

who

IS JESUS



Many say he is a great moral teacher; a great prophet, and an avatar. New Age philosophies place him as a star child, a sort of cosmic superman, while yet others use his name as a swear word without even knowing why!

Jesus was born to a virgin, about 2000 years ago. He was born in Bethlehem, in the year when the Roman emperor Augustus Caesar, called for the registration of all peoples in his empire. Quirinius was then the governor of Syria.

Jesus grew up in Nazareth. At age 30, he began his work and traveled throughout Israel announcing the coming of the kingdom of God. He lived a sinless life, taught compassion, healed the sick and performed many miracles for about three years before he was crucified in Jerusalem. His death by crucifixion was amazing because he was not accused of any crime. The religious and political Jews of the day accused him of blasphemy because he declared that he was God. But even Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor at that time, who authorized his crucifixion, did not believe he was guilty of any crime.

The crucifixion of Jesus was accompanied by cosmic events. When he hung on the cross, there was darkness over the land even while it was early afternoon. The heavy curtain which hung in the temple at Jerusalem was torn in two. His body was pierced with a spear to ascertain that he was truly dead. Then his body was taken down and placed in a tomb with a great stone rolled to cover the entrance to the tomb. Guards were posted. Yet on the 3rd day, many eye-witnesses saw that the heavy stone had been rolled away, and the body of Jesus was not in the tomb.

Jesus then appeared to many people for a period of 40 days after that, and they realized that incredible though it might be, Jesus had been physically resurrected from the dead. More than 500 people saw him alive after this miraculous event of the resurrection. He spoke and ate with groups of people. The marks of the crucifixion were evident on his body. Many specific encounters with the risen Christ are documented in the bible. Then he ascended to heaven, but promised to return.

There has been no such occurrence of a resurrection before or since, in all of history.

This is the unique and astonishing claim of Jesus –

**HE IS
ALIVE
TODAY!**

Those who follow him have the assurance that they follow the living God. The record of his life on earth gives us an intimate portrait of a God who loves us, full of power and mercy, who lived among us for a while to show us the way back to Him.

AT CHRISTMAS, WE REMEMBER THE ASTOUNDING EVENTS THAT SURROUNDED THE BIRTH OF JESUS.

A whole host of angels appeared to men on earth praising God and saying "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Wise men or philosophers, called the Magi, came from Persia (modern day Iran), with the understanding of God's prophecies to the Jewish people to search out the child so that they could worship Him.

It was the fulfillment of prophecy, made more than 2800 years ago.

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a son, and they shall call his name, Immanuel,’ which translated means, ‘GOD WITH US.’”

(Isaiah 7:14)

The Apostle John would describe the coming of God in the form of the man, Jesus, this way:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us ... full of grace and truth.

(John 1 : 1 - 14)

what
did Jesus do



If Jesus is God, what was he doing on earth?

JESUS HAD TWO PURPOSES ON EARTH

1 CHRIST CAME TO SAVE HUMANKIND.

He willingly died on the cross to pay the penalty for the sins of the world. In this way, anyone who trusts in Jesus completely and what he has accomplished by his death on the cross, will receive God's forgiveness and enter his Kingdom.

When God created the heavens and the earth, He made man to be in fellowship with Him, to enjoy His creation and to have dominion over the earth. But man chose to rebel against God and through that rebellion, sin came into the world. Sin is first and foremost a wrong done against God, and it carries the penalty of death.

There is no way for the human race to atone for this sin on its own merit. No amount of good works or religion will be able to cancel out wrongs that we have done. Think about it as a man who falls into a deep well and needs to get out. He is not able to climb out by himself. But God could come down the well, and carry him out. God's plan was to come Himself, as Jesus, the sinless man, who could be the acceptable sacrifice, to pay the penalty of sin, on behalf of all mankind.



JESUS CAME TO EARTH TO BEGIN HIS KINGDOM.

His kingdom will be fully realized at his return and it will be made up of everyone who has faithfully followed him.

First century Jews understood the “kingdom of God” to refer to an independent Jewish nation, not under Roman rule. They thought that God would intervene and restore the Jewish nation to greatness. But that was not God’s purpose. In fact, the temple at Jerusalem which they were very proud of, was destroyed less than 40 years after the resurrection of Jesus, and the Jews were scattered throughout the world for almost 2000 years.

Jesus’ kingdom is not like the popular expectation. He told Pilate, “My kingdom is not of this world.” He explained to a Jewish teacher that God’s kingdom was invisible to most people and to experience it or enter it, a person must be born again of the Spirit. This requires a person to believe in Christ as his saviour and to follow Jesus as his master. (John 3 :1–21).

The kingdom has many citizens even now; when we believe in Jesus and his message, we join his kingdom. “For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves” (Colossians 1:13).

God’s kingdom does not assume any physical territory, as we commonly understand about human kingdoms. Jesus explained that the kingdom of God does not develop in a dramatic way. The seed grows quietly; the kingdom starts as when a small mustard seed is planted or it is hidden like yeast. But the seed grows quietly and will in time yield a bountiful harvest; the mustard seed becomes a huge plant where birds can rest on its branches, and the yeast makes its way into the whole dough (Matthew 13:31-32).

But there will come a time when God’s Kingdom will reach its glorious fulfillment where it fills the whole earth. This will not be by the efforts of men, but only through God’s will and at His appointed time, when Jesus returns.

We eagerly await the glorious fulfillment of the kingdom but there are things we can do right now. Those who believe in Jesus and look forward to that fulfillment “live holy and godly lives...make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with Him”. (2 Peter 3:14).

We also tell as many people as would hear, the truth about God’s kingdom and the offer of forgiveness and eternal life by accepting Jesus as God’s only way into his kingdom.

DID JESUS CHRIST ACTUALLY RISE FROM THE DEAD?

THIS IS EITHER THE GREATEST HOAX IN HISTORY OR IT IS TRUE


Throughout the centuries, great scholars have carefully examined the extraordinary claim of the resurrection and considered the evidence for it. Many who did not believe, have examined the historical evidence and arrived at the conclusion that the resurrection of Jesus did occur.

PROFESSOR THOMAS ARNOLD, former chair of history at Oxford, and author of the famous volumes, *History of Rome*, stated, "I have been used for many years to study the histories of other times, and to examine and weigh the evidence of those who have written about them, and I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is **PROVED BY BETTER AND FULLER EVIDENCE** of every sort, than the great sign which God has given us that Christ died and rose again from the dead."

LORD DARLING, former Chief Justice of England, stated, ". . . there exists such overwhelming evidence, positive and negative, factual and circumstantial, that no intelligent jury in the world could fail to bring in a verdict that the resurrection story is true."

SIMON GREENLEAF (1783 – 1853), an American jurist, wrote the famous legal volume entitled, "A Treatise on the Law of Evidence". He believed the resurrection of Jesus Christ was a hoax. A skeptic and often mocking the Christians, he was challenged to take the three volumes he had written on the laws of legal evidence and to apply them to the resurrection. He determined to expose the "myth" of the resurrection. After examining the evidence for it, Greenleaf concluded that the resurrection of Jesus Christ was the best supported event in all of history! He wrote a book entitled, "An Examination of the Testimony of the Four Evangelists by the Rules of Evidence Administered in the Courts of Justice" in which he emphatically stated: "it was **IMPOSSIBLE** that the apostles could have persisted in affirming the truths they had narrated, had not **JESUS CHRIST ACTUALLY RISEN FROM THE DEAD, . . .**"

when
will Jesus return



A FEW DAYS BEFORE HIS TRIAL AND CRUCIFIXION, JESUS EXPLAINED TO HIS FOLLOWERS THE DRAMATIC EVENTS THAT WOULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE HIS RETURN TO EARTH IN POWER AND GLORY.

That God's kingdom would be established is not new. The Old Testament has many prophecies about God's future kingdom on earth. The book of Daniel tells of the time when all human kingdoms and empires will be of the past and God's rule will be upon the whole earth.

Each day, when we pray the prayer that Jesus taught his followers,
"Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done, on earth as in heaven",
we are looking forward to that Day.

1 INCREASE OF THE OCCULT

Such activities and interest in the occultic realm will grow enormously – demon worship, sorceries, enchantment with drugs of all kinds, including those from the cyberspace.

(1 Timothy 4: 1-2, Revelation 9:21).

2 INCREASE IN PERMISSIVENESS

Lawless behavior will increase. The whole concept of moral law would be laid aside; blurring the absolute values of good and bad. Relative morals and situational ethics will be the order of the day. (2 Timothy 3: 1-5).

SIGNS THAT INDICATE THAT THE END IS NEAR AND THAT JESUS WILL SOON RETURN AS KING

3

INCREASE OF FAMINE, PESTILENCES, EARTHQUAKES AND MAJOR ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

The quality of our air, fresh water, the seas and trees will suffer significant degradation or destruction, leading to famines, diseases and water shortages on a global scale. Statistics show a steady rise in the frequency of earthquakes. Global warming and rising sea levels are to be expected (Matthew 24).

4

WARS – AND RUMOURS OF WARS

Wars have always been on the human agenda. But wars will be more lethal and extensive, and concentrated in the area of the Euphrates (Revelation 16: 10- 14).



5

A KNOWLEDGE EXPLOSION AND PHENOMENAL INCREASE IN TRAVEL

This prophecy was written in 500BC but we are truly in the age when this prophecy is being fulfilled. (Daniel 12:4).

6

LACK OF CONCERN ABOUT MORALITY AND SPIRITUAL STANDARDS WILL PRECEDE CHRIST'S RETURN AS THEY DID IN THE DAYS OF NOAH

People and most religious or philosophical persuasions have tended to be materialistic, but the search for instant gratification and thrills will be greater and made possible by technological advancement. Wealth disparities throughout the world will be exacerbated – with extremes of poverty, hunger and extremes of wealth, abundance and waste. (Matthew 24: 37-39).

7 THE RETURN OF THE JEWS TO ISRAEL

This started in 1917 and led to a key event when the state of Israel, with a stroke of the pen, was brought into existence on 14th May 1948, and Jerusalem was returned to Israel in 1967 after the Six Day War. (Isaiah 66:8). No other people has preserved their identity and vitality for almost 2500 years without a national homeland. God keeps His promise to take the Jews out of the nations where they have gone; to gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. (Ezekiel 37:21-22).

8

THE GOSPEL WILL BE PREACHED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND THEN CHRIST WILL COME

(Matthew 24:14)

This prophecy is being fulfilled through television, radio, missionaries, the translation of the Bible into many languages and the internet. People all over the world can now hear the message of Christ.

Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: "I am the LORD."
(Isaiah 42:5-6)

**When Jesus returns,
wickedness and all that has been
against God's rule on earth would be
removed. The millennial reign
of peace under the kingship
of Jesus would begin.**

**God's ways and values will prevail
and there will be joy, peace and
righteousness on the earth.**

**No eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared
for those who love Him.**

**Jesus
asks
you...**

**who
do you say I am**



Perhaps, you will be like Simon Peter – who answered,

“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” to which Jesus replied – “Blessed are you Peter, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.” (Matthew 16:16-17).

IF YOU ARE UNDECIDED about whether God exists

or feel that you cannot ever know the answer then, this is a good time to look into the claims of Jesus Christ. You have the promise of the Almighty God that when you seek Him with all your heart, He will be found by you. (Jeremiah 29:13).

Ask God for wisdom in your search. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks he must believe and not doubt because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind (James 1: 5-6).

IF YOU BELIEVE THAT GOD DOES NOT EXIST,

consider this message to you from GOD.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. (Psalm 19:1).

For by him [Jesus], all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through him and for him.

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
(Colossians 1: 16-17).

“Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand.”
(read Job 38 – 40).

**For a person
to establish that God does
not exist for a fact,
he would have to know the
universe in its entirety.**



IF YOU BELIEVE THAT THERE IS NO DIVINE PURPOSE for the human race,

and while there is much humans do not know, yet man is the measure of all things and responsible for what he is or will become, then you owe it to yourself to examine the facts of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. If this is false, then you have nothing to lose or to fear.

But if the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is true, and you reject this truth, you have everything to lose – for you would have rejected JESUS who loves you and still extends his mercy and grace to you even now. But this offer expires when he returns as KING and the kingdom of GOD is established over the entire earth.

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near.
(Isaiah 55:6)

It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
(Hebrews 10:31)

IF YOU ALREADY BELIEVE IN GOD, what is your understanding of God?

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us...(Acts 17:24-27)

The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because,

if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.
(Romans 10 : 8-9)

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