

Easter Challenge

The following challenge was issued by Dan Barker. No one, including Dan himself, has been able to accomplish this task. You could be the first!

I have an Easter challenge for Christians. It is simply this: tell me what happened on Easter. I am not asking for proof. My straightforward request is merely that Christians tell me exactly what happened on the day that their most important doctrine was born.

Believers should eagerly take up this challenge, since without the resurrection, there is no Christianity. Paul wrote, "And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching in vain, and your faith is also in vain". (1 Corinthians 15:14)

The conditions of the challenge are simple and reasonable. In each of the four gospels, begin at Easter morning and read to the end of the book. Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20 and 21. Also read Acts 1:3-12 and 1 Corinthians 15:3-8. These 165 verses can be read in a few moments.

Then, without omitting a single detail from these separate accounts, write a simple, chronological narrative of the events between the resurrection and the ascension: what happened first, second, and so on; who said what, when; and where these things happened. Since the gospels don't always give precise times of day, it is permissible to make educated guesses. The narrative does not have to pretend to present a perfect picture -- it only needs to give at least one plausible account of all of the facts. Additional explanation of the narrative may be set apart in parentheses.

The important condition to the challenge, however, is that not one single biblical detail be omitted. Fair enough?