

Jesus died on the cross and was buried in a rock tomb. His followers fled for fear of their lives. They were in for a big surprise.

JESUS WAS RAISED TO LIFE

Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, carrying the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the entrance to the tomb, so they went in; but they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.



They stood there puzzled about this, when suddenly two men in bright shining clothes stood by them. Full of fear, the women bowed down to the ground, as the men said to them, “Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive? He is not here; he has been raised. Remember what he said to you while he was in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be handed over to sinful men, be crucified, and three days later rise to life.’”

Then the women remembered his words, returned from the tomb, and told all these things to the eleven disciples and all the rest. The women were Mary

Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James; they and the other women with them told these things to the apostles. But the apostles thought that what the women said was nonsense, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; he bent down and saw the linen wrappings but nothing else. Then he went back home amazed at what had happened.

Luke 24:1-12

Yes, he actually rose from death and lives today. His disciples were also shocked and transformed, as you may be by this news.

TOO WONDERFUL TO BELIEVE YET TRUE

Suddenly the Lord himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

They were terrified, thinking that they were seeing a ghost. But he said to them, “Why are you alarmed? Why are these doubts coming up in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet, and see that it is I myself. Feel me, and you will know, for a ghost doesn’t have flesh and bones, as you can see I have.”

He said this and showed them his hands and his feet. They still could not believe, they were so full of joy and wonder; so he asked them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of cooked fish, which he took and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, “These are the very things I told you about while I was still with you: everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the writings of the prophets, and the Psalms had to come true.”

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “This is what is written: the Messiah must suffer and must rise from death three days later, and in his name the message about repentance and the forgiveness of sins must be preached to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”

Luke 24:36b-48.

If you want to know more about Jesus Christ, the greatest man that ever lived, who can bring hope and joy to all who love, trust and follow him, write today to:-

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The King nobody wanted

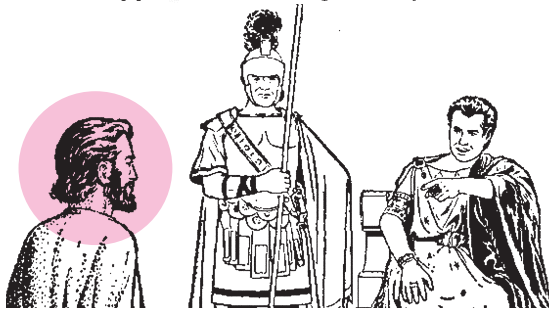


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THE KING NOBODY WANTED

The greatest man that ever lived was cruelly murdered at the young age of 33. He healed the sick, raised the dead, made the blind to see, fed thousands of people and gave himself fully to all who came to him.

He was a friend to those whose lives were stained by sin. He taught, and showed to all, the love of God for sinful men. Although he taught the way of salvation from the Scriptures, it was the religious leaders who organised his murder. This is what happened to the King nobody wanted



JESUS IS SENTENCED TO DEATH

Pilate called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, "You brought this man to me and said that he was misleading the people. Now, I have examined him here in your presence, and I have not found him guilty of any of the crimes you accuse him of. Nor did Herod find him guilty, for he sent him back to us. There is nothing this man has done to deserve death. So I will have him whipped and let him go."

The whole crowd cried out, "Kill him! Set Barabbas free for us!" (Barabbas had been put in prison for a riot that had taken place in the city, and for murder.)

Pilate wanted to set Jesus free, so he appealed to the crowd again. But they shouted back, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

Pilate said to them the third time, "But what crime has he committed? I cannot find he has done anything to deserve death! I will have him whipped and set him free."

But they kept on shouting at the top of their voices that Jesus should be crucified, and finally their shouting succeeded. So Pilate passed the sentence on Jesus that they were asking for. He set free the man they wanted, the one who had been put in prison for riot and murder, and he handed Jesus over for them to do as they wished.

Luke 23:13-25

JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

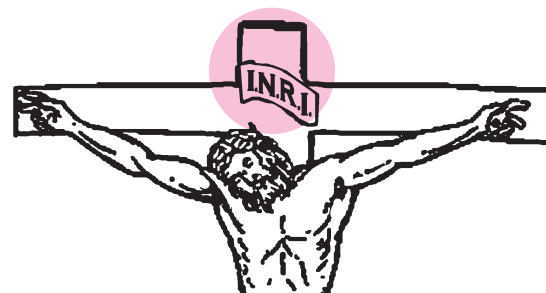
Two other men, both of them criminals, were also led out to be put to death with Jesus. When they came to the place called "The Skull," they crucified Jesus there, and the two criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. Jesus said, "Forgive them, Father! They don't know what they are doing."

They divided his clothes among

themselves by throwing dice. The people stood there watching while the Jewish leaders jeered at him: "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah whom God has chosen!"

The soldiers also mocked him: they came up to him and offered him cheap wine, and said, "Save yourself if you are the king of the Jews!"

Above him were written these words: "This is the King of the Jews."



One of the criminals hanging there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

The other one, however, rebuked him, saying "Don't you fear God? You received the same sentence he did. Ours, however, is only right, because we are getting what we deserve for what we did; but he has done no wrong." And he said to Jesus, "Remember me, Jesus, when you come as King!"

Jesus said to him. "I promise you that today you will be in Paradise with me."

Luke 23:32-43

Hundreds of years before this happened the prophet Isaiah foretold these events and revealed God's purpose in allowing Jesus to be nailed to the cross.

HE DIED BECAUSE OF OUR SIN

"But he endured the suffering that should have been ours, the pain that we should have borne. All the while we thought that his suffering was punishment sent by God. But because of our sins he was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did. We are healed by the punishment he suffered, made whole by the blows he received. All of us were like sheep that were lost, each of us going his own way. But the LORD made the punishment fall on him, the punishment all of us deserved.

He was treated harshly, but endured it humbly; he never said a word. Like a lamb about to be slaughtered, like a sheep about to be sheared, he never said a word. He was arrested and sentenced and led off to die, and no one cared about his fate. He was put to death for the sins of our people. He was placed in a grave with evil men, he was buried with the rich, even though he had never committed a crime

or ever told a lie."

The LORD says, "It was my will that he should suffer; his death was a sacrifice to bring forgiveness.

And so he will see his descendants; he will live a long life, and through him my purpose will succeed.

After a life of suffering, he will again have joy; he will know that he did not suffer in vain.

My devoted servant, with whom I am pleased, will bear the punishment of many and for his sake I will forgive them. And so I will give him a place of honour, a place among great and powerful men.

He willingly gave his life and shared the fate of evil men. He took the place of many sinners and prayed that they might be forgiven."

Isaiah 53:4-12

