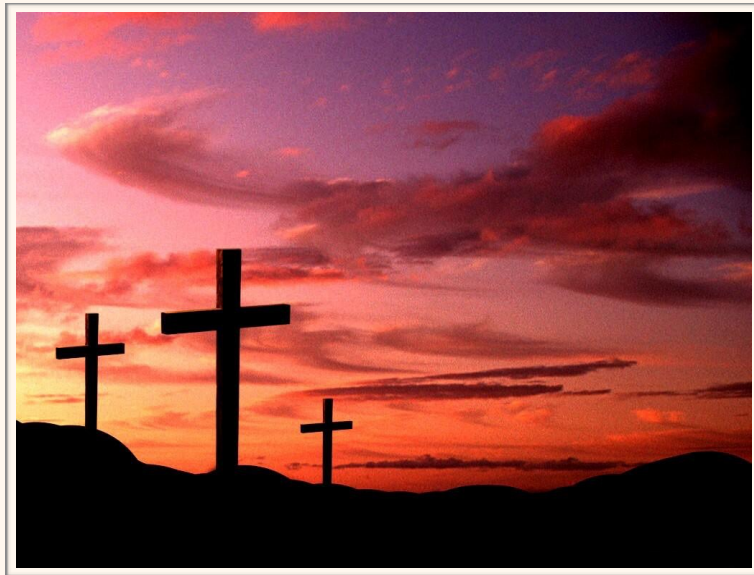


Believing in Jesus



John 3:16 (NKJV)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

Jesus' Purpose on Earth

Jesus came to earth to testify to the Truth - John 18:37. He came to atone for the sins of the world - 1John 2:2. He came to serve and give His life as a ransom for us - Matthew 20:28. He came to light our path, not to judge us - John 12:46-47. He came to fulfil the law and the prophets - Matthew 5:17.

Who was Jesus?

Jesus was the Son of God - John 14:5-14. For further ref. - Matthew 3:17, 17:5, Mark 1:11, John 1:14, 5:26, 1John 14:13, 5:10, Acts 13:33, Luke 3:22, 8:28, Romans 1:4, Hebrews 5:5.

Jesus suffered a most violent death. He was not a man protecting His material wealth or oppressing people for some ulterior motive. He shared His knowledge with all those who would listen regardless of the consequences to His own personal wellbeing. He lived what He preached with perfection. He performed miracles as evidence of the greatness of God, not for His own benefit. He taught life's lessons in simplistic ways so they could be easily understood. His teachings are timeless. He washed the feet of his disciples to demonstrate servitude and humbleness. From recorded history in the Bible, Jesus died because He would not deny who He was, and what His mission was on this earth.

Miracles - Were they real?

Jesus used miracles to demonstrate God's power. Jesus performed over 40 miracles, often before thousands of witnesses. If you doubt this, consider the modern day miracles we observe first hand. The miracle of birth. The miracle of a caterpillar which turns into a butterfly in days. The miracle of the human body with all its interdependent, irreducibly complex organs and systems working together. Miracles are real. They exist to glorify God.

Prophecy

The Old Testament foretells of the coming Messiah who would save the world. Most had envisioned a great warrior who would restore the Jewish people to their former glory. God had a different approach in mind. Jesus fulfilled so many Old Testament prophecies that the mathematical probability of one man fulfilling these is basically zero.

Why Was Jesus Crucified?

Jesus was crucified as a ransom for the sins of all mankind. Some may want to blame the Jews or Romans, but they were only a representation of all of humanity. As Paul wrote in Romans 3:23 (NKJV) "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." As tragic as it may appear, Jesus was fulfilling the purpose for which He came to earth. Jesus' death and resurrection gives us hope of eternal life.

Evidence for Jesus' Resurrection

The hope for mankind is that through Jesus we can have eternal life. The resurrection of Jesus 3 days after His crucifixion is true. Here is the evidence.

- ✦ Roman soldiers guarding Jesus' tomb would not allow removal of Jesus' body under the penalty of death.
- ✦ 2000 years ago women lacked credibility as witnesses. If the account were contrived, men would have made the discovery of the empty tomb, not women.
- ✦ Hundreds of people saw Jesus after His resurrection.
- ✦ Upon Jesus' arrest, several disciples, fearing for their lives, denied knowing Jesus. After His resurrection all were convinced Jesus was who He claimed to be. All but one disciple died a violent death for believing that Jesus had risen. Nobody would sacrifice themselves for something they knew to be a lie. Thereafter, thousands died at the hands of the Romans for their belief in Jesus.

John 14:6 (NKJV) - Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.