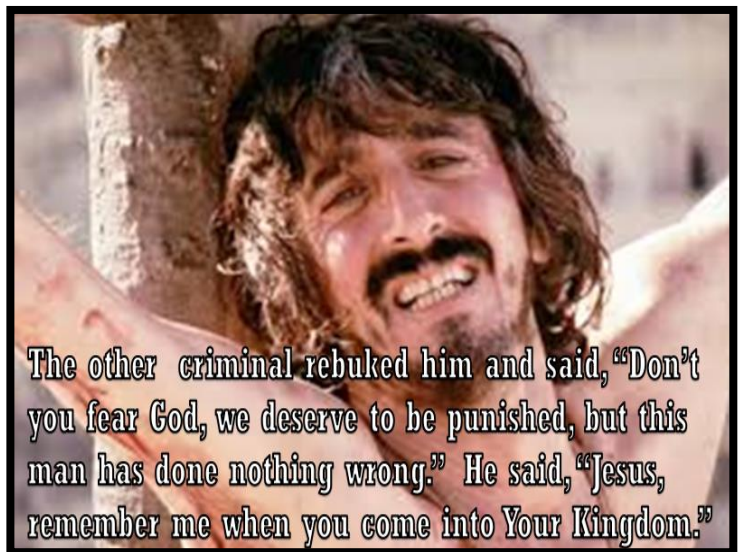
The Roman Soldiers gambled to see who would get the fancy robe they put on Jesus.



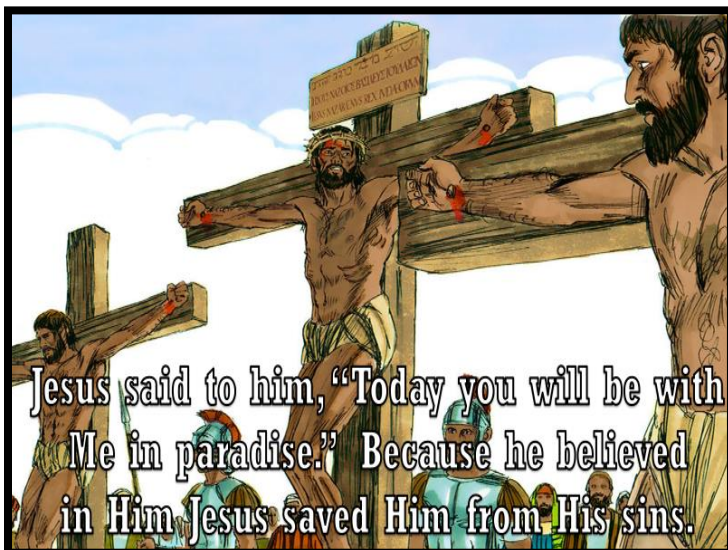
2 criminals were crucified at the same time.
One on each side of Jesus.



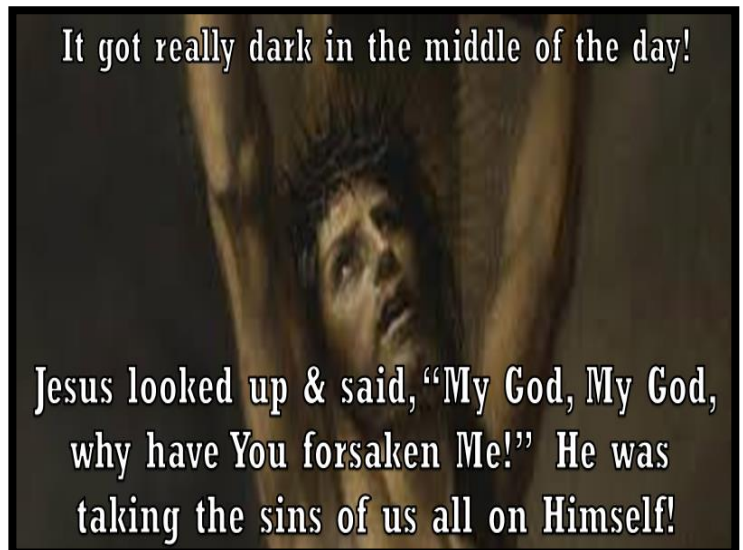
The one criminal mocked Jesus with the Jewish leaders. "If you are the Son of God then come down off of the cross & save yourself. He saved others but He can't save Himself!"



The other criminal rebuked him and said, "Don't you fear God, we deserve to be punished, but this man has done nothing wrong." He said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into Your Kingdom."

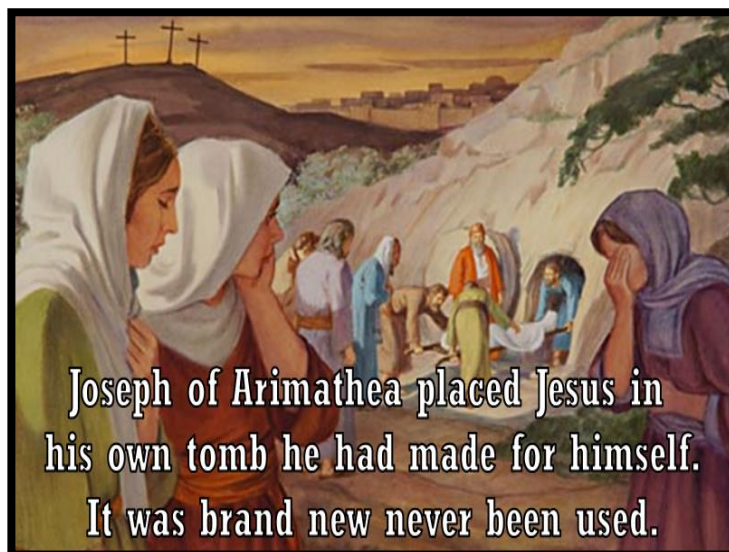
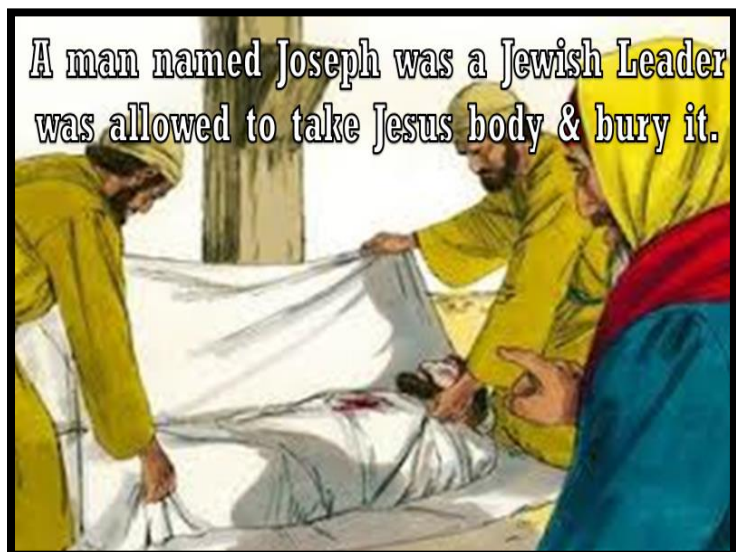
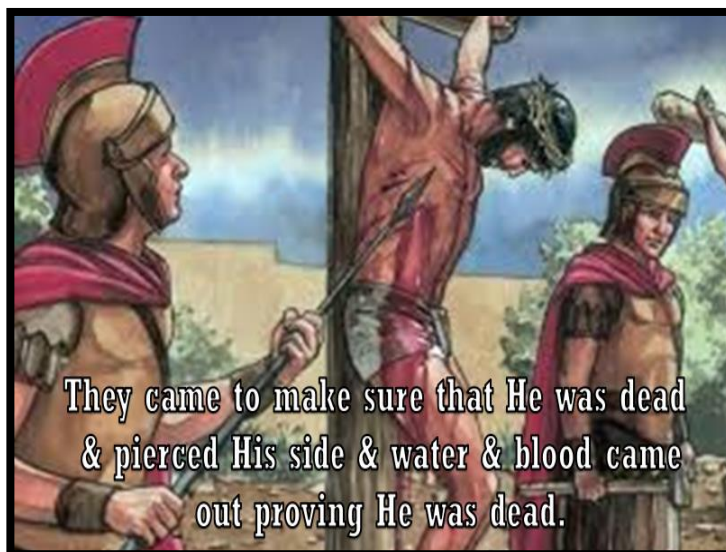
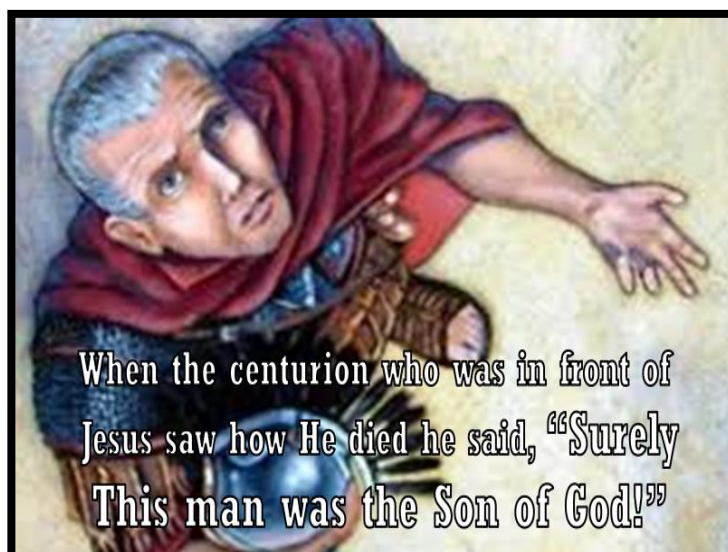
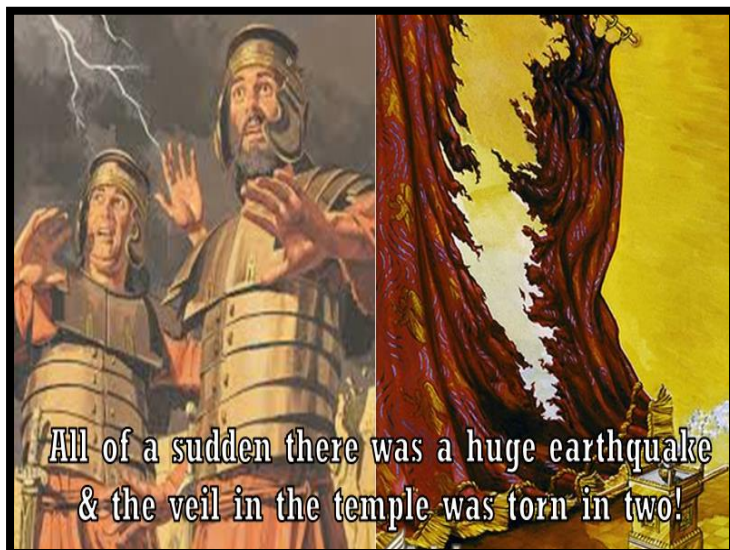
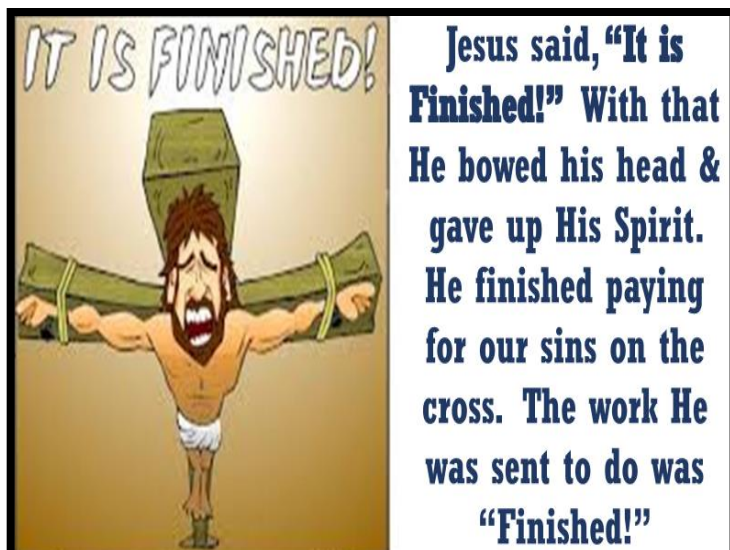


Jesus said to him, "Today you will be with Me in paradise." Because he believed in Him Jesus saved Him from His sins.



It got really dark in the middle of the day!

Jesus looked up & said, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me!" He was taking the sins of us all on Himself!

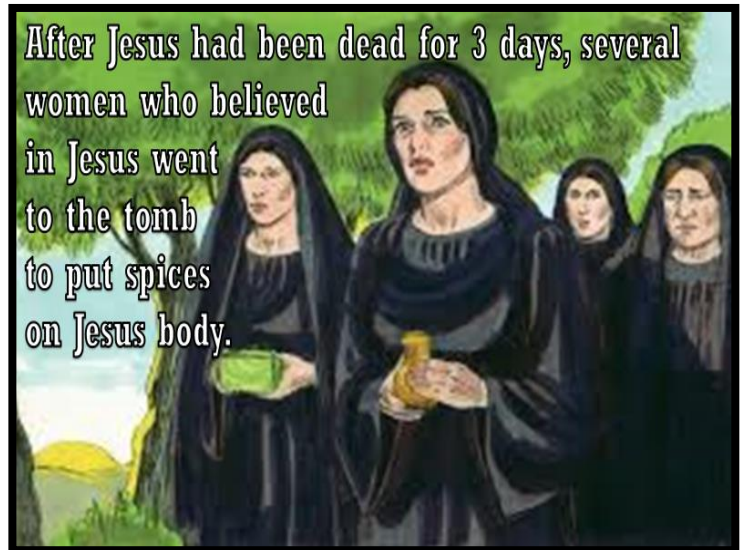




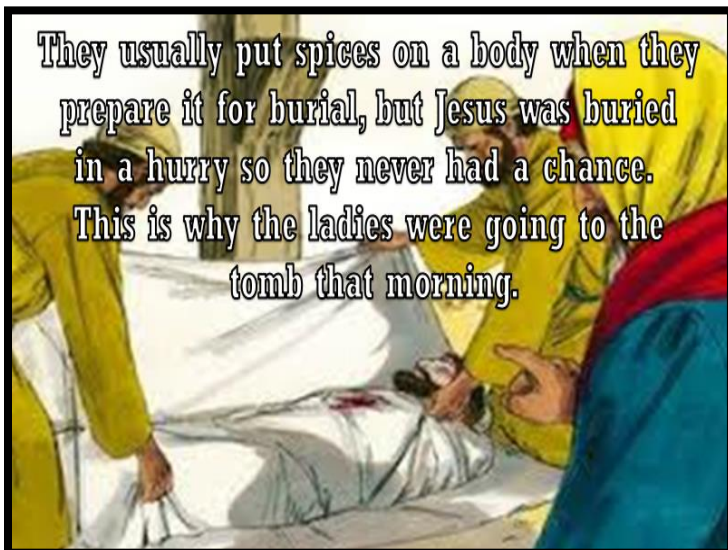
The Jewish Leaders went to Pilate & asked him to make the grave secure so they couldn't claim that Jesus had risen from the dead like He said He would!



They rolled a big honken rock in front of the tomb & placed a Roman Seal on it, & placed two roman guards in front of it.



After Jesus had been dead for 3 days, several women who believed in Jesus went to the tomb to put spices on Jesus body.

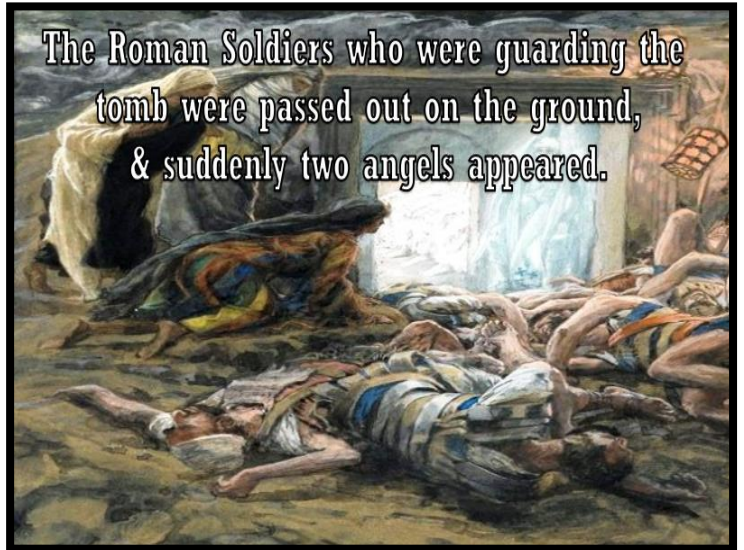


They usually put spices on a body when they prepare it for burial, but Jesus was buried in a hurry so they never had a chance. This is why the ladies were going to the tomb that morning.

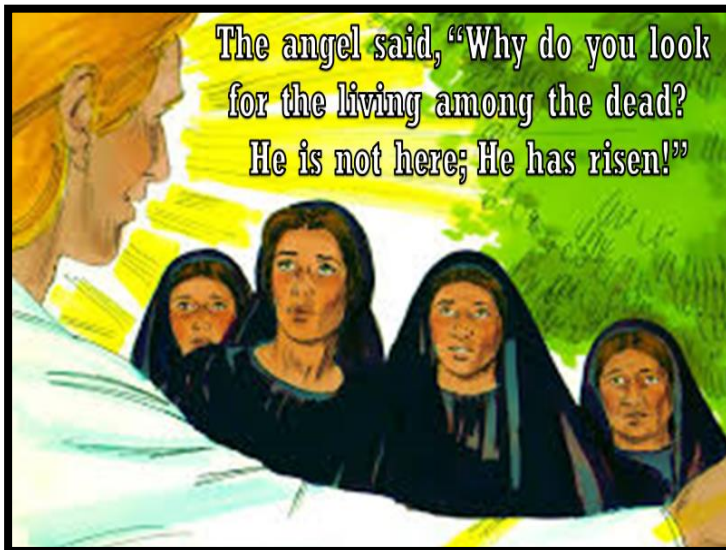




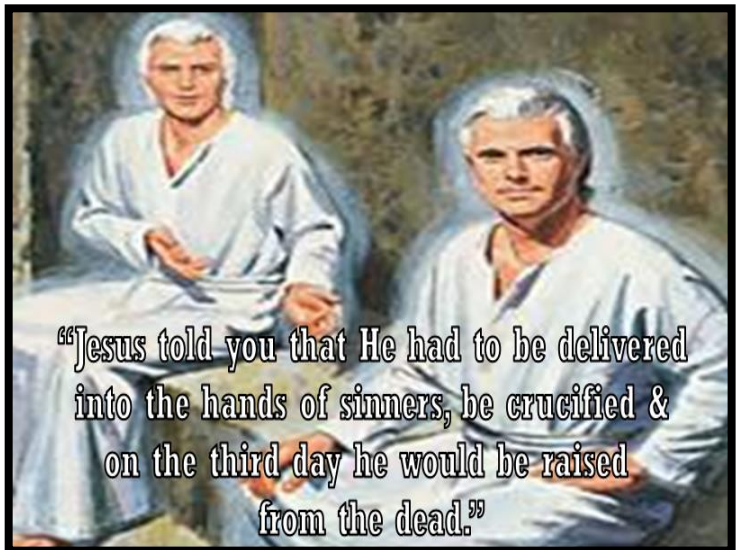
When they got there they saw that someone had already removed the big honken stone, & they wondered what was going on!



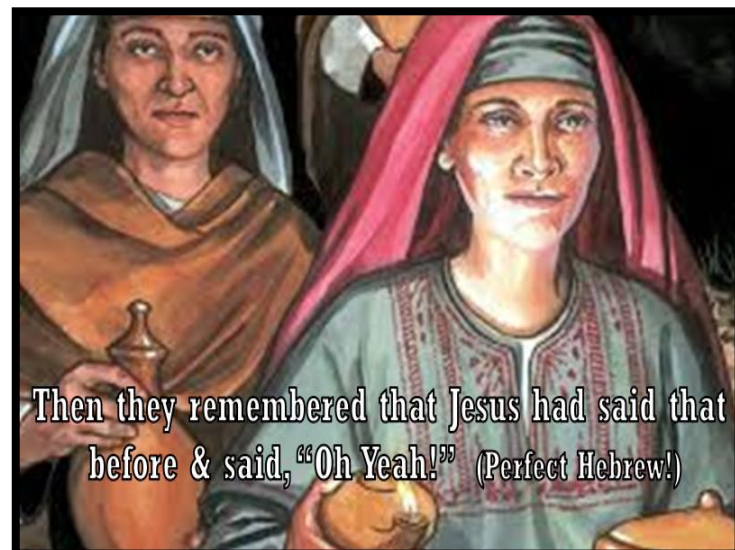
The Roman Soldiers who were guarding the tomb were passed out on the ground, & suddenly two angels appeared.



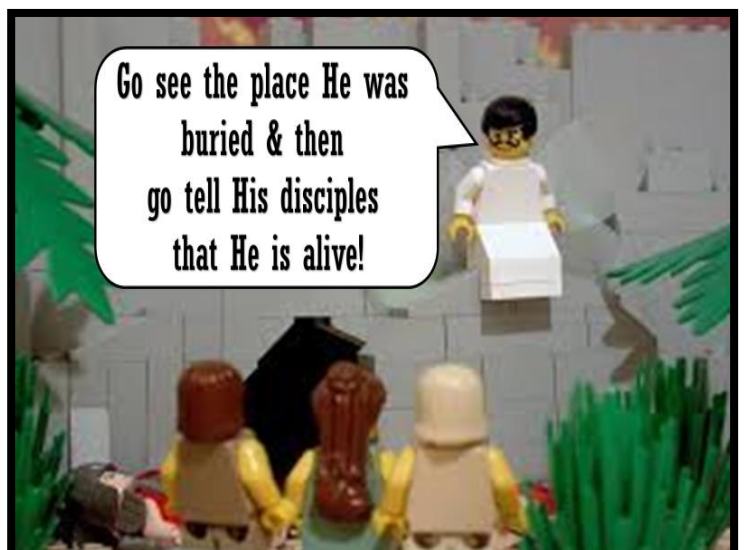
The angel said, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!"



"Jesus told you that He had to be delivered into the hands of sinners, be crucified & on the third day he would be raised from the dead."



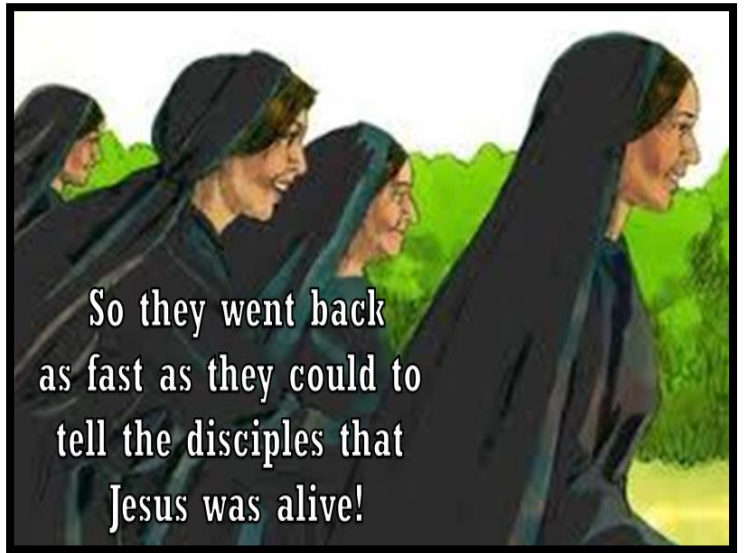
Then they remembered that Jesus had said that before & said, "Oh Yeah!" (Perfect Hebrew!)



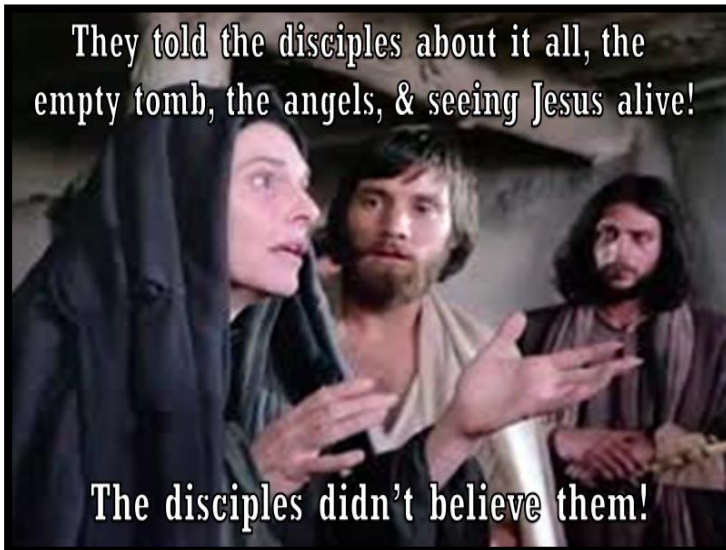
Go see the place He was buried & then go tell His disciples that He is alive!



Then Jesus appeared to them & told them not to be afraid. "Tell my disciples to go to Galilee & I will see them there."



So they went back as fast as they could to tell the disciples that Jesus was alive!

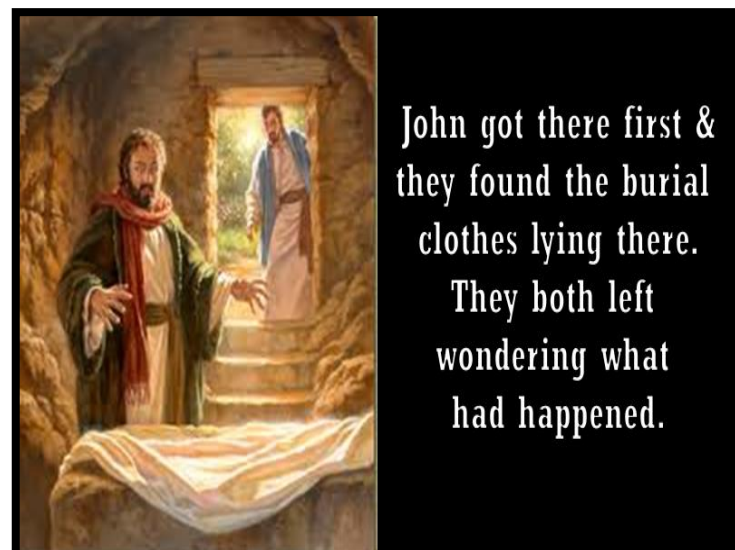


They told the disciples about it all, the empty tomb, the angels, & seeing Jesus alive!

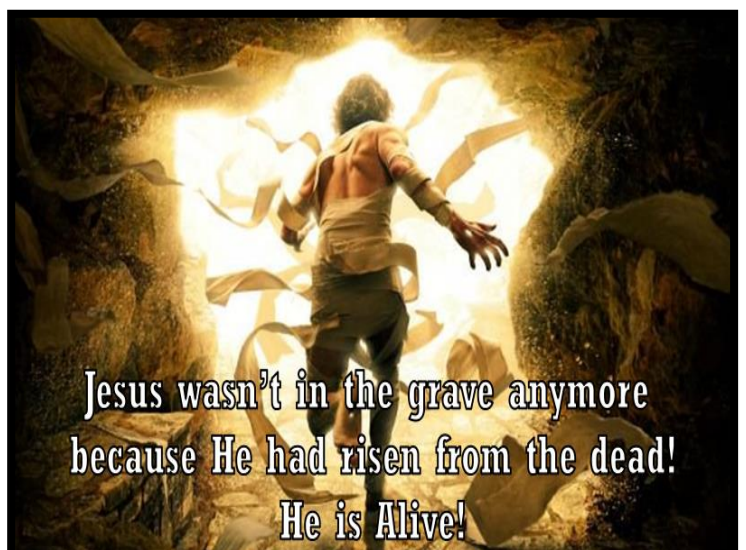
The disciples didn't believe them!



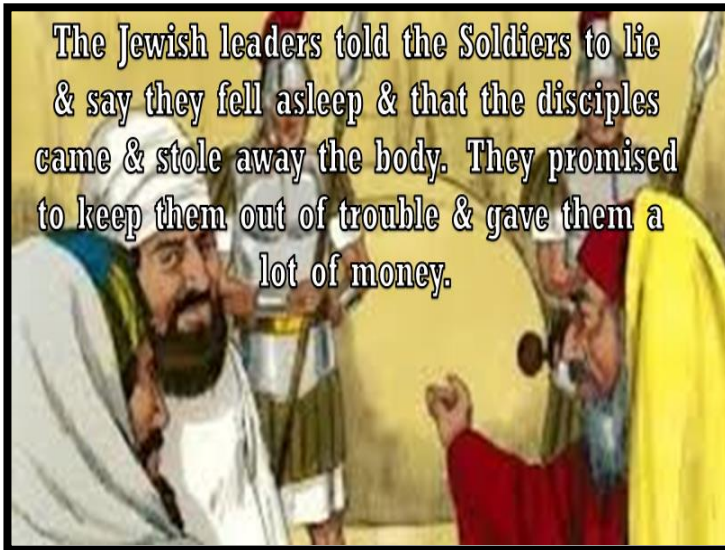
Peter & John ran as fast as they could to the tomb to see what was going on.



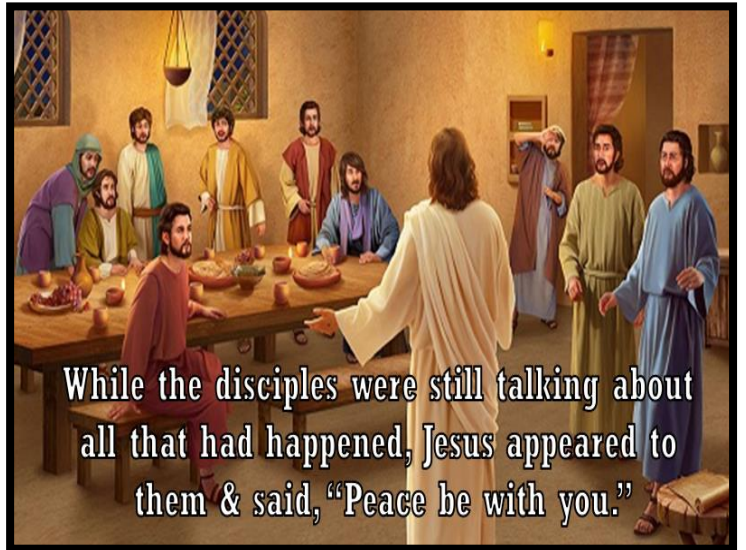
John got there first & they found the burial clothes lying there. They both left wondering what had happened.



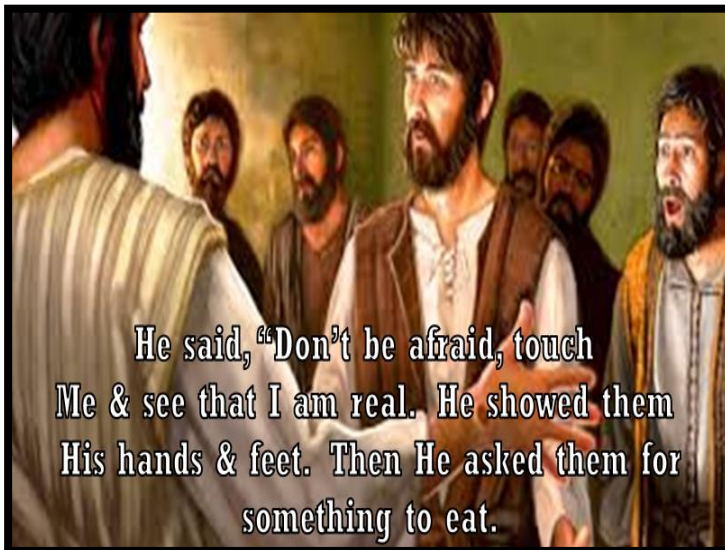
Jesus wasn't in the grave anymore because He had risen from the dead!
He is Alive!



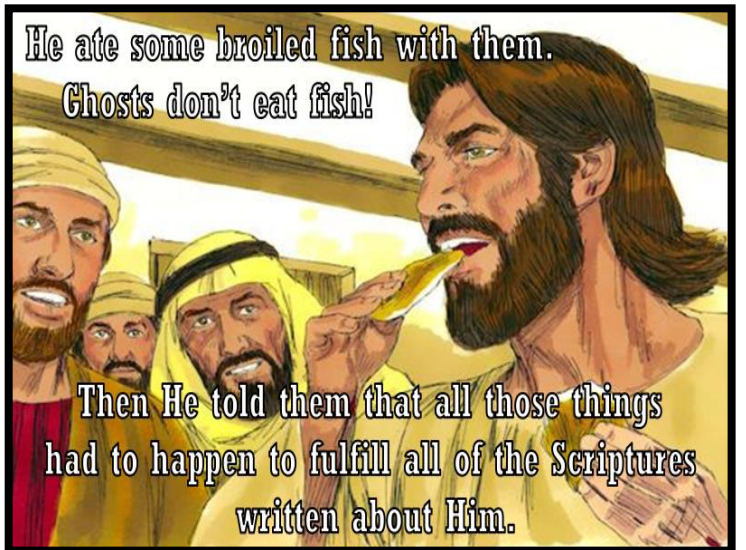
The Jewish leaders told the Soldiers to lie & say they fell asleep & that the disciples came & stole away the body. They promised to keep them out of trouble & gave them a lot of money.



While the disciples were still talking about all that had happened, Jesus appeared to them & said, "Peace be with you."

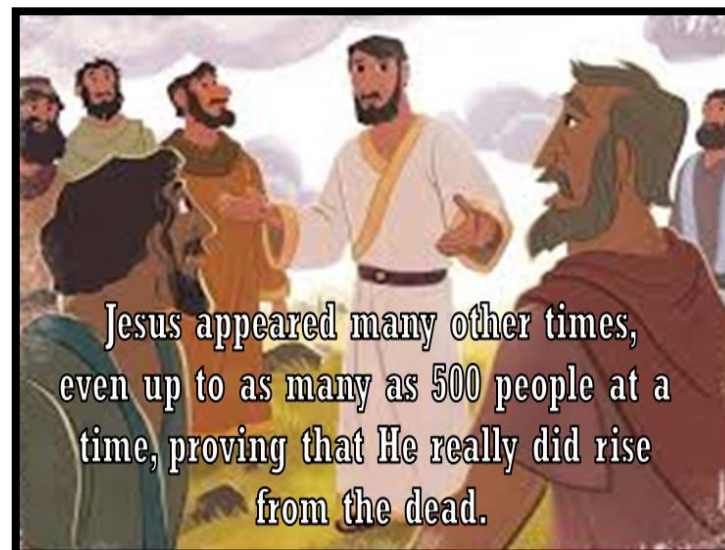


He said, "Don't be afraid, touch Me & see that I am real. He showed them His hands & feet. Then He asked them for something to eat.

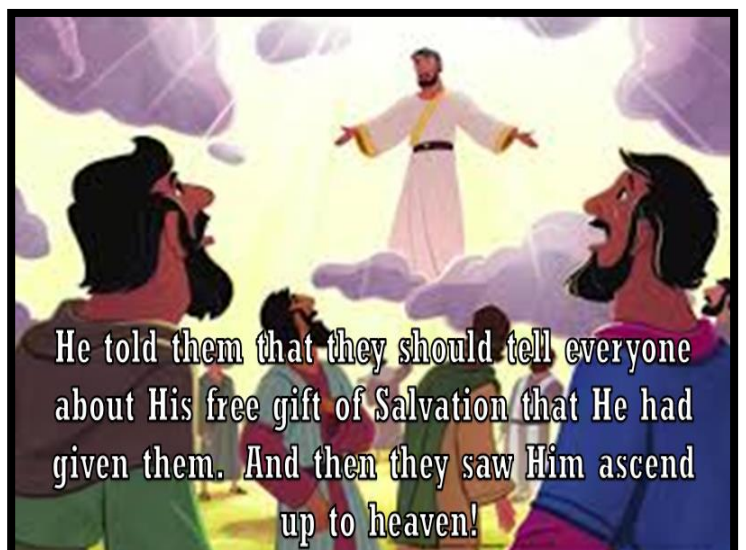


He ate some broiled fish with them.
Ghosts don't eat fish!

Then He told them that all those things had to happen to fulfill all of the Scriptures written about Him.



Jesus appeared many other times, even up to as many as 500 people at a time, proving that He really did rise from the dead.



He told them that they should tell everyone about His free gift of Salvation that He had given them. And then they saw Him ascend up to heaven!

This story is taken from the Gospel accounts in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John. Feel free to read it from your Bible at home. If you don't have a Bible & would like a free one, please contact Pastor Randy at Grace Church & we will do our best to get you one.



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