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# THE BRIDGE

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Who is Jesus

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God's plan to reinstate man's close relationship with Him was in place before the world was created, as God knew that man would use his free will to sin. In Genesis 15:16, as soon as man sinned, we see this plan unfold.

Jesus is the son of God and was with God at creation. It was through Him and for Him that the world was made; He is referred to in the Bible as "The Word" (John 1:1). Jesus left His heavenly throne with all the richness that entailed, to come to earth to live fully as a human being, from infancy to manhood, doing the same things we do. He was tempted by Satan as we are, but did not give into temptation - remained sinless to qualify to die for our sins; a sinless lamb without defect. Jesus lived a perfect life ensuring that He followed all God had instructed Him to do, and all prophecies pertaining to Him were fulfilled.

Jesus came to save the world from slavery to sin (in the same way God saved the Jews from physical slavery), as was prophesied hundreds of years before it happened.

## Jesus' life in summary

### How did it happen?

By virgin birth.

### Where was he born?

Bethlehem.

### How did he live?

Despised by the then religious leaders but loved by the people he gave hope and encouragement to.

### How did he die?

By the cruellest of deaths, crucifixion (Psalm 22:14a,16b).

In addition to carrying out God's plan, Jesus did many good deeds while He lived on earth. From the age of 30 to 33 years (the period his ministry lasted) he

- Healed the sick,
- Raised the dead,
- Cast out demons,
- Loved the oppressed,
- Spoke against the evil and wickedness of society,
- Made many followers, and showed mercy and love for children and adults alike.

He worked relentlessly to show how we should live and love each other, living in harmony and peace to the limit that we have control.

The religious leaders and people of note at that time, hated Him because He showed them up to be vain hypocrites who often asked for impossible things from the oppressed people, things that they themselves weren't able to do. Jesus was all for "practising what you preach", and He made it abundantly clear. The leaders planned to get rid of Him by killing Him, not realising that was what He came for in the first place, and by acting, they were again fulfilling prophecy.

Jesus was cited for blasphemy against God and although being found innocent, He was sentenced to death by crucifixion, the most horrible death imaginable at that time for the very worst criminal. He went willingly without complaining, in full obedience to His Father, to give us the choice and hope of being reconciled to our Creator and Father, God.

## Was this the end?

**No!** His resurrection was prophesied centuries before Jesus Christ was born. Jesus was crucified, buried and rose from the grave three (3) days after His burial; prophecy was fulfilled.

A heavy stone door was carved and placed before the entrance of the tomb to make it impossible to move from the outside. Centurion guards were enlisted to watch over the tomb to make sure Jesus' body was not removed by his disciples. Yet the tomb was found empty, even with the centurions protecting it and being in a prominent location, not hidden away. His enemies had no explanation as to what happened to the body, then in Bible times, and even until now.

Tom Anderson, former president of the California Trial Lawyers Association, concludes ***“The silence of history is deafening when it comes to the testimony against the resurrection.” So, with no body of evidence, and with a tomb clearly empty, one has to conclude that Jesus did indeed “rose from the dead”.***

The resurrection is important as without Jesus living again none of His promises would be trustworthy, the Bible record would be wrong, and ultimately God would be lying. He would not be the omnipotent, omnipresent God we talked about with his perfect attributes. Jesus' resurrection demonstrates that those who accept Him have been forgiven of past sins. We are assured that He can help us in our daily lives (as He still lives) and that our future is safe and sure in Him.

The resurrection is also the guarantee that those who accept Christ and die in this state will also be resurrected to be forever with Him on His return.

***“Now if Christ be preached that He rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? ... Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable (1 Corinthians 15:12-19).”***

Jesus was seen by many eyewitnesses after He rose from the dead; His women followers, His disciples, whom He ate and drank with. He was also seen by 500 other followers at one time. He even displayed the holes in His hands, feet and side for Thomas (the disciple who doubted the resurrection) to touch, to prove He was the crucified Jesus.

Jesus stayed in His human form for forty (40) days after His resurrection and then was taken up into heaven to be with God his Father (where He was “The Ancient of Days”, before He came to earth to die for our sins). Before He went He told the disciples that He would send the “Comforter” and that the “Comforter” would instruct them how to live and walk daily, and help them to do so, just as He did when He was physically with them. That “Comforter” is “**The Holy Spirit**”, God’s Spirit working in, with, and through us to help us overcome our “Sin Nature”.

Jesus will return once more on this earth to set up His sinless, everlasting Kingdom and fulfil the final prophecy recorded in the Bible.

Revelations 19:11-16 tells us that ***“He will return riding on a white horse and the host of angels will return with Him”***. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 – 17 says; ***“For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord”***.

**Now you have heard a little about him,  
what will you do with him?**







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