



Truth For These Times



2. GOOD NEWS FOR THE WORLD

The Bible has a central theme – Jesus Christ. The Old Testament said He would come as a Saviour. The New Testament says He will come again as a King, to bring in everlasting life to those who accept Him. This is all made possible because of the cross of Calvary. Upon this cross, Jesus Christ died that we might live, and be released from the slavery of sin. He was treated as we deserve, that we might be treated as He deserved. He was condemned for our sins of which He has no share. He suffered the death that was ours, that we might receive the life that was His.

Many years before Jesus Christ was born, hundreds of prophecies were made concerning His life and death. In fact, 330 details were predicted, and were fulfilled while He lived on this earth almost 2,000 years ago. Here are but a few:

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES (i.e. predictions about the Messiah or Jesus Christ).
New Testament writers have linked these predictions to Messiah fulfilments.

Micah 5:2	He would be born in Bethlehem	Luke 2:4-7
Psalms 22:16	Christ would be crucified	Luke 23:33
Zechariah 11:12	He would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver	Matthew 26:14,15
Psalms 34:20	No bones would be broken	John 19:33
Isaiah 7:14	His mother would be a virgin	Matthew 1:18-23
Psalms 22:18	Lots would be cast for his garment	Luke 23:34
Psalms 16:10	He would be resurrected	Matthew 28:6

No human mind could make such exacting predictions and expect them to come true, but God, who knows what the future holds, revealed these many details concerning Jesus Christ. In noting their fulfilment, we can see without doubt that Christ was no mere man, but was One sent by God to save humankind from eternal destruction.

WHO WAS JESUS CHRIST?

John 1:1-3,14. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and THE WORD WAS GOD. He was in the beginning with God. ALL THINGS WERE MADE THROUGH HIM, and without Him nothing was made that was made. AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Here we see Jesus Christ existing from the beginning with God. In fact, He is called God in the same way as God the Father is called God. However, He hid His divinity from people's view when He came to this earth, being clothed in human flesh.



Matthew 1:23 “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “GOD WITH US.”

While Jesus Christ was on this earth, God indeed dwelt with the human race. He lived as the people lived at that time, but never practised the sin of humankind.

WHY DID CHRIST COME TO OUR PLANET?

When God first created human beings, He made them in His own image. Genesis 1:26. Adam was made perfect – he was sinless. However, God made all humanity with the power of choice. He did not want them to serve Him because he had to, but because he wanted to, motivated by love for their Creator. Adam and Eve failed in their test of obedience, and in partaking of the forbidden fruit rebelled against God and became sinners. Genesis 2:16,17 and Genesis 3:6,9.



Romans 5:12

Therefore, **JUST AS THROUGH ONE MAN SIN ENTERED** the world, and death through sin, and **THUS DEATH SPREAD TO ALL MEN**, because all sinned.

Because of Adam's sin, all of his descendants are born with a tendency toward evil. All people by nature are sinners, and the consequence of sin is eternal death.

RESCUE MISSION

John 10:10,11

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE, and that they may have *it* more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. THE GOOD SHEPHERD GIVES HIS LIFE FOR THE SHEEP.

Jesus came to this world to save us from eternal death. He came that we might have the more abundant life – here and for eternity. However, it was a great sacrifice. The mighty God humbled Himself to become a man, and then die in our place. He gave His life for the sheep – us. Without His sacrifice, humanity would have been left to perish.

John 3:16,17

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. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.



Eternal life is not automatic. Truly Christ died in our place, but in order to receive the gift of life we must respond to the convictions of God in our hearts, and believe in Jesus. If we really believe, we will demonstrate our love for Him by obeying His words. Christ died for all, but only those who accept Him will receive life eternal.

THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Luke 1:37

For **WITH GOD NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE.**

Jesus' mother was a virgin. Matthew 1:18-21. Many are not prepared to believe this; yet when we consider the great God who made our planet and all life, including Adam and Eve, surely it is not too much for Him to create life in Mary's womb. The Originator of life is not dependent upon His own creation to reproduce humankind; He is well able to act independently.

Luke 2:7

And she **BROUGHT FORTH HER FIRSTBORN SON**, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and **LAI D HIM IN A MANGER**, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Jesus was born of humble parents, and born in a humble place. He did not choose to live in the palace of a king and live in luxury; instead, He lived with common people.

Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and IN FAVOR WITH GOD AND MEN.

From the earliest years He was possessed with one main purpose – to bring blessing to others. He upheld God and served humanity.

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! THE LAMB OF GOD WHO TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD!”



John the Baptist had prepared the way for Christ’s mission. At the beginning of Christ’s ministry, John introduced the Saviour as the Lamb of God. He was to be the supreme sacrifice in place of the lambs that were sacrificed in Old Testament times. This was indeed the purpose of His coming to earth. He was born to die, that His shed blood might cover the sins of all humanity. Without His supreme sacrifice all would be eternally lost.

John 9:10,11 Therefore they said to him, “How were your eyes opened?” He answered and said, “A MAN CALLED JESUS MADE CLAY AND ANOINTED MY EYES and said to me, ‘Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed, and I RECEIVED SIGHT.”

Jesus lived among people, caring for their physical and spiritual needs. To a cripple He said, “Take up your bed and walk”. Jesus healed all kinds of diseases. The insane became sane, the lepers were cleansed, the blind saw, the deaf heard, the lame jumped for joy and even the dead were raised to life again.

Matthew 9:12,13 When Jesus heard *that*, He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what *this* means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I DID NOT COME TO CALL THE RIGHTEOUS, BUT SINNERS, TO REPENTANCE.”



He assured the people that God was prepared to forgive all sin if it was confessed in prayer and forsaken. Jesus Christ hated sin, but loved the sinner. Jesus performed many miracles – He stopped a storm, turned water into wine, fed a multitude with the lunch of one small boy; but the greatest miracle was His ability to save the sinner. He is changing men and women from sinners, to children of God, just as much today as He did when He was living among the human race.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Jesus is the way. All we have to do is come to Him. We don’t have to be good before we can approach Him. He wants us to come just as we are, then He will transform us as we give our lives to Him.

John 11:26 And WHOEVER LIVES AND BELIEVES IN ME SHALL NEVER DIE. Do you believe this?

To believe in Jesus and live for Him means life eternal.

Luke 22:42,44 Saying, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.” And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then HIS SWEAT BECAME LIKE GREAT DROPS OF BLOOD falling down to the ground.



It wasn't easy for Jesus to lay down His life, but He chose to, for the otherwise lost race, including you and me. His agony was so great He sweated drops of blood. Soon after, a mob came to arrest Jesus. Judas, one of the disciples, betrayed his master with a kiss to reveal the identity of Jesus. The disciples scattered and Peter denied his Lord, but later repented. Judas committed suicide. Jesus was taken before Annas, the Sanhedrin, Pilate, and Herod, then back to Pilate again. His trial was only a mockery, revealing no trace of justice.

Matthew 27:29-31 When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put *it* on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” THEN THEY SPAT ON HIM, and took the reed and STRUCK HIM on the head. And when they had MOCKED HIM, they took the robe off Him, put His *own* clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.

Jesus was punched, ridiculed, mocked and spoke blasphemously against. He had done no wrong. Even Pilate had said, “I am innocent of the blood of this just person”. Matthew 27:24. Jesus was led away to be crucified. His hands were nailed to the cross; but they had done no wrong. They were used to heal the sick and reached out to bless those in need. His feet were nailed to the cross, but they had only been used to run errands of mercy for humankind. He was put to death, not for any wrong He had done, but for the sins of a fallen race. It cost the life of the Son of God to bring the lost to God's eternal home. Through the sufferings and death of Jesus, we find the way to God and the way to Paradise. Jesus didn't have to die, but He chose to, for you and all people.

Luke 23:46 And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, “FATHER, ‘INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.’ ” Having said this, He breathed His last.

Mark 15:39 So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, “TRULY THIS MAN WAS THE SON OF GOD!”

On the Friday afternoon of the crucifixion, nature rebelled at the suffering Son of God. The sun was darkened, and there was a great earthquake. Having seen everything the Roman centurion recognised Jesus as indeed the Son of God.



Jesus was placed in a tomb with a stone rolled across the entrance. A full Roman guard was placed around the tomb. Matthew 27:64-66. But no human power could keep Jesus in the bonds of death. One of the most convincing arguments in favour of the resurrection was the fact that every effort was made to prevent it – but Jesus rose in spite of enemy opposition.

Matthew 28:5,6 But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. **“HE IS NOT HERE; FOR HE IS RISEN, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.”**

After His resurrection Jesus appeared to various persons and groups no less than ten times. Some are recorded in Mark 16: 9-14. On one occasion he appeared to a large gathering of five hundred people. 1 Corinthians 15:6.

Acts 1:11 who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* JESUS, WHO WAS TAKEN UP FROM YOU INTO HEAVEN, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”



Forty days after His resurrection Jesus led His disciples to the Mount of Olives, and after blessing them He ascended to heaven. Two angels assured the disciples that Jesus would come back the second time in a similar manner to which they had seen Him go.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For He MADE HIM who knew no sin *TO BE SIN FOR US, THAT WE MIGHT BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM.*

Jesus knew no sin, but He bore the punishment of our sins. Therefore we can stand in Christ's righteousness, because He has paid our penalty.

John 10:27,28 **My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I GIVE THEM ETERNAL LIFE, AND THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.**

There is only one way to eternal life – Jesus Christ. When we understand all that God has done through Christ to secure our salvation, we realise just how much God loves us. He has done all He can for you, and in return, He asks for your love, so that He might save you eternally. If you selfishly try to keep your life, and live as you please in your sin, you will lose life – eternally. But if you surrender your all to Jesus, you will live forever. Jesus gives you eternal life and you will never perish. Friends, will you accept God's offer today? If you accept Jesus as your personal Saviour, you will experience a peace of mind never known to you before, but best of all, He will give you eternal life in the wonderful world beyond tomorrow. You have nothing to lose except your guilt, and everything to gain, both now and forevermore.



Perhaps you would like to pray this prayer:

Dear God in heaven, I know I am a sinner and unworthy.
Please forgive me for my sinful past.
I come to you Lord, just as I am.
Please make me a new person.
I am thankful for Jesus' death for me.
Lord today, I accept Him as my personal Saviour,
Please help me to live for Him.
Amen.

Review Sheet – The Good News

Assignment: Read the Bible study carefully before answering the following questions.

1. Who was Jesus Christ? John 1:1-3,14
The Word was with God and _____ .
Verse 14. And the _____ .
2. After man sinned, what was his fate? Romans 5:12
And Thus _____ .
3. Why did Jesus come to this earth? John 10:10,11
I am come _____ .
4. What is the condition for receiving everlasting life? John 3:16
He gave His only begotten Son that _____ .
5. How did John the Baptist describe the purpose of Jesus' work? John 1:29
Behold the _____ !
6. What is one example of the healing work of Jesus? John 9:10,11
He answered and said _____
_____ ...so I went and washed, _____ .
7. What was Jesus' work as He mingled with men? Matthew 9:12,13
For I did not come _____ , _____ , _____ .
8. How intense was the agony of Christ before His trial? Luke 22:42,44
He prayed more earnestly, then _____ .
9. How callous were those who placed the crown of thorns on Jesus' head? Matthew 27:29-31
And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then _____ , _____ .
10. How impressed was the Roman centurion when he saw Jesus die on the cross? Mark 15:39
He said, _____ !
11. How did the angel explain the resurrection of Jesus? Matthew 28:5,6
He is not _____ ; _____ .
12. At the ascension of Jesus, what hope was expressed concerning His return? Acts 1:11
This same Jesus, _____ , _____ .
_____ .

Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour? _____