

EAS^{ter}ER



**Despite being the world's largest religion,
Christianity is the most persecuted minority faith in
many regions.**

-Ruth Jones, MP



Despite the very real threat of persecution, hundreds of millions of Christians—effectively entire populations—remain steadfast in their faith, at great personal cost. They willingly risk their livelihoods, their families and even their lives to uphold their beliefs.

-Ruth Jones, MP



“See, we are going up to Jerusalem. The Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death. Then they will hand him over to the Gentiles,³⁴ and they will mock him, spit on him, flog him, and kill him, and he will rise after three days.”

Mark 10:33-34



When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they could go and anoint him. ²Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they went to the tomb at sunrise.

....



³They were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone from the entrance to the tomb for us?” ⁴Looking up, they noticed that the stone—which was very large—had been rolled away.

⁵When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side; they were alarmed.



⁶“Don’t be alarmed,” he told them. “You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they put him.”⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee; you will see him there just as he told you.’ ”

⁸They went out and ran from the tomb, because trembling and astonishment overwhelmed them. And they said nothing to anyone, since they were afraid.

Mark 16:1-8



1. The Witness of the Women



These words seemed like nonsense to the disciples, and they did not believe the women.

Luke 24:11



2. The Declaration of Victory – He has risen!



The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Mark 10:45



**I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under
the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say,
Blessing and honor and glory and power
be to the one seated on the throne,
and to the Lamb, forever and ever!**

Revelation 5:13



⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you to Galilee; you will see him there just as he told you.' "

⁸They went out and ran from the tomb, because trembling and astonishment overwhelmed them. And they said nothing to anyone, since they were afraid.

Mark 16:7-8



3. The Appeal to Believe and Follow Jesus



I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

