

The Life of Jesus
(His Life and the Crucifixion)

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and he shall call his name Immanuel” (Mathew 1:23). God is with us; Jesus was born in the town Bethlehem in Judea but taken to Egypt after Joseph warned by an angel that Herod is looking for the child Jesus to kill him. Jesus family remained in Egypt until the death of King Herod. This is the fulfillment of the prophecy “Out of Egypt I called my Son” (Mathew 2:15).

While in Egypt, an angel appeared in a dream to Joseph and ask his family to leave and go the land of Israel. However, when Joseph learned that Archealaus was reigning over Judea and warned by God in a dream, he decided to take his family to the region of Galilee and dwelt in the city of Nazareth. “He shall be called a Nazarene”, the prophet spoke of him (Mathew 2:23).

The child Jesus grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom and the grace of God upon him. At the age of 12, Jesus and his family went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. When they had finished and as they returned home, unknown to his parents, Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. After three days, his parents found him in the temple sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening and asking questions. The teachers were astonished by his understanding and wisdom considering that he is just a young boy. After that, Jesus came home with his parents and stayed in Nazareth. He is a good son and developed his wisdom and stature, as he grows older (Luke 2:40-52).

In the 15th year reign of Tiberius Caesar (Luke 3:1), when Jesus was estimated to be in his early 30's went to John the Baptist who was preaching and baptizing in the river of Jordan. John baptized Jesus with water and the Holy Spirit descends from heaven like a dove and remained in him (John 1:29-32). Believers calling him the Messiah followed Jesus and remained with him. On the third day after the baptism, Jesus and his disciples went to a wedding in Cana of Galilee. As they were celebrating, Jesus saw that they ran out of wine. He asked the servants to fill six water pots with water and Jesus turned them into wine. This is the sign that manifested his glory and his disciples believed him. They traveled everywhere; He made many miracles, cured the sick, drove out demons, healed the blinds, and awaken the dead.

Jesus life was then devoted teaching words of God; he speaks in parables delivering messages of wisdom, humility, sharing, forgiveness, and justice for everyone. He speaks of love; love for brothers and sisters, parents, neighbors, and to our enemies. He speaks of joy, happiness, the love of our father in heaven, the resurrection, and our home in the Kingdom of God.

While Jesus followers grew in multitude and words of his miracles spread all over the land, the Chief Priest and Pharisees afraid that everyone will believe in him, gathered a council and plotted to put him to death (John 11:47-53).

Before the Feast of Passover, Jesus said, "Ye know that after two days the feast of the Passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified", (Mathew 26:2), he knew that the fulfillment of the prophecy is near. He must suffer and put to death by hanging on the cross for the forgiveness of sins of humankind.

Jesus with his 12 disciples went to Jerusalem for the Passover. That night, as they were eating, he announced that one of them would betray him. The disciples were exceedingly sorrowful upon hearing his statement and each of them ask the Lord "Is it I"? He answered and

said; “He who dipped his hand with me in the dish will betray me”. Jesus was speaking about the prophecy in the scripture about a man who will betray the Son of Man. Judas, surnamed Iscariot who will soon go his way and communed with the chief priests and captains to capture Jesus in exchange for silver (John 22:3).

After supper, Jesus went to the Mount of Olives to pray and his disciples followed him. Here, in the garden where they are all going to spend the night, he told to them “All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad” (Mathew 26:31). He was reminding the disciples particularly Peter that they are weak and would fall into temptation and deny him when his trial comes. The tired disciples went to sleep and Jesus went to pray solemnly, he was in agony and his sweat were like drops of blood falling down to the ground (John 22:44). Later that night while the disciples were past asleep, Judas came with multitude of soldiers behind him. Judas drew near unto Jesus to kiss him but he said “Judas, betrayest thou the Son of Man with a kiss?”(John 22:48). The other disciples came to rescue Jesus and smite one of the chief priest servants with a sword cutting his ear. Jesus filled with compassion and mercy healed the man’s ear instantly and let the soldiers brought him alone to the highest priest house. The disciples including Peter were afar off, afraid of being recognized as disciples of Jesus.

At the high priest house, men who held Jesus mocked and smote him. They struck him on the face and spoke of blasphemy against him (John 22:63-64). Early morning, the elders of the people and the chief priest and the scribes came together and brought him for cross-examination by the council. They asked him, “Are thou the Christ?” “If I tell you won’t believe and if I also asked you, ye will not answer me, nor let me go,” he replied. The council persistently trying to find fault in him asked, “Art thou then the Son of God?” and Jesus said unto them “Ye say that I

am” (John 22:70). The perverted council presuming Jesus answer is a confession that he is really claiming to be the Son of God and a King, took him to Pilate, a Roman high official in Jerusalem, and accused him of perverting the nation and forbidding paying tribute to Caesar. However, Pilate found no fault in him and he believed that he has no jurisdiction over the case convinced that Jesus is a Galilean. Pilate then decided to send Jesus to Herod who happens to be in Jerusalem at that time (John 23:1-7).

King Herod, who was desirous to see Jesus for a long time, was exceedingly glad and hoping to see some miracles done by him. He tossed many questions to Jesus while the chief priests and the scribes stood and vehemently accusing him. Nevertheless, none of the questions was answered by Jesus (John 23:8-10). Annoyed and disappointed, Herod instructed his men to tie and scorn Jesus. The soldier arrayed him in a gorgeous robe and brought him back to Pilate. Once more, Pilate said unto the chief priest and rulers of the people, “Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and, behold, I having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him” (John 23:14).

Similar to Herod, Pilate found no fault worthy of death. He announced that the would chastise and release Jesus but the crowd persevere and shouted all at once saying they want to put away Jesus and release a Barabbas, a murderer. Pilate, still would like to release Jesus, was helpless as the high priests and angry crowds demanding to crucify him. Afraid that the crowd might turn to him, He sentenced Jesus and scourged him. Soon after, the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, put it on his head and dressed him with a purple robe. Jesus, tied to a wooded post and head bleeding tremendously from the thorns, was scourge endlessly until Pilate went forth again for the last time and presented Jesus to the crowd. He said, “Behold, I bring him forth to you that

ye may know that I find no fault in him” but the crowd insists that he ought to die because he made a blasphemy by calling himself the Son of God.

The soldiers led Jesus away, tortured him and let him carry a huge and heavy wooden cross on their way to a place high on the hill called Golgotha. Believers followed Jesus and he said unto them “Weep not for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children” (John 23:28). Jesus severely wounded and dying in pain, viciously nailed to the cross with two other convicted thieves at the top of the hill. Jesus catching his breath in anguish whispered, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do”. In his hour of death, in great pain and suffering, Jesus yet with compassion and love for humanity, asked the father in heaven to forgive all of them who had done these horrible things to him. Meanwhile, the soldiers nailed a superscription on the top of his cross with words written in Greek, Latin, and Hebrew saying “THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS”. They lifted and erected his cross in the center of the two hanged thieves and cast lots on his clothes. For it is written in the scripture “They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots” (John 19:23-24). Standing by the cross of Jesus is his mother, Mary the wife of Cleophas and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple standing by, he said to his mother, “Behold thy son!” and to his disciple “Behold thy mother!” Then the disciple took his mother home.

Knowing all things are now accomplished and the scripture written about him now realized, Jesus said, “I thirst”, they give him a sponge of vinegar tied on the tip of the spear and put it to his mouth, and then Jesus said, “It is finished!” He bowed his head and gave up the ghost (John 19:29-30).

The Jews, knowing the tradition that bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day, asked Pilate that their legs be broken so they cannot take them away. Soldiers went

to the hill and broke the legs of the two thieves hanging beside Jesus. They did not break Jesus legs convinced that he is already dead. However, a soldier with a spear pierced his side and there came blood and water. For this things are written in the scripture, “A bone of him shall not be broken” and “They shall look at him whom they pierced” (John 19:33-37).

Joseph of Arithmataea, with Pilate’s permission, took Jesus dead body down from the cross. He wrapped it in linen and laid it in a sepulcher hewn in stone. Women who came with Jesus from Galilee beheld the sepulcher and prepared spices and ointments.

After three days, Jesus followers visited the tomb and they found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher. They entered but did not find the body of Jesus inside the tomb. Puzzled about it, two men in shining garments suddenly appear before them and said “He is not here, but risen. The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of the sinful men and be crucified and the third day risen again” (John 24:1-7).

The life of Jesus prophesied long before he was born. He was destined to deliver a very important message from the Lord thy God to the people of Israel and to the rest of humanity through his disciples. He never tried to save himself and let the scripture written about him be fulfilled. His crucifixion is a symbol of faith and salvation. It is a representation of unwavering faith to God in the hour of death and the good news of deliverance. It is the part of the greatest story ever told where a man gave his own life so that others maybe delivered from sin. The crucifixion also reminds us of man’s brutality against his brother and the unforgiving nature we have. We should all realize that Jesus brought about our existence today. He who loves you so much, bear your cross and paid your sins.

The message he wants to deliver is no other than his life itself. He lived a life without sin, full of compassion, love, and mercy for humanity. He never gave up his faith and remains

devoted until the hour of his death. Moreover, most importantly, he showed us the way to Salvation and the reality of Resurrection to the Kingdom of Heaven.

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