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Savior

Nearly twenty centuries ago, a baby boy was born in a tiny middle-eastern village called Bethlehem. He was born according to the precise fulfillment of Scripture written hundreds of years before His time. His birth was miraculous. Many of the things He did during His thirty-three years of life on earth were miraculous. Since that time our world has not been the same. We date our calendars from His birth. Each week we cease our work to commemorate a holiday in remembrance of Him. We base the laws of our land on His teachings. His life has inspired the building of hospitals and schools and orphanages. Much of the world's great music and art depict His life and influence. This lesson is about Jesus Christ and the reason He came to this earth. (Numbers in parentheses are page numbers for the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD NEW TESTAMENT - Paperback edition, published by the International Bible Society.)

1. According to the Bible, who is Jesus Christ?

Matthew 3:16-17 (3)

Matthew 16:13-17 (19)

2. What are some things that Jesus taught while He was on the earth?

Matthew 5:1-12 (4)

Luke 10:30-37 (76)

Matthew 25:31-46 (30)

3. What are some of the incidents in His life that show us He was more than a man when He walked the earth?

Matthew 1:18-25 (1)

Luke 8:22-25 (72)

Luke 24:1-7, 36-43 (96, 97)

4. Why did Jesus come into the world?

Luke 19:10 (88)/John 1:29 (99)

From what do we need to be saved?

Romans 6:23 (170)

Why can't we just reform our lives from now on and be saved?

(Give your own thoughts.)

What did Jesus do that makes salvation from death possible?

Romans 5:8 (169)

5. Since Jesus has died to save mankind from the penalty of sin, does that mean that *everyone* will be saved?

Mark 16:15-16

John 3:16; 36 (101)

Hebrews 5:9 (237)

6. Can anyone be saved from the penalty of sin without Jesus Christ?

John 14:6 (117)

Acts 4:12 (131)

Are there "many" ways to God or is there just one?

Long ago an unknown writer paid his tribute to Jesus. His words are recorded below for your consideration. Could such a one have been merely a man?

"Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village, and that a despised one. He worked in a carpenter's shop for thirty years, and then for three years as an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a really big city. He never traveled, except in His infancy, more than two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He had no credentials but Himself.

"While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them betrayed Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. His executors gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth, His seamless robe. When He was dead, He was taken down from the cross and laid in a borrowed grave through the courtesy of a friend. Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone, and today Jesus is the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of all progress.

"I am well within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever were built, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that have ever ruled together have never effected the life of man upon this earth like this one solitary personality.

"All time dates from His birth and it is impossible to understand or interpret the progress of human civilization in any nation apart from His influence. Slowly, through the ages, man is coming to realize that the greatest necessity in the world is not water, iron, gold, food, or clothing... but rather, Christ, enshrined in human hearts, thoughts, and motives."

7. Whom do you believe Jesus to be? There are really only three possible choices.

Is He:

A liar who purposely misled people?

A lunatic who was mistaken about who He was?

The Lord of all creation and the Son of God?