

JESUS' RESURRECTION CHANGES EVERYTHING

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The first century Jewish historian, Josephus wrote the following about Jesus: *"About this time there lived **Yeshua**, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man, for he was one who performed surprising deeds and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was the **Messiah**."*

Among the simple people of Israel and in neighboring nations Jesus had an immense following due to His miraculous healings, and His teachings that encouraged them to trust God as a child his Father and to embrace the path of love and forgiveness. The purity of His life, the authority of His words and His enormous popularity provoked jealousy among the political and religious leaders, ultimately leading to His crucifixion. However Yeshua did not resist this death, because He understood, through the prophets and His own communication with God, His Father) that He was destined to die on the Cross. He was the innocent person (perfect Lamb) whom God had sent to take the blame, the guilt, the sin and sins of every human and the Scapegoat prefigured in the Levitical sacrifice. He also knew that death could not hold Him, for He would conquer it and rise

from its grasp within three days.

"For You will not leave my soul in the grave, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption." (Psalm 16.10)

"Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." (Mark 10.33-35)

On a bright spring morning three women arrived at the tomb where Yeshua had been laid. It was empty! (Mark 16.1-8) Despite the presence of Roman soldiers guarding the tomb it was clear that Yeshua was not there. An angel spoke to the women, *"He is not here! He is risen!"* After that Jesus showed Himself to them - alive! And later He showed Himself to His key followers and then to five hundred others.

Throughout history no one parallels Yeshua. His birth, death and resurrection were all foretold by the prophets. He is the Messiah spoken of by David. (Psalm 89) He is the greater prophet spoken of by Moses. (Deut. 18.15) He is the future King of the

earth, reigning today in the hearts of millions of who receive His life, base their lives on His redemptive work and live by His teachings.

The Resurrection of Jesus is the greatest FACT in world history, because it means that He has successfully taken upon Himself the guilt and sin of the world paving the way for an eternal heavenly destiny for all who believe and accept this gift. This truth transcends religious boundaries. It is a FACT that speaks not only to Christians but to every human being - Jew, Christian, Moslem Hindu, Buddhist etc. All who call on the Lord can benefit from this great fact and monumental grace.

The Risen Christ, Our Hope

*"But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, ... For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen; your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. But now Christ **IS** risen from the dead and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection*

of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the first fruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming (1 Cor 15.13-23)

Just as our former *fallen destiny* was shaped by the sin of one man - our ancestor Adam - our present and *future destiny* hinges on this ONE Man, appointed by God for us. Our new destiny depends entirely on the success of the death of Yeshua on the Cross, on His resurrection and His Ascension to the place of all authority and dominion. Because He has conquered death, the sins of the entire world are atoned for. (It remains only for people to accept this great mercy by believing in what He has accomplished.)

The Resurrection means my Adamic life and baggage were buried with Him, and I can now receive total forgiveness and His eternal resurrection life to be my life. I now have a glorious destiny that I enjoy now and extends beyond the grave. He has risen! I Have risen! You have risen to newness of life - His life!

It is finished! Believe! Receive! Rejoice and tell the world!

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