



***The***  
***Real Truth***  
***About***  
***Jesus Christ***

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## **THE REAL TRUTH ABOUT JESUS CHRIST**

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Jesus was born in the little village of Bethlehem in Israel. He lived in Galilee for about 33 years, then He died on a Roman cross. Although He was not wealthy, never carried arms nor wrote a book, He has tremendous influence even up to this very present day. His influence and effect on people are permanent and eternal.

This Man is so important that time has been divided into two parts: B.C. (before Christ) and A.D. (two Latin words meaning "in the year of our Lord"). Over 2000 years have passed since the birth of Christ.

God saw to it that His life was accurately recorded in a book called the Bible. The Bible is God's Holy Word which is inspired and has been preserved for us without change to the present day. Actually the Bible is a collection of 66 books of which four tell us all about His life. These four books are named: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, the names of their authors. Let's take a look at what they have to say.

### **The Birth Of Jesus Christ**

According to Luke the angel Gabriel came to the virgin Mary and told her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" Mary was troubled and

wondered what the angel meant. He explained to her that she would give birth to a Son and that she was to name Him Jesus. "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest," he said (Luke 1:28-32).

However Mary wasn't married so she wondered how this would be possible. Gabriel further explained, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35).

Mary was engaged to be married to Joseph, however he didn't know anything about what took place. When he noticed that Mary was pregnant, he was about to break up with her. An angel came to him and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:18-21).

After Jesus was born some shepherds were taking care of their flocks and one night an angel announced to them, "I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10, 11). Later wise men, guided by a star, came

from the east to see Jesus. When they found Him they fell down and worshiped Him and gave Him gifts (Matthew 2:1-12).

When Jesus was a few weeks old, Joseph and Mary took Him to Jerusalem. There they met a man named Simeon who was a godly man. Somehow God revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen Jesus. When he saw Him, he took Him in his arms, blessed God and said, "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation" (Luke 2:29-30).

There is something else very unusual about the birth of Christ. It was predicted hundreds of years before in the earlier books of the Bible called the Old Testament.

For example: Micah was a prophet who lived 700 years before Christ was born. He wrote: "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be ruler in Israel" (Micah 5:2).

Isaiah, another prophet around the same time, wrote, "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). The name Immanuel means "God with us." This is also quoted in Matthew 1:23.

There are many other predictions in the Old Testament of the coming of Jesus Christ into

this world. He is the only One of whom hundreds of prophecies were given hundreds of years before He came. This in itself is miraculous – who but God can foretell the future?

## The Life Of Jesus Christ

Not only was the birth of Jesus unusual, so was His life. Let's take a look at His personal life, His teachings, and His works and miracles.

### 1. His Personal Life

Jesus Christ was the only man who ever lived a perfect life. He never committed one sin, in thought, word or deed (2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 2:22 and 1 John 3:5).

No wonder God broke the silence and declared in His own voice: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased!" (Matthew 3:17; 17:5).

**A. Jesus was holy.** The religious leaders of the day watched Him very carefully hoping to find something wrong with Him because they were jealous. Jesus challenged them, "Which of you convicts Me of sin?" (John 8:46). No one could answer Him; no one could point to anything bad in Him.

Even at His trial, when Pilate the governor examined Jesus, he had to admit that he could

not find any fault in Him (Luke 23:4). After His execution a Roman military commander was heard to say, "Certainly, this was a righteous Man" (Luke 23:47).

John testified that Jesus was full of grace and truth, and that he saw His glory (John 1:14). Isaiah the prophet wrote: "He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth" (Isaiah 53:9).

When you read about prophets in the Old Testament, you will discover that they confess their own sins. For example David said: "For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done this evil in Your sight" (Psalm 51:3, 4). Isaiah writes: "But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6).

Prophets of the Old Testament were godly men but they were far from perfect. Jesus Christ was perfect in every way. He was perfect in His love, grace, and in His sacrificing Himself for the sake of others. He was affectionate and merciful, comforting the unfortunate and healing the broken hearted. "He went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him" (Acts 10:38). See also Matthew 9:35 and Mark 7:37.

**B. Jesus was gracious and merciful.** One day He and His disciples went to a village but the

people refused to receive Him. Two of His disciples asked Jesus, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?" But Jesus rebuked them, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them" (Luke 9:54-56).

Compare this attitude with many political and religious leaders who sacrificed the lives of their followers and of their enemies in order to obtain their greedy desires. Jesus did not wage war to conquer cities, acquire lands and possessions, or gain a following. No, He opened the eyes of the blind, healing them as well as enlightening them as to their spiritual need. He exposed people's hearts in order to purify them and remove their guilt and sin.

On one occasion some religious leaders brought a woman to Jesus and asked Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?" They were trying to trick Jesus into making a serious mistake so they could accuse Him. Here was a dilemma! If Jesus said let her go, He would have been guilty of going against the law. If He agreed to have her stoned, where would the mercy that He taught about be? His answer was, "He who is without



sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." Her accusers, being convicted by their own consciences left one by one.

Jesus did not consider her sin a light matter. It certainly was a serious sin. She deserved to be executed according to the law, but He gave her another chance to repent and to live a godly life. He told her, "Go and sin no more." (John 8:1-11).

This is what Jesus does for sinners who come to Him for forgiveness. He forgives their sins and gives them the strength to live godly lives. Can you see now that Jesus' compassion surpasses that of all other spiritual and religious leaders and founders? He came to give men, women and children a new life, spiritual sight and the power to live a godly life.

**C. Jesus was humble.** Despite His greatness and power He was a humble Man and invited people, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:28, 29).

Jesus did not live in a castle or a palace, neither did He own slaves or servants; instead He told His disciples that He was among them to serve (Luke 22:27). Mark records in his book, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).

**D. Jesus was wise.** He did not go to school or any institution of higher learning, yet His wisdom and knowledge was profound. When He was 12 years old, He was sitting among the doctors and the teachers of the Law, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard Him was amazed at His understanding and His answers (Luke 2:41-50).

Isaiah prophesied about Jesus, “The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD” (Isaiah 11:2).

His harshest words were reserved for the religious hypocrites of His day, who hated Him and tried to argue with Him every chance they got. When people asked Him questions, He always answered with great wisdom and graciously. Therefore many believed on Him, but many did not.

## **2. His Teachings**

Jesus Christ is the greatest teacher that human history has ever known. He taught us the truth about God and all about human destiny. Though His teaching was simple and clear, yet it was sublime, authoritative and pure. He spoke words of absolute truth, mixed with grace and mercy.

**A. Jesus taught about God,** that He loves man and wants to give him true happiness. God does not enjoy judging man; He wants rather to give him everlasting life. The Apostle John wrote, “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Jesus taught that God hears our prayers and that He knows all of our needs – physical as well as spiritual needs. He taught that God is our heavenly Father who loves His creatures; He even takes care of the birds and feeds them; and without His permission not one single hair can fall from our heads (Matthew 6:26, 10:29-31).

God welcomes the sinner who repents, just as a father welcomes his son who was lost (Luke 15:11-32). “Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (Luke 15:10).

He taught that in spite of God’s holiness and the fact that He hates sin, yet He is loving and merciful, calling sinners to repent so that He can forgive them. Then He gives them a new life with a nature that enables them to live a life of righteousness.

**B. Jesus taught about man,** that we have great value from God’s perspective. He also warned, “Unless you repent, you will all likewise

perish" (Luke 13:3). This means the lake of fire. But whoever repents and believes on Jesus Christ will have eternal life; he crosses over from death to life (John 5:24).

He taught His followers, "Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who ... persecute you" (Matthew 5:44). Be willing to sacrifice for the good of others. He also taught them to live a life of purity and honesty.

**C. Jesus taught about Himself**, that He came from heaven to seek and to save those who are lost (Luke 19:10). God sent Him to be the "Savior of the world" (1 John 4:14). He said about Himself: "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness" (John 8:12). He also said: "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). He never turned away any sinners who were really sorry for their sins and believed on Him (John 6:37).

Although He never sinned in thought, word or deed, He came to die for our sins. When evil men crucified Him He prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34).

**D. Jesus often taught using parables**, which are simple stories that have spiritual meanings. For example, He told a story about a man who

had two sons. The youngest son rebelled and left home. He wasted his money on ungodly living. When he ran out of money he finally came to his senses; he felt bad about what he had done to his father and decided to return to his home. To his surprise his father received him with great joy and welcomed him back. Jesus said that in the same way God welcomes sinners who repent and return to Him.

Teaching about the importance of listening to and obeying God's Word, Jesus told a parable about a farmer sowing seed in his field. As he was planting, some of the seed fell on a path and the birds ate it up; some seed fell on rocky places and didn't grow; but some fell in good soil and grew and produced a good crop. In the same way when we accept God's Word (the seed) into our hearts and obey what it says, we also produce a good crop (life) for God (Mark 4:1-20).

**E. Jesus knew and taught about the future.** He didn't do it for money or for fame, but rather for the glory of God. He warned that just before He returns the second time there will be increasing earthquakes, epidemics and wars. It seems to us that His coming must be soon, although He never revealed exactly when it will be. The important thing is to be ready when He does come.

### 3. His Works and Miracles

The Apostle Peter said about the Lord Jesus Christ that “He went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with Him” (Acts 10:38).

The most important thing for Jesus was to do God’s will. In fact it was more important to Him than food. He said once, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work” (John 4:34). We often see Him spending much time in prayer – even all night long on certain occasions.

He also claimed to do only what pleased His Father (John 8:29). No wonder God said about Him: “This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17; 17:5). Jesus spent almost all of His time doing good. He comforted those who mourned. He reassured sinners of God’s love, telling them that He wasn’t anxious to judge them but rather that they repent and believe in Him. He performed many wonderful miracles that no one else had ever done for the benefit of needy people.

**A. Jesus healed the sick.** He went through many villages and towns, teaching and preaching the Good News of the Kingdom and healing every disease and sickness (Matthew 9:35).

In Mark 2:1-12 four friends brought a paralyzed man to Jesus and He said to him, "Son, your sins are forgiven." This made the religious leaders angry because they said only God can forgive sins; of course, they didn't believe Jesus was God. Then Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Arise, take up your bed, and go your way to your house." He was healed instantly and got up, picked up his couch and walked away. The people were amazed and praised God for what had happened. What did Jesus accomplish by doing this miracle? A very sick man was made well, people praised God for His mercy, and Christ's ability to forgive sins was backed up by His power to heal. No ordinary man could forgive sins or heal a paralyzed man.

**B. Jesus restored sight to the blind.** It is a well-known fact that Jesus Christ is the only One who ever opened the eyes of blind people. One day He saw a man that was born blind and healed him. The blind man told everyone, "I was blind, but now I see!" (See John 9 for the whole story.)

Another time there was a blind man sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that Jesus was passing by he shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" The people around him told him to be quiet, but Jesus heard him and came to where he was and restored the man's eyesight (Mark 10:46-52).

**C. Jesus healed lepers.** People who had leprosy were not allowed to be around healthy people, according to the Law of Moses. They were to be isolated because of the contagious nature of this disease. One time He healed ten men who had leprosy all at the same time (Luke 17:11-19). However, only one came back to thank Jesus for what He had done for him.

**D. Jesus cast out demons.** Many people were demon-possessed during Jesus' earthly life. People suffered much from them, but with just a word Jesus expelled the demons. One day a demon-possessed man who lived in a cemetery met Jesus. He was a wild man and no one could tame him or even bind him with chains because he would always break loose. Jesus simply said, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!" Not just one demon but many came out of him. The man was no longer wild but in his right mind. The man begged Jesus to go with Him but Jesus told him to go back home to his friends and tell them what great things the Lord had done for him. He obeyed (see Mark 5:1-20).

**E. Jesus raised the dead.** His power wasn't limited to healing sick people. He could even raise a dead person to life. One time He was entering a city called Nain with His disciples. Coming out of the city was a funeral procession. A widow's only son had died. When He saw her crying, Jesus felt sorry for her and said to



her, "Do not weep." He turned to the coffin and said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." The dead man sat up and began to speak. The people were amazed at His power and praised God. They recognized Him as a great prophet but He was much more than that. He was God who became a man! (Luke 7:11-17).

Another time He raised up a man named Lazarus, who had been dead four days. This story is found in John 11.

**F. Jesus has power over nature.** One day Jesus was in a boat with His disciples and He fell asleep. Suddenly a windstorm came down on the lake and the boat was filling up with water. The disciples were frightened and awoke Jesus. He immediately rebuked the wind and the waves and they became calm. The disciples could hardly believe their eyes. "He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!" they exclaimed (Luke 8:25).

Another time Jesus was spending time in prayer and the disciples were crossing the lake in a boat. A strong wind was blowing against them while they were rowing. Jesus knew they were in trouble so He simply walked to them on top of the water. Of course, the disciples were frightened but when He got closer they realized that it was Jesus. When Jesus stepped into the boat, the wind suddenly died down. The disciples were amazed and worshiped Him

exclaiming, "Truly You are the Son of God!" (Matthew 14:22–33).

**G. Jesus fed thousands of hungry people.** Great crowds often came to listen to Jesus preach. Once they were in a place where there was no food available. He said to His disciples, "I have compassion on the multitude ... because they have nothing to eat." His disciples told Him they only had seven loaves and some fish. Jesus took this food, gave thanks for it and had His disciples pass it out to the crowd. The Bible records that there were four thousand men plus women and children there! Now we know that seven loaves of bread and a few fish could never feed that many people. But all the people ate and were filled and the disciples gathered seven large baskets of leftovers (Matthew 15:32–39). Another time Jesus fed five thousand men with five loaves and two fish (John 6:5–14).

These are only a few of the miracles that the Lord Jesus Christ did when He lived on earth, and not all His wonderful works were written down, according to John. "But" he wrote, "these were written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:30–31).

## His Death And Resurrection

Why did Jesus Christ come into this world? This is a very important question. During His life He taught how to live a pure life and keep away from evil. He taught that we should live a life of love and sacrifice for others. He taught us to live a life of faith and trust in God. This is all wonderful, but no matter how hard we try to live such a life we fall far short.

The main reason why Jesus came was to give His life for us; to die for our sins as our Substitute, to put away sin and to give us eternal life. He makes it possible to live the life He taught about.

There are many proofs that He actually died and also that He arose from the dead:

1. We have the witness of the Old Testament prophets. David wrote about Christ's hands and feet being pierced, about the soldiers dividing up His clothing and the fact that they gave Him vinegar to drink when He was thirsty (Psalm 22:16, 18; 69:21). We know this didn't happen to David himself, so it is quite obvious that he was writing about someone else by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The crucifixion of Jesus was the fulfillment of this prophecy.

The prophet Isaiah wrote about the purpose of Christ's death over 700 years before He came.

“He was wounded for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities ... We all, like sheep, have gone astray ... and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all ... Though He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth ... He made His soul an offering for sin ... He bore the sin of many” (Isaiah 53).

These are some of the prophecies that were recorded about Christ hundreds of years before His coming. There are many others. God saw to it that these prophecies are available to us today in the Old Testament of the Bible.

2. We also have the witness of the death and resurrection of Christ in the New Testament by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Two of the writers of the four gospels, Matthew and John, actually witnessed the crucifixion and the resurrection of Christ.

3. Just as the prophets of the Old Testament foretold what would happen to Him, Jesus Himself announced to His disciples that He would be crucified and then rise from the dead. For example: “From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem (the Holy City) and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day” (Matthew 16:21).

Luke wrote, “Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, ‘Behold, we are going up to

Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. And they will scourge Him and put Him to death. And the third day He will rise again" (Luke 18:31-33).

Just as Jesus was perfect in His life, so He was perfect in His death. He voluntarily gave up His life for us. When Jesus was arrested, one of His disciples tried to defend Him. Jesus told him that if He wanted to be defended, He could call for twelve armies of angels to cut down His enemies (Matthew 26:51-54). Actually He could have destroyed His enemies with one word, but He chose to die so that we might have eternal life.

When He was on the cross He prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34). When we read about some famous political and even some religious leaders being persecuted or attacked, they were determined to get revenge on their enemies, but not Jesus. He practiced what He preached, "Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you" (Matthew 5:44).

Just before Jesus died He said, "It is finished" (John 19:30). His work of redemption was

finished; He paid the full price for our sins. "Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end" (John 13:1).

Have you heard of anyone else who died in this manner? But this unique God-Man arose from the dead on the third day, just as He promised. After His resurrection He showed Himself to His followers over a period of forty days, speaking and explaining to them about the kingdom of God (Acts 1:3).

Later the Apostle Paul declared, "Christ died for our sins ... He was buried ... He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures (the sacred writings) ... He was seen by Cephas (Peter), then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once" (1 Corinthians 15:3-6). Forty days after His resurrection He went up to heaven. This is recorded in Acts 1:9-11: "While they (the disciples) watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight." While they were looking at the sky two angels stood by and announced: "This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

## **Importance Of Faith In Christ**

The Scriptures tell us that Jesus Christ was not just a man. He was born miraculously of the

virgin Mary, He said several times that He came down from heaven. Twice God spoke from heaven: "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased (Matthew 3:17; 17:5). John declared: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Paul tells us what a great mystery this is: "He [God] was manifested in the flesh [or came in a body]" (1 Timothy 3:16). This is the reason why faith in Christ is so much more important than faith in a prophet or any other messenger that came. They were only announcers of a message. None of them claimed as Jesus did that they were the way to eternal life.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). He also said, "He who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life" (John 5:24).

The Apostle Peter said, "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). He also stated, "To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission [forgiveness] of sins" (Acts 10: 43).

Now let me ask you a very important, personal question: Do you believe in Him? If not, why not?

– *Rafique, edited*

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