

THE GREAT REVERSAL

The Great Reversal

Key idea:

Easter celebrates the Great Reversal, when God overruled the wicked decision of humanity to reject and crucify Jesus, raising Him from the dead so that life has swallowed up death for all who trust in Him.

Key text:

Acts 2:22-24

Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³ This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

Key points:

1. God Himself gave proof of Jesus' identity as the Messiah through many miracles, wonders, and signs so that no one rejects Jesus because of a lack of evidence.
2. People blindly rejected and killed Jesus, but God was Sovereignly working so that this horrible injustice was reversed so that the death of Jesus defeated injustice, sin, and death.
3. God overruled the unjust verdict of men and swallowed death up through the Resurrection of Jesus so that all who trust in Him will live forever.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Why does Peter stress that God Himself had accredited Jesus' claims to be the Messiah and Son of God? Why was that important for his original audience?
3. Many people say that Christians simply choose to believe in Jesus without evidence. How does this line up with what Peter says in Acts 2? How should I respond to such statements?

4. What evidence has God given to us to show that Jesus is the Messiah and Son of God?
5. If God had given accreditation of Jesus' claims, why did the people, the religious leaders, and the governmental leaders reject Him and conspire to put Him to death?
6. How does Acts 2:23 teach both the Sovereignty of God and the responsibility of humans for our actions? Why is it important that I believe and stress both of these truths?
7. How is the Resurrection of Jesus a reversal of the human decision to reject Him and put Him to death? How is the Resurrection of Jesus a reversal of death itself?
8. Why does Peter say it was "impossible" for death to hold Jesus?
9. How should the Resurrection of Jesus affect my view of my own death? How should a Christian think about and face death? How do I actually think and feel about my own death?
10. Who will I call or see to encourage this week? Who can I encourage to gather with God's people to worship this King this coming Sunday?