

## Historical Context of Easter Bible Study

**Objective:** This study guide explores pivotal scripture like Matthew chapters 26–28 and others through the interdisciplinary approach of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics, and Social Studies (STEAMS). By connecting the biblical narrative of Jesus' final days, crucifixion, and resurrection with STEAMS disciplines, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the cultural, historical, and spiritual significance of Easter.

### Key Components

#### Science (S): Human Biology and Environmental Conditions

- ❖ **Topic:**  
Examine the biological and environmental factors surrounding the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.
- ❖ **Study:**
  - Crucifixion and the Human Body:**  
Study the physiological effects of crucifixion on the human body. Discuss what Jesus might have physically endured, referencing medical research and biblical descriptions (Matthew 27:26–50).
  - Earthquake and Darkness:**  
Explore the environmental phenomena described at Jesus' death (Matthew 27:45, 51).

<p><b>Technology (T): Communication and Record-Keeping in the Time of Jesus</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Topic:</b> Explore how information about Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion was communicated and documented during the 1st century, and how those technologies influenced the spread of the Gospel.</li> <li>❖ <b>Study:</b> <b>Scrolls, Seals, and Inscriptions:</b> Research the methods of record-keeping in ancient Judea—scrolls, stone inscriptions, and wax seals. Investigate how Pilate's inscription "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews" (Matthew 27:37) served as a public declaration and symbolic message.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Engineering (E): Construction and Structural Design</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Topic:</b> Study John 20:11–13 and examine the architectural features of Roman-era tombs, exploring the symbolism and functional purpose of the rolling stone used to seal Jesus' tomb.</li> <li>❖ <b>Study:</b> <b>Tomb Mechanics Blueprint:</b> Research the meaning of Jesus' burial site and compare relative information regarding the fact that archaeological evidence indicates that such stones were rare and typically reserved for the wealthy or elite.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Arts (A): Expressions of Sacrifice, Betrayal, and Hope</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Topic:</b> Interpret the emotional and spiritual themes found in the Easter story through art and writing.</li> <li>❖ <b>Study:</b> <b>Oppression and Deliverance Art:</b> Study a visual representation (painting, digital art, or collage) of a scene from Matthew 26–28, such as the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane, or the Resurrection.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mathematics (M): Time, Money, and Prophecy Fulfillment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Topic:</b> Understand numerical aspects of the Easter story, including timelines, monetary exchanges, and fulfilled prophecies.</li> <li>❖ <b>Study:</b> <b>Timeline of Fulfillment:</b> Analyze the detailed timeline of the key events in Matthew 26–28, calculating hours from the Passover meal to the Resurrection. Explore the value of 30 pieces of silver in today’s terms (Matthew 26:15).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Social Studies (SS): Cultural and Ethical Context</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Topic:</b> Understand the cultural, political, and religious dynamics that led to Jesus’ crucifixion.</li> <li>❖ <b>Study:</b> <b>Historical Context of Passover:</b> Research the significance of Passover in Jewish culture and how its symbolism deepens the meaning of Jesus as the sacrificial Lamb (Matthew 26:17–19).</li> </ul>

## Key Takeaways

As we study Matthew 26–28, we witness the unfolding of the most pivotal moments in Christian faith: Jesus' betrayal, suffering, death, and ultimate resurrection. These chapters are not only the foundation of Easter, but a profound testimony of God's love, justice, and triumph over death.

Through the interdisciplinary lens of this Bible study, we better understand the human cost of crucifixion, the political complexities of the Roman Empire, and the prophetic fulfillment that ties the Old and New Testaments together. These insights reveal that Easter is not just a moment in history—it is the fulfillment of God's promise to redeem humanity.

May we carry the message of Easter with us: that even in our darkest hour, hope rises. Like the stone rolled away from the tomb, God removes barriers and breathes new life into every circumstance. He is risen—and that Truth transforms everything.