



**WHO ON EARTH
WAS JESUS?**

WHAT DID JESUS DO?

Jesus was a man in history. He is mentioned by Josephus a Jewish historian and by Tacitus a Roman historian of that time. But by far the largest volume of information about him is in the New Testament of the Bible.

He was a Jew. He was born about 1975 years ago in a town called Bethlehem in what is now the land of Israel. He grew up with his parents in a town to the north called Nazareth. He worked with his father in his carpenter's shop.

At about 30 he began a teaching and preaching ministry in and around Jerusalem and also in the northern province of Galilee. For a time he was very popular. The people loved him because he had such a concern for them. He was transparently good. He spoke with an air of authority. He also had tremendous powers. He could and did heal sick people. He cast out demons, he fed thousands and he even brought people back to life. He had power over nature. He stopped a storm, walked on water and he changed water into wine.

The Jewish leaders were not all that impressed. They saw him as a threat to their religion and their security. They were jealous of his popularity. He seemed to them to be making out that he was God.

In the end the Jewish leaders had him arrested. He was falsely charged and convicted of treason by the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. He was executed by being nailed to a cross and left to die of exposure. A Roman soldier plunged a spear into his side just to make sure. His body was taken down and placed in a tomb by a friend. A guard of soldiers were charged to keep people away.

On the third day after his death, the tomb was found to be empty. Nothing was left but the clothes he was wrapped in. Many of his friends saw him alive again over a period of 40 days. Then he left them, never to be seen again.

These are the facts.

WHAT DID JESUS SAY?

He said he was the Son of God. He said that he and the Father in Heaven were one. The Jews were mad at him because he called God his Father, making himself equal to God.

He told people that their sins were forgiven – and only God can forgive. He challenged the Jews to convict him of any wrong doing. But they didn't say a word.

He claimed to have been around before Abraham, the father of their nation. And Abraham lived about 2000 years before their time. He referred to himself as the 'I am', the Jews' sacred name for God.

He taught the people about God and his Kingdom. And his teaching was radically different from the way of the world. People could not get into the Kingdom by being good because no one can be good enough for God. But they could get in for nothing if they really wanted to be there. Jesus taught that God was so generous that he offered free entry to anyone, Jew or whatever, if they trust in him. He taught that God's Kingdom was more important than anything else on earth.

He predicted that he would be arrested and killed. He said that he would lay down his life for all people; that he would give his life as a ransom for many.

All who trusted in his death for them and put their lives in his hands would be forgiven, they would have the power of his Spirit in their lives and they would be with him in heaven always.

But if they didn't trust him they would die in their sins.

What they needed, he said, was to be born again by his Spirit as the children of God.

He also predicted that he would come back to life again after he died. Then he would return to his Father and finally come to this earth again to judge everyone on the basis of whether or not they put their trust in him.

This is what he said.

SO WHAT?

So he can change your life too if you are willing — that's what.
But you must belong to Jesus.

How can you belong to Jesus? How can you be born again?

God's goodness is meant to lead you to repent and believe.

To repent means to change your ways; to turn away from what you want to do and start doing what God wants.

To believe means trusting your whole life to Jesus as the one who died to save you from death and to decide from now on to live only for him with all you have.

Then you will belong to Jesus, and be born again by the Spirit of God.

Jesus said that he is the only way to God, and love, joy and peace now and always.

Read about Jesus for yourself, in 'Good News for Modern Man'.

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