



Jesus

Our Only Real Hope

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Wailing Wall, Jerusalem

Jesus



Name: Jesus Christ

Residence: Nazareth

Birthplace: Bethlehem

Age: 33 years

Occupation: Carpenter and itinerant preacher

Characteristics: Impressive personality

The Charge: Claims to be the Son of God

The Accuser: Faculty of Theology, Jerusalem

Verdict: Death by crucifixion

Excerpts from the transcript of the trial:

Dateline: Jerusalem, 33 AD



Christ's-thorn, assumed to be used for making Christ's crown of thorns



An inscription naming Pilate in Caesarea

Pilate, governor of the province of Judea, cross-examines Jesus and asks, **"Are You a king?"**

Jesus answers, **"You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."** (John 18:37)

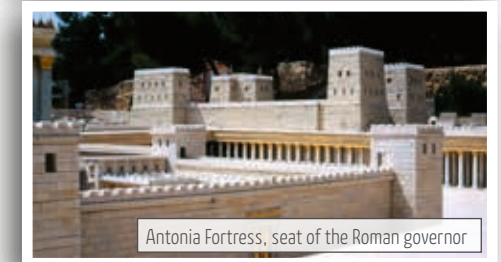
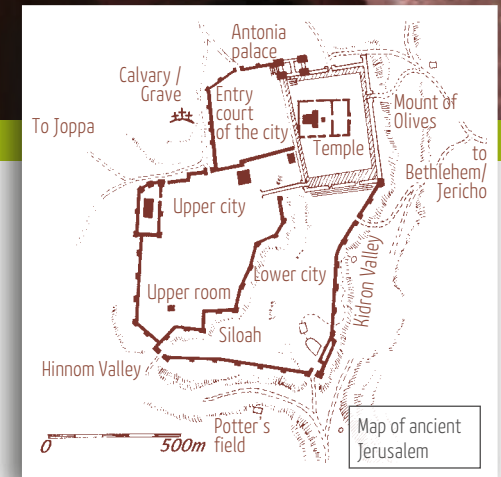


Stone slab in Jerusalem (Gabbatha)

The Crucifixion

After Pilate has Him flogged, Jesus is turned over to the execution squad. He is tortured and mocked. A crown of thorns is placed on Jesus' head. The long, sharp thorns pierce His skin. He is struck hard on the head again and again with a large stick. Jesus, soaked in His own blood, stands before His tormentors. Amidst derisive laughter, they put a purple robe on Him – mocking His claim to be king.

Of course, all this is done with outright cynicism. Then they kneel before Him, mocking Him and saying scornfully, **"Hail, King of the Jews!"**



Antonia Fortress, seat of the Roman governor



Cockerel in the garden of Gethsemane

"Truly this Man was the Son of God!"



On the way to Jesus' execution, someone is forced to carry His cross. The crucifixion follows. The condemned one, naked, is laid flat and nailed to a wooden cross-beam lying on the ground. After that He is lifted up on to a three meter high upright post and fastened to it. Some spectators appear to be disturbed. The faces of others reflect sheer hatred. All of a sudden it becomes dark as night. A foreboding stillness envelops the land. Then there are three hours of darkness... a long time! At about three o'clock in the afternoon a piercing cry comes from the cross. It is Jesus' loud cry: **"It is finished!"** He dies.

Immediately afterward there is a loud peal of thunder. A strong earthquake shakes the ground – a strange and frightening natural phenomenon. Deathly pale, the captain of the execution squad watching Jesus die says, **"Truly this Man was the Son of God!"**



The Way of the Cross

The supposed hill of Calvary

The events surrounding Jesus are not over yet.

*Three days later,
a new development.
The unimaginable happens!*

The press of that day
would have reported:

Jerusalem in shock!

Jesus, who was crucified, alive!

Jesus seen by His followers after three days.

500 people testify to having seen Him.

Did Jesus really die?

Official cover-up!

Scandal!

Guards at the tomb bribed!

Order of the day: No comment – Top Secret!

“The days of my life are numbered. Yet my life belongs to Jesus. And because Jesus Christ rose from the dead, I will live with Him. The grave is not my final destination!”

Who was this Jesus?



The so-called Golden Gate in Jerusalem

The city is in an uproar! Rumours fly in the streets of Jerusalem.

Was it a miscarriage of justice? Why did this Jesus have to die anyway? Why?

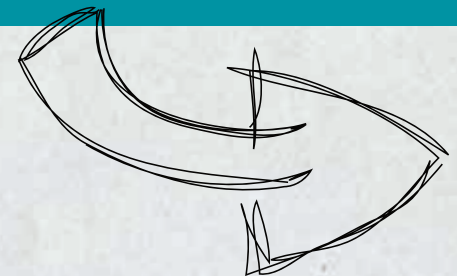
Why did the leaders have Him nailed to the cross?

One thing was clear: the people were basically pro-Jesus.

And if they had had their choice earlier, Jesus would have been their man.

After all, He had what it took to put this gang of Romans in their place...

But it all turned out to be different – completely different.



Rumours about Rabbi Jesus

Jesus had been the talk of the town for many days. Those who proclaimed openly to be followers of Jesus became more and more numerous. Others met secretly behind locked doors – afraid of being spied on. After all, they were claiming that Jesus appeared to them physically and was alive! What an outrageous claim!

Everybody was nervous. Nobody could solve the mystery surrounding Jesus. Who was this man really?
A deceiver of the people?
A troublemaker?
A hothead trying to change society?
A failure?
Or was He really a prophet of God?

So, was He the greatest liar of all time, who promised heaven to others, while He Himself ended up as a criminal on a cross? Or was He indeed who He claimed to be: the Messiah, the Son of the living God? If that is true – we are finished!

Up to this very day the issue remains just as critical. This Jesus question needs to be answered once and for all. But how? For some, the answer is clear.

Still, the facts could not be denied: Jesus performed miracles. Supernatural things happened through Him. Signs, miracles and mighty acts which amazed the masses. The people who received help from Him were convinced: Jesus was different – different from all others!

No one in history has ever before generated opinions about his person that collide so radically with one another. Some love Jesus deeply – others hate Him enough to kill Him. Most are embarrassed by the topic of Jesus and simply avoid it. Why? Because He becomes far too personal for them.

And yet it is remarkable:

He always Hits the nail on the head! What He says is absolutely true!

He knows people like no one else. Everyone knows where they stand with Him, right or wrong. No, no one has ever brought issues to light like He does.

One thing seems to be particularly noteworthy however: wherever Jesus comes on the scene, desperate suffering seems to crawl right out of the woodwork! The poor, the sick and the outcasts of society are drawn to Him.

Jesus – His name is music to the ears of His followers. Most of His opponents, however, are provoked by it. Wherever the Jesus-theme heats up, emotions become polarized and viewpoints are expressed in no uncertain terms.

Why is so much written about one who is supposedly dead and gone? Why fill page after page trying to prove that He is really dead? Why publish books about a supposedly dead Jesus, while millions testify that He is alive? Why is the story of Jesus released on film time and again? Yes, why? Is there really more to the story than one dares to admit? What is it that fascinates friend and foe alike about this Jesus? Jesus – who are you?



Did Jesus really rise from the dead?

Is the existence of Jesus historically proven?

Fishing boat on the sea of Galilee

"The only logical conclusion: belief in Jesus Christ!"

"Religion is belief in 'something' - Christianity, on the other hand, is complete trust in Jesus Christ."



Five loaves and two fish

Is the existence of Jesus historically proven? In 90 AD, the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus, in his work entitled *Antiquities* (Book 18, Chapter 3, Para. 3), reported on the historical existence of Jesus as follows: **"Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call Him a man; for He was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as received the truth with pleasure. He drew over to Him both many of the**

Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was the Christ. And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men among us, had condemned Him to the cross, those that loved Him at the first did not forsake Him; for He appeared to them alive again the third day as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning Him."

Other sources besides the Bible testify to the life of Jesus. For example Tacitus, the Roman historian, Suetonius, the Roman court official under the Emperor Hadrian, and Pliny the Younger, the Roman governor of Bithynia in Asia Minor.

Napoleon, who spread fear over half of Europe with his wars, wrote the following in his diary toward the end of his life: ***"With all my armies and generals I have not been able to conquer a single continent in a quarter of a century. And yet this Jesus, without ever wielding a weapon, has conquered all peoples and cultures over the millennia."***

Did Jesus want to make world history?



"In eternity, God will not ask me which church I belonged to. Only one thing will matter: whether I have accepted forgiveness for my sins through Jesus Christ."

Model of Herod's Temple in Jesus' day

No! He Himself said: **"My kingdom is not of this world."** (John 18:36)

Had Jesus been interested in worldly fame, He would have gone about conquering the world like a general. A king born in a palace might have made history, but this heart-rending baby story? And this pitiful stable? With an ox and a donkey? In this little out-of-the-way town of Bethlehem? In the poorest of conditions? Question after question.

And yet the impact Jesus has had on the history of this world is undeniable. He has brought soul-healing, salvation and eternal life to countless people through the revolutionary good news of God's love and mercy and the influence of His divine teachings. Back then in Israel, later all over the world, and up to the present day.

The revelation of God to the people of Israel, the person of Jesus Christ and the Holy Bible are forever inseparably joined. Jesus Christ is God's provision for an unsaved, dying world. In order to recognize that, eyes enlightened by God are required. All those who mock God and His Son Jesus Christ and who deny the existence of God should know what the Bible says about them: People who say to themselves: **"There is no God"**, are living outside of reality. (Psalm 14:1)

"...You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes." (Matthew 11:25)

Ben Hur – Super Success – Bestseller!

A film that has captivated millions worldwide.

“Since Jesus took my life in His hands, everything has changed radically. Now I have finally discovered what it means to be happy.”



General Lew Wallace met Colonel Ingersoll, a well known atheist, on a train trip. They discussed everything under the sun – including the “nonsense of Christianity”. Ingersoll challenged Wallace saying: **“You are intelligent and well-educated. Why don’t you write a book proving that Christianity is indeed nonsense and that Jesus Christ never lived! That would certainly be a bestseller!”** Wallace dived enthusiastically into the work.

He was driven by the thought of becoming famous. He spent years collecting material for his book. He had already written four chapters when, as if struck by lightning, he realized that Jesus Christ had indeed lived. He was even convinced that this Jesus was more than merely a historical person. For the first time in his life, at the age of 50, Wallace fell to his knees to pray. He asked Jesus Christ,

the Son of God, to save him and surrendered his entire life to Him. He then decided to rewrite the four chapters of his book. The result was the best seller Ben Hur, which later became an epic film – a worldwide box office hit. General Wallace thus became an impressive example of a radical conversion to faith in Jesus Christ. The secrets of God cannot be discerned with the human eye. Nor can they be perceived

merely by the process of rational thought, but are rather seen with the eyes of the heart which God Himself must enlighten. (Read Ephesians 1:18)

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” (Matthew 5:8)

... and they are still writing...!

Some news magazines continually attack the church, Christianity and faith in Jesus. They categorize everything Christian under the heading "Simple-minded". They write it off as a product of unscientific claims, as outdated!

But instead of facing reality, they argue with imaginary and unproven claims. The truth is swept under the carpet. Don't they disqualify themselves with that kind of intellectual dishonesty?

But one thing is sure:

"A claim can only be refuted if evidence to the contrary is presented".

No evidence proving the Bible wrong has ever been presented. Every falsehood, every lie breaks down and shatters against the truth of the Bible. Thus the critics of Jesus will continue to lash out in vain against His words. Jesus says: **"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."** (Matthew 24:35)

... frightening!

Naturally, within Christianity, many of its official advocates are guilty of grossly misrepresenting their confession. It is frightening to see what has been made of the gospel, the good news of Jesus. Not to mention the despicable things that have occurred – supposedly in the name of God: the shame of the crusades in medieval times and the horror of the inquisition, during which entirely innocent people lost their lives. There is much counterfeit Christianity in circulation. Christ is not in everything that calls itself Christian.

"When I became a Christian, what felt like tons of weight fell from my soul. The terrible burden of guilt is gone. Now I know for the first time in my life what uninhibited laughter is."

"There is no one who can so completely change a life like Jesus Christ."



No wonder...

Why are there so few who courageously proclaim the full authority of the entire Holy Bible? Is it any wonder that the average man or woman on the street turns away disappointed?

Is it any wonder that most people find sermons from the pulpit dead boring? Yet the Word of God is alive! Where today are biblical truths accepted as the foundation for life and faith? Where Jesus Christ and God's Word are preached with clarity, people find a basis for trust.

We must recognize the difference between cultural Christianity and the challenge of what God says in the Holy Scriptures. When churches or Christian groups leave the foundation of the Holy Scriptures, they lose their authority. They end up in chaos, lose their credibility, and become a laughing stock.

If someone voluntarily opens themselves to the spirit of this age and the magic of myths and mysticism, will they not automatically become the blind leading the blind?

Instead of being the church for the world, it becomes "the world church".

Instead of clearly lighting the way for a disoriented world, it becomes a deceptive light.



Deceptive lights



Hubble Telescope

"I used to think that infant baptism made us Christians. That was a fatal mistake. The Bible says very clearly that one becomes a Christian through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ."

The Bible, a magnificent book!

Unique, one of a kind!



The central theme of the Bible is Jesus Christ. The Bible's brightness shines like a lighthouse in the storm of world history. For many, it is the lost oasis in the desert. It is no wonder that spiritual apathy and massive confusion result when it is ignored!

Jesus Christ and the Bible are inseparably joined together. When the Bible is read, a person feels the breath of eternity. They are captivated by the voice of God. The Bible's sovereignty is so impressive, that one must either surrender to its challenges or run away from them.

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Here are some things you should know about the Bible:

Written over a **period** of 1600 years (1500 BC to 100 AD).

Written by about 40 **authors**: Kings, a shepherd, fishermen, priests, government officials...

Size: 66 books – about 1300 pages!

Theme: God's plan of salvation for man

Focus: Jesus Christ

Uniqueness: Inspired by the Spirit of God. Written by inspired prophets at God's command. Supernaturally protected. Infallible

and correct. Translated into thousands of languages to this day. Preserved unchanged to the present. Read and loved by millions.

The World's No. 1 Bestseller - The Bible, amazing, Up-todate, Alive - GBV Eschenburg, Germany.

"I am only able to endure my fate because I know that Jesus loves me, understands me and comforts me."

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What does the Bible say about Jesus?

A fascinating discovery!

God's names, His titles and characteristics in the Old Testament are the same as those used in the New Testament to describe Jesus Christ. This is a clear indication that Jesus Christ is indeed God.

"Jesus Christ...is the true God and eternal life."

1 John 5:20

The following are just a few selected Bible verses from the Old Testament. They refer prophetically to Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Their fulfillment is found in the New Testament.

The coming of Jesus:

His birth: Isaiah 9:5-6; 7:14

Fulfilled: Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20

His birthplace: Micah 5:2

Fulfilled: Luke 2:4,15

Flight to Egypt: Hosea 11:1

Fulfilled: Matthew 2:14-15

His commission: Isaiah 59:20

Fulfilled: Mark 10:45; Romans 3:24

His miracles: Isaiah 35:5-6; 42:7

Fulfilled: Matthew 11:5; Luke 18:35-43; etc.

His suffering and rejection: Psalms 56 and 69

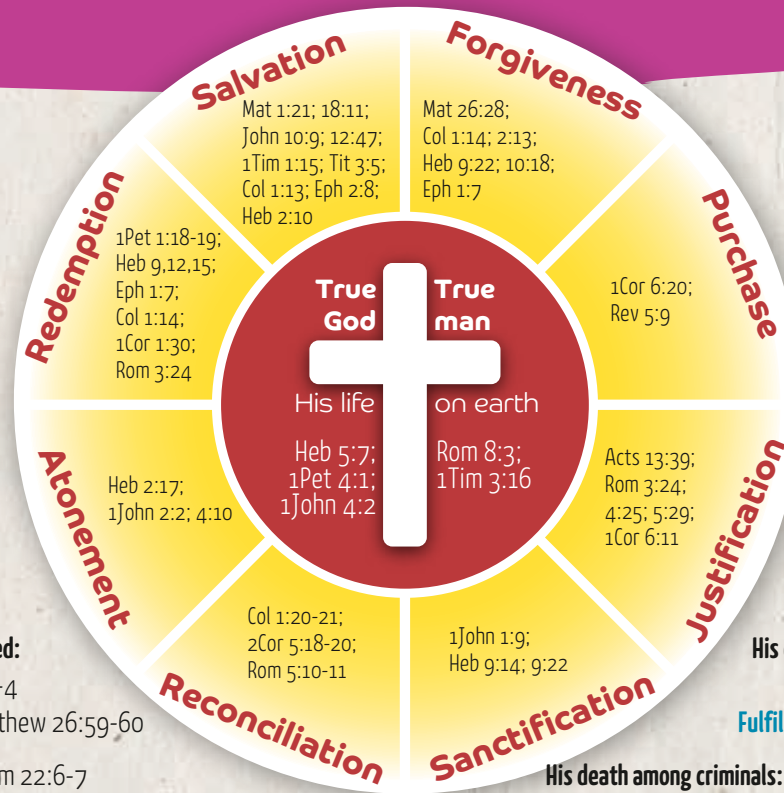
Fulfilled: Matthew 26:3-4; Luke 19:14

His betrayal by Judas for 30 pieces of silver:

Zechariah 11:12; Psalm 55:12-14,20-21

Fulfilled: Luke 22:1-6; Matthew 26:47-54;

Matthew 27:3-10



Falsely accused:

Psalm 109:1-4

Fulfilled: Matthew 26:59-60

Mocked: Psalm 22:6-7

Fulfilled: Matthew 27:27-30; Luke 23:35-37

Crucified: Psalm 22:14-17

Fulfilled: Matthew 27:32-56; John 19:17-18

Prayer for His enemies: Psalm 109:4

Fulfilled: Luke 23:34

His death among criminals: Isaiah 53:9,12

Fulfilled: Luke 23:33

His cry on the cross:

Psalm 22:1-2

Fulfilled: John 19:30

His clothing divided by lot: Psalm 22:18

Fulfilled: John 19:24

No bones broken: Psalm 34:20

Fulfilled: John 19:33,36

- Prophecies
- Becoming a man: Genesis 3:15; Galatians 4:4
- His race - Semitic: Genesis 9:26
- His people - the nation promised to Abraham: Genesis 12:13; 22:18
- His tribe - Judah: Genesis 49:10
- His family - the house of David: 2 Samuel 7:11; Isaiah 11:1; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 1:6; 22:42-46
- His town - Bethlehem: Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:4-5
- His person: Isaiah 9:5-6; Luke 1:30-33
- His day: Daniel 9:24-27; Luke 21:1
- His birth - born of a virgin: Isaiah 7:14
- His life: Isaiah 53:1-3
- His behaviour: Isaiah 42:1-2, 6-7; 61:1
- His rejection: Isaiah 49:5-7; 53:1-2
- Circumstances of His death: Psalm 22:6-7; Isaiah 53:8; Daniel 9:26
- Purpose of His death: Psalm 22; Isaiah 53:6; Daniel 9:24
- His resurrection: Psalm 16:9-11; Acts 2:24-28
- His ascension to heaven: Psalm 68:18; Ephesians 4:8
- His coming again: Zechariah 14:4

Pierced: Psalm 22:16; Zechariah 12:10

Fulfilled: John 19:18,34

Voluntary death: Psalm 40:6-8

Fulfilled: John 19:24

Suffered in the place of others: Isaiah 53:4-6,12

Fulfilled: Matthew 8:16-17; 1 Peter 2:24

His resurrection: Psalm 16:9-11; 30:3; 118:17

Fulfilled: John 20

His ascension to heaven: Psalm 68:18; 110:1

Fulfilled: Acts 1:9-11

His second coming: Zechariah 12:10; 14:3-5

Still to be fulfilled: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18;

Revelation 19 & 20

Jesus Christ is God!

Many Bible passages reveal this wonderful truth. Read for example:

John 1:1

1 John 5:20

Romans 9:5

Hebrews 1:8-10

Titus 2:13

John 10:30

John 14:9

The Life and Work of Christ

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Heb 13:8

His glory before time, within time and in all eternity. John 17:1,5

The triune God

A
Alpha Revelation 22:13

"Who was ..." Revelation 1:4

"... who is ..."

Christ from all eternity

Christ takes on human form

the birth of Jesus Christ

The Word

John 1:1-3

El Shaddai (= God Almighty)

Genesis 17:1

Jahweh (= I Am Who I Am)

Revealed in Exodus 3:14; 6:3
in the Old Testament

Jesus Christ



Creation of the world and of man. Genesis 1

Man falls into sin. Genesis 3



Expulsion from the garden of Eden. Genesis 4-9

The period of conscience.

Genesis 4-9



The tower of Babel. Genesis 11

The period under the rule of man.

Genesis 10-11



Israel in Egypt. Exodus 1-11

The period of the Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Genesis 12-50



Departure from Egypt. Exodus 12-13

The period of the law.

Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, the Prophets up to Malachi



The birth of Jesus Christ. Luke 2; Matthew 1



Calvary

The resurrection
Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24
Ascension to heaven
Acts 1; Mark 16; Matthew 28

The grave

"... God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself ..."
2 Corinthians 5:19
"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."
2 Corinthians 5:21

New Testament: The gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

Eternity
Creation

Here's where it is:

The Bible says:

"By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."
Hebrews 11:3

"Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."
Genesis 6:5

"For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all."
James 2:10

"Who himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness - by whose stripes you were healed."
1 Peter 2:24

"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 1:29

The ministry of Jesus :

Prophet

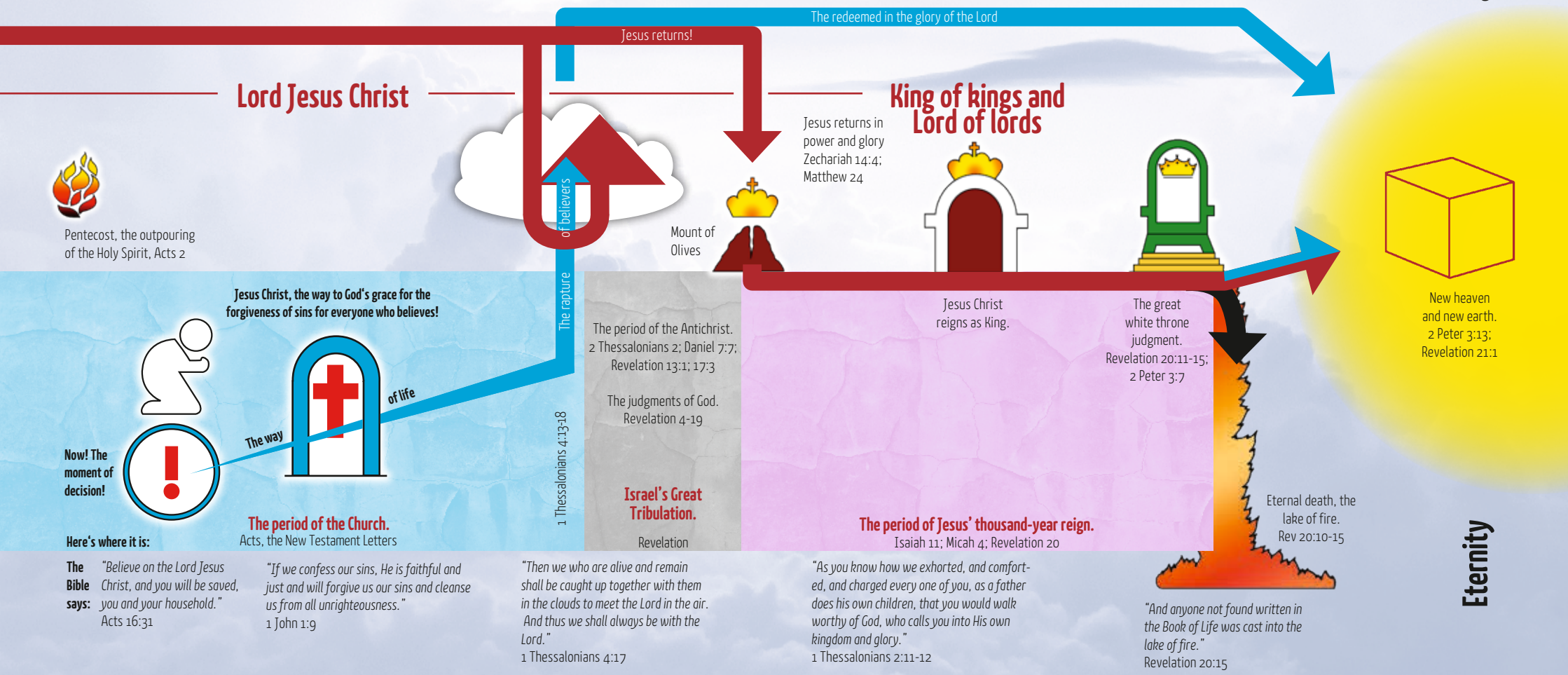
Priest

The Life and Work of Christ

God is all in all
1 Corinthians 15:28

“... who is to come.” Revelation 1:4

Ω
Omega



The fascination with Jesus

No one ever changed the world like Jesus did.

Jesus lives – He really exists!



Looking out over the Sea of Galilee

He preached the Word of God with great authority. It is interesting that 90% of our legal code and culture in all their diversities are rooted in the Bible.

It speaks of marriage and family, the value of human life, and environmental protection. It speaks of our social structure and caring for the needy. It points out the importance of civic order and the protection of life.

Jesus identified Himself totally with what the Bible says. He is the very Word of God personified. Only through Him do we begin to know God and His immeasurable love for mankind.

That is why Jesus came to us.

That is why He became a person like us. People

were actually able to touch Him and yet He was without sin. He was the Word of God among us – God in a body “to touch.”

The Bible puts it this way:

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory...” John 1:14

Through Jesus, God spoke to us on a human level as well as on His divine level.

Hebrews 1:1-2 says, **“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son...”**

And His speaking is clear and understandable.

Anyone interested in science knows: in order to prove any hypothesis to be fact, the same specification must always produce the same result. For example, if non-insulated negative and positive wires carrying electric current are connected together, a short circuit occurs. For this to happen, it does not matter in which country, at which time of day, or the conditions under which this occurs. The results are always the same: the power of electricity is evident. It would be foolish to deny the reality of electricity simply because of ignorance.

That is the way it is with Jesus as well: the claim that Jesus is alive and that we can know and come into relationship with Him at any

time. Throughout all generations, people who have believed in Jesus have experienced time after time that Jesus saves, protects and redeems; that Jesus sets free and makes completely new people out of wretched failures. They experience victory over sin. They experience victory over all the powers of darkness.

Jesus is real! He is alive!

Now as well as then!

You can encounter Him personally.

“I am only sorry about one thing – that I did not turn my life over to Jesus much sooner!”

Mike tells his story ...

"At the age of 13 I was part of the gang! Hash, beer and the hard stuff gave me my kicks. I got into trouble often - clashes and fights were a normal part of life. Things always followed the same pattern: arrest, trial, conviction, and jail - or many times, only a fine. But nothing helped. I would get out of jail and go right back to my old ways. No store was safe with me around. I stole constantly. It was terrible! Then came a serious car crash - we wrapped ourselves around a telephone pole. One of us died. I was in shock. After getting out of the hospital, I looked for work - did odd jobs here and there. Then came a brilliant idea - Why not be musicians and start a band? Before long, heavy drinking at parties we played at made me an alcoholic. I was trapped in those chains - it was a catastrophe! Next came another hitch when I joined the army. My secret buddy was alcohol - then drugs came along as well. I was so far gone that I couldn't even write my own name! At 26, I was wasted. Bloating by drugs, I weighed 220 pounds. Then I became



delirious ... withdrawal was horrendous. It was hell. During this terrible time, someone talked to me about Jesus. Deep inside, I felt what they were saying about Jesus was right. They kept on telling me that Jesus was alive and that

He loved me. Their words pierced my heart like arrows and I began to trust them. I began to open up carefully until I put everything - and I mean everything - on the table. I recognized my sinful life, my guilt and my bondage and asked Jesus to forgive me. My decision was firm: If my life was to have any meaning at all, then Jesus had to totally take over. And amazingly, He took hold of me! He tore me out of my bondage to alcohol and drugs. Instantly! Immediately all my guilt disappeared. Light and joy flooded my life. The power of God's love had made me a completely new person!

And now? I am happily married. We have three children. I look at the future with courage because I know that Jesus is guiding and directing our family's life."

Mike

Crystal Clear Words!

Illuminating truths.

Countless people from all levels of society have experienced them in their lives. Their lives were changed in ways they never would have thought possible. Where hearts were once plagued by hopelessness, oppression and fear of the future, they become filled with courage, glad assurance and the joy of living. Forget any twisted fantasies you've had about Jesus.

Jesus says: **"I am ... the life"** John 14:6
The believer in Jesus has a purposeful life.

Jesus says: **"I am the light of the world"** John 8:12
The believer in Jesus will never wander about helplessly in the darkness.

Jesus says: **"I am the bread of life"** John 6:35
The believer in Jesus will never lack for fullness of life.

Jesus says: **"I am ... the truth"** John 14:6
The believer in Jesus has an unshakable foundation.

Jesus says: **"I am the way"** John 14:6
The believer in Jesus will walk a straight path to the goal.

Jesus says: **"I am the door"** John 10:9
The believer in Jesus has come to God.

Jesus says: **"I am the good shepherd"** John 10:11
The believer in Jesus experiences His wonderful loving care.

Jesus says: **"I am the resurrection"** John 11:25
The believer in Jesus does not need to fear death.

Jesus – There is no one like You!

Holy, pure, without sin,
righteous, full of love, merciful,
faithful, full of goodness,
almighty, truthful ...
Even those who hate You the
most must admit:
Jesus – You are absolutely
unique – wonderful – glorious!

Jesus: He is the Not a Myth and Not a Legend!

He is not a fictional folk hero like William Tell. Jesus Christ – He is the true and living Lord, one who can be known and trusted personally, as much now as in the past. While all founders of religions had to die, Jesus lives – He is the eternally existent God.

Jesus: He is Incomparable and Wonderful!

There is no feature that Jesus did not live out as the perfect Man. Therefore He can meet our deepest needs. You will find no lack in Him.

Jesus is Pure Love!

He loves people because they are God's creatures. every person, without prejudice, without exception; with a perfect love, with His whole heart – just as we are.
John 15:9-13

Jesus: He is Patience Incarnate.

Patient in listening and enduring. He is someone who is happy to take time to care for our deepest, most intimate problems.
John 4:1-26

Jesus: He Pays Loving Attention.

He is not indifferent to human failure. How often has He mended what we have broken, thus revealing His glory? His disciples were impressed by how lovingly and kindly Jesus dealt with people. John 2:1-2

Jesus is Holiness.

Jesus was very direct when it was a matter of the glory of God, His Father. He dealt forcibly with those who wanted to turn the house of God into a marketplace. His holy presence was so impressive that people approached him with awe.
John 2:13-22

Jesus: He is Consideration.

His consideration was obvious as He hung on the cross. His heart went out to His mother, whom He loved, even as He was suffering terrible pain. He was careful to see that she would be well taken care of.
John 19: 25-27

Jesus: He is Generosity.

People followed Jesus. Wherever He went, crowds gathered. With rapt attention, they listened to His teaching. He fed thousands with bread and fish – no one went home hungry. John 6:1-15

Jesus is Compassion.

Jesus did not "point the finger" at people trapped in sin or deep in debt. He had compassion on them – the cheats, deceivers, adulterers, crooks. He knew their hearts and looked deep into their consciences. He had compassion – at times even weeping for them. He knew their need and all that kept them in chains. And He set them free. Luke 19:1-10

Jesus: He is Sensitivity.

People were not afraid to share their most intimate secrets and deepest needs with Him. It was so good to be with Him! He was so sensitive and reacted so differently from others. His dealings were loving and considerate. Even children were happy to come to Him. Luke 8:40-48

Jesus: He is Divine Mercy.

Wherever Jesus went, He healed the sick and cared about their suffering. He had mercy on all who were in need. Time and again He saw the people in their helplessness. He had mercy on their anxious hearts. He sought those who were wandering aimlessly like sheep without a shepherd. Matthew 9:36

Jesus is Goodness.

Often, He met individuals who were completely intimidated. They shared their disappointments with Him, hoping for help, a friendly word or understanding. His words were like fresh water to their thirsty souls. He radiated so much goodness that even the outcast had courage to approach Him.
Mark 1:40-45

Jesus is Forgiveness.

He could look right into the heart. People's thoughts were an open book to Him. He never threw anyone's mistakes and weaknesses in their face, yet He condemned their sin. Any who openly confessed their sins to Him, He forgave and left him or her with deep peace in their hearts.
Luke 5:17-26

Jesus Christ – so completely different ...

“Jesus has always given me more than I could have dreamed of.”

“You love where we mortals only hate. You have mercy where we deliver one another up to the executioner. You encourage where we see only weakness and failure. You give peace where we sow hatred. You gave Your life in death for us, while we idolize our big fat egos.”

Hopeless

Through our sins, we are hopelessly and eternally separated from God and, without salvation, are on the way to damnation. But God's love is so great that He does not want us to be eternally lost! His heart aches for us to respond to the gift of His son Jesus.

Unsaved

Our own efforts and deeds, regardless of how good they may be, cannot save us. That's why Jesus came! He, the sinless one, had to suffer the penalty that we deserved for our depravity and sin, in order to meet the requirements of our holy and righteous God. That's why Jesus is the only way to salvation for the lost and hopeless human race. God's perfect and endless love is revealed!

Jesus –

“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

“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

Crosses on the mountains speak of Jesus' victory

Jesus on the Cross –
the ultimate revelation of the love of God.

Jesus is risen! –
He is Victor over sin, death and the devil.



Luke, chapters 22 and 23

No, it was not a failure, but God's wonderful plan of salvation. Not a humiliating defeat, but a glorious triumph!

Jesus came to us as our Savior to save us from the terrible damnation of hell.

Through His death on the cross, He paid for our guilt and our sins so that we would not have to be judged by God.

As Jesus took our sins on Himself, God's holy wrath fell on Him. We all – without exception – have transgressed God's commandments.

Jesus made Himself our substitute on the cross to purchase peace with God for us.

And now the shed blood of Jesus cleanses every person who truly repents from all his sin and guilt.

"It is finished!" is the most glorious shout of victory there has ever been!

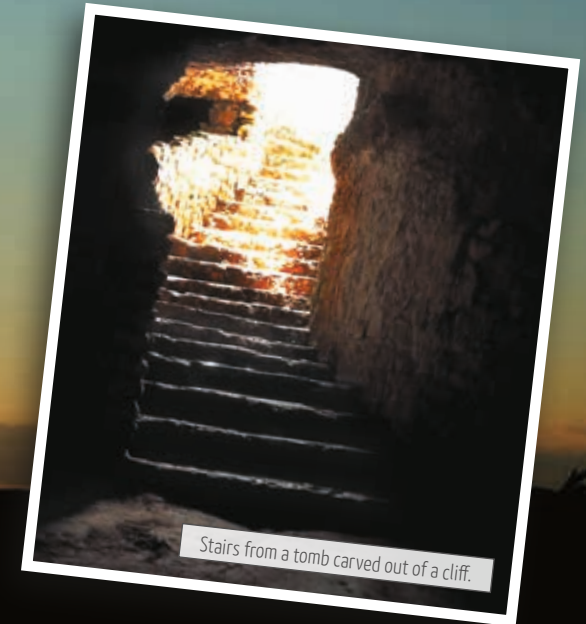
It is finished!

John 19:30

Luke, chapter 24

No, Jesus did not remain in the grave. He rose again the third day. He is alive today! And because He lives, everyone who puts their trust in Jesus Christ receives eternal life. Through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, we participate in the triumph of His resurrection. In this resurrection power, in the name of Jesus, victory over sin, death and the devil is guaranteed.

And what of religious leaders? Have they not drawn many people under their spell? Where are they today? They have died – like all mankind. They were mortals who had to breathe their last. **But Jesus lives!**



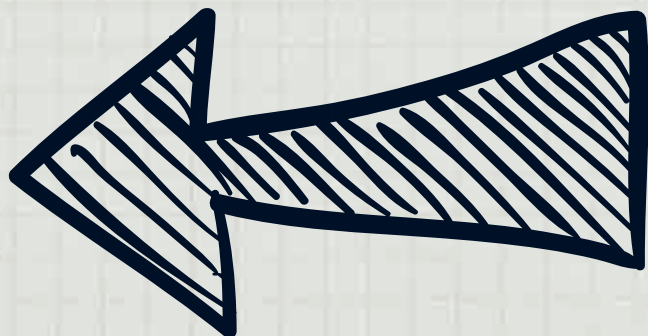
Stairs from a tomb carved out of a cliff.

He says of Himself:

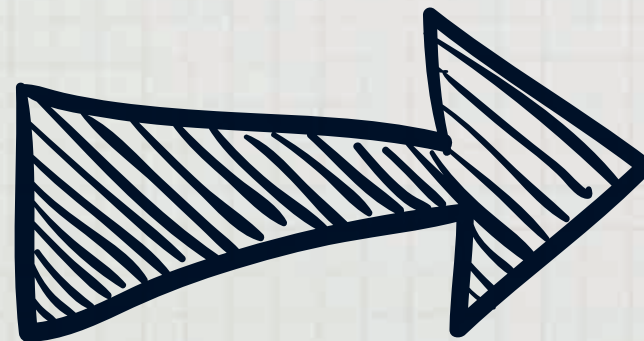
"Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of death."

Revelation 1:17-18

Two ways – two destinations. The choice is ours!



Eternal death



Eternal life

"The person who entrusts himself to Jesus loses nothing, but gains everything!"

Choose life!

Take hold of the saving hand of Jesus. Make the only right decision.

1. Recognize that you are a sinner before God and have thus earned His wrath and judgment.

3. Receive His forgiveness, His gift to you, by faith. The shed blood of Jesus cleanses us from every sin.

2. Confess your sins to God in prayer and ask Him for forgiveness.

4. Trust in the Word of God. God will always keep what He promises in His Word. He is truth. He cannot lie.

Jesus says,
"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."

Matthew 7:13-14

Prayer

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” ¹ John 1:9

Talk to God in prayer.
It's more simple than making a phone call.

“At my last hour,
only one thing counts:
do I belong to Jesus?
Everything else is
meaningless.”

Through a simple prayer, you can receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. He takes your words seriously. He hears you when you talk to Him. Find a quiet place where you can talk to Him undisturbed. You can pray to Him something like this:

“ Lord Jesus, I recognize from Your Word that I am a lost sinner.

I need you. I confess my sins and my guilt to You. Up to now I have lived my life on my own.

Please forgive my lies, hatred, jealousy, lack of love, unrighteousness and my immoral ways (here you can confess all your known sins).

I am truly sorry for my sins. Please forgive me and cleanse me.

Your blood was shed on the cross for me too. From now on, please take control of my life – in everything! Change me to be what You want me to be.

I open my heart to You now. Your word says that everyone who receives You will become a child of God (John 1:12)! Come and take first place in my life – make me a child of God. And because You keep what You promise, I accept that You have received me now as Your own. I trust in Your holy promises.

Please continue to cleanse me from any sins that I am not now aware of. Cleanse me and release me from any evil bondage to super-

stition, fortune telling, or any other occult practices.

Lord Jesus, take over as Lord of my life. I want to serve You and follow You wherever You lead me. Amen! ”



And now?

1.

Thank the Lord every day for your salvation. Thank Him for forgiveness. Thank Him for eternal life. Thank Him that you are now a child of God because He has promised this in His Word.

Colossians 1:12

2.

Tell somebody that your life now belongs to the Lord Jesus. Explain to someone else how they can find eternal salvation.

1 Thessalonians 1:8-10

3.

Rejoice! You have every reason to do so! You are facing a glorious eternal future.

1 Corinthians 2:9

4.

Fellowship with other believers is important! Link up with a Bible-believing church or home Bible study group.

Acts 2:42

Get baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ upon the confession of your faith. God expects it. The Bible reports: *"Those who gladly received his word were baptized..."*

Acts 2:41

5.

Read the Bible every day! That will give you the courage of faith, fresh strength and inner stability. It shows you the right way to your glorious goal.

Matthew 4:4; Acts 17:11.

6.

Live by the Word of God! Show Him that you love Him and respect His Word! Be an example for others. Obeying God is worthwhile. He will bless you for it.

Romans 12:1-2

"Even when the problems of life seem to come all at once, I know that the Lord Jesus will work everything out for good."

Faith is a thing that grows.

Jesus is coming again! – Joyful reality



He promised,
“Behold, I am coming quickly!” Revelation 22:7

The day of His coming is near. The signs of the times are proof that Jesus’ prophecies in the Bible are coming to pass.

Read Matthew chapter 24 and Luke chapter 21.

History unfolds

Jesus Christ will come first for all those who have received Him and belong to Him.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

He will take us home with Him to heaven, into God’s eternal glory. There will be no more suffering, no more death there. Sickness will no longer plague us. No tears flow in heaven. Pain will no longer bother us. Darkness will frighten us no longer. This is our eternal home, the home of all God’s redeemed children.

Revelation 21



See page 28-31

“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

1 Corinthians 2:9

After that, Jesus will return with His redeemed people in order to judge the ungodly. He will judge the living and the dead.

Read Romans 2:5-8.

Every sinner, without exception, will come trembling and bow the knee before Him – the Lord Jesus Christ. Everyone will admit that God is right in all His judgments and recognize that Jesus, whom they once mocked, is truly Lord of all – to the glory of God the Father. Those

who have mocked and laughed will laugh no more. The uncaring, who gave Jesus the cold shoulder, will be terrified and dismayed. They will receive the consequences of their actions – eternal damnation!

“There is nothing worse than standing at an unsaved person’s death bed.”

Do you know where you stand?

Do you know where you stand? Your time on this earth is limited. Death is unavoidable for all of us. What is your eternal goal? Where is your journey taking you? To eternal glory with Jesus or to eternal damnation? The choice is yours to make!

What is this short life anyway? A breath, a note sounding for a moment. Maybe you have a good career. Perhaps you have



been successful and have achieved everything you wanted in life. And yet, without Jesus, all this means nothing. Without Him you have no eternal salvation.

So please make the right decision now while there is still time! Jesus is calling to you, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in ..."

Revelation 3:20

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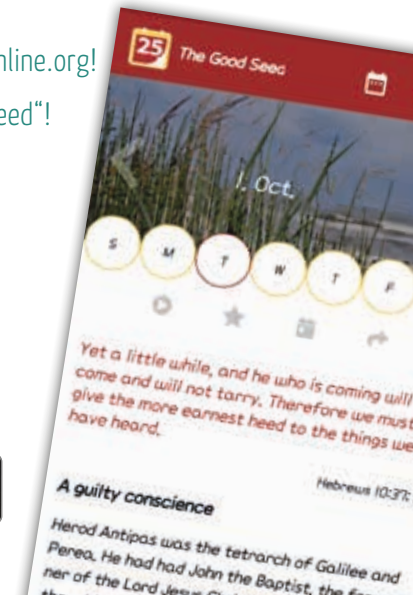
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Each page of this calendar contains a Bible verse and a matching text. Some feature gospel messages and others strength and encouragement to the reader.



Read the calendar online at www.gbv-online.org!

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My decision:

My decision to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and Lord.

Name:

Date:

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name..." John 1:12

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Jesus

No other person has ever been the subject of more controversial opinions than Jesus Christ. Some have ever been for him. Others hate Him. Most, however, avoid the uncomfortable subject of “Jesus” altogether.

He knows humans like none other. His words are truth. With Him everyone knows precisely where they stand. Yet no one ever brought to light more disagreements than He did. It is particularly noticeable that wherever Jesus Christ comes, those who feel particularly drawn to Him are the poor, the sick, and the social outcasts.

Jesus – this name sounds like music to His supporters' ears, but for the majority of His opponents it is a provocation. Why do some wear their fingers to the bone producing books about one they allege is dead, while millions say He is alive?

If you take in everything that He said and did, you will recognize that **Jesus Christ is truly Our Only Real Hope.**



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