

Jesus Is the Centre Of The Universe

'In the beginning (before time, day, night or seasons) God created the heavens and the earth ... God made the two great lights, the greater light (the sun) to shine all day and the lesser light (the moon) to shine in the night. He also made all of the stars (universe, planets, galaxies etc). God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light to the earth' (Genesis 1:1, 16 & 17). 'By faith we understand the universe has been created by the spoken Word of God so what is seen has not been made out of something visible' (Hebrews 11:3).

God created the universe to give light to the earth during night hours and the sun to give us warmth and light. That means the earth is the centre of the universe and the universe revolves around the earth. It did not happen by any 'big bang' but was thoughtfully created by our Creator Lord. The earth and only the earth was created for habitation. There is no life on other planets. 'God created the heavens and stretched them out, He spread out the earth and what comes out of it, He gives breath to its people and Spirit (of life) to those who walk in it' (Isaiah 42:5). 'The Lord created the heavens. God formed the earth and made it. He established it and did not create it a waste. He formed it to be inhabited' (Isaiah 45:18). Jesus is the centre of the universe and the earth, and Israel is the centrepiece of the earth. The entire Old Testament is the Scriptural account of the nation of Israel, chosen, founded, created, built and nurtured by God. "I am the Lord Who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God. You will be holy for I am holy" (Leviticus 11:45). "You, Israel My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham My friend, you whom I have taken hold of from the ends of the earth and called from its corners and said to you, "You are My servant. I have chosen you and not cast you away ... Do not be afraid Jacob and you men of Israel. I will help you. Your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel ... They may see, know, consider and understand together, the hand of God has done this and the Holy One of Israel has created it ... But now, thus says the Lord Who created you, Jacob and He who formed you Israel, do not be afraid for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name. You are Mine ... You are precious and honoured in My sight and I have loved you" (Isaiah 41:8 & 9, 14, 20; 43:1 & 4).

The purpose of creating Israel as a special homeland for God's chosen people was to bring Jesus our Messiah into this world for the purpose of dying for the sins of all mankind. Our Messiah needed a holy homeland base in which to operate and reveal God's way of salvation to a lost world, starting with the Jewish people then spreading out to Gentiles. Jesus knew at a very young age He was the Son of God (Luke 2:49). The entire New Testament is the testimony of the birth, life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus, followed by the founding of Christianity formed to carry the message of salvation to the world. Judaism was the foundation of Christianity, practiced only Jewish people and a very few Gentiles. Christianity is the extension of Judaism and is now a global religion, practiced by many Jewish people and millions of Gentiles. Later in the New Testament we read about the culmination of seven thousand years of humanity on earth ending with the prophecy of total annihilation of this earth, once beautifully created by the spoken Word of God but destroyed by the overall sin of mankind. That same spoken Word will one day destroy the earth and the entire universe. God will create a brand new earth for mankind to live, but only for repentant, righteous people who live closely with God on this earth.

'The heavens (universe) that are now and the earth, by the same spoken Word have been stored up for fire, being reserved against the Day of Judgment and destruction of ungodly men ... The Lord is not slow concerning His promise (to return to earth) as some count slowness but is patient with us, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. The (Judgement) Day of the Lord will come as (suddenly) as a thief in the night. The heavens (universe) will pass away with a great noise and the elements will be dissolved with fervent heat. The earth and the works in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed like this, what kind of people ought you to be in holy living and Godliness, looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the (Judgement) Day of God, which will cause the burning heavens to be dissolved and the elements will melt with fervent heat? According to His promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells' (2 Peter 3:7, 9 to 13).

God Himself came to earth in the form of Jesus the Man to give mankind a concrete definite tangible idea of Who God is. Jesus is the living image of God (Colossians 1:15). 'Jesus, existing in the form of God did not consider equality with God a thing to be proud of, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a Servant, being made in the likeness of mankind. Being found in human form, Jesus humbled Himself, becoming obedient to His death on the cross' (Philippians 2:6 to 8). Jesus was God incarnate in the shape and form of God Himself. Thomas acknowledged Jesus as being Lord and God (John 20:28). Jesus' appearance on earth is the central event of all history. The Old Testament sets the stage for His coming and the New Testament describes it. Born as a baby, He was raised as a typical child within a normal Jewish family then grew up to be tall and strong in stature (Luke 2:52). Jesus lived an extraordinary life once He turned thirty (Luke 3:23). Jesus was the kindest, gentlest, most patient, most empathetic Man Who ever lived because He was perfect and had no sin within Him to hold Him back (2 Corinthians 5:21). He loved His people, the Jewish people. He

disliked seeing them suffering. Jesus forgave, He helped, He healed, He encouraged, He fed hungry people and never became impatient with them. He did become angry at sin and hypocrisy but was never judgemental. It was written, if His acts of goodness and kindness towards people were written in books, the earth could not contain all the books (John 21:25). That is the kind of Person Jesus is.

After loving people for about three years, Jesus suffered an horrendously cruel torturous death on the cross and when doing so, shed His precious blood for us then forgave the Roman soldiers who murdered Him (Luke 23:34). The amount of blood Jesus lost while on the cross was about quarter of a hin, the same amount of liquid the Children of Israel were told to pour over their sacrificial lamb for Passover (Numbers 15:5) in their prophetic action of sacrifice. Jesus died to redeem our souls from the wrath of God and became our Saviour and Mediator between God and mankind (1 Timothy 2:5). After going to sheol for three days and three nights to preach to the souls of people who had died before He came to earth (Matthew 12:40; 1 Peter 3:19 & 20), Jesus triumphantly overcame death when He rose from the dead to sit at the right hand of God the Father forever (Ephesians 1:20). Jesus is more than an historical character, He is alive now and will always be alive because He was resurrected and by doing so, destroyed spiritual death for all those who believe in Him. He is the most vital and powerful force for good in the entire universe.

Jesus is the living Word of God. 'Jesus is clothed in a garment sprinkled with His own blood. His name is called "The Word of God" (Revelation 19:13). The entire Bible is written about humanity's redemption through Jesus. He is pivotal to our salvation. Without Jesus, no soul can be saved. He came to save our souls, not our physical bodies. We are promised eternal life on condition we accept the only way of salvation and that single way is though accepting Jesus as our Saviour then thereafter walking with God. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). The Bible was written so mankind could understand what we must do for our soul to be saved. We must love the Lord with all our heart, mind, soul and strength (Luke 10:27), we must follow Jesus and listen for His voice to us (John 10:27) and we need to get to know Him personally and individually. Jesus is the centre and the heart of the Bible, of history, of our lives, of our eternal destiny and of heaven itself. He has done everything He can to save us and finished the task with the words, "It is finished" (John 19:30). Our acceptance or rejection of His sacrifice is in our hands. When our body dies, that is the first death. We can choose eternal life with Jesus in heaven or we can choose eternal destruction in the burning lake of fire, which is the second death. 'The cowardly, unbelieving, sinners, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters and all liars, their part is in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur, which is the second death' (Revelation 21:8). The most important decision we can make is eternal. We can choose eternity with God and enjoy all the glory that goes with Him or we can choose eternity with the devil and all the misery that goes with it.

It is a glorious, wonderful and exalted privilege to be a disciple of Jesus, and by far the most sensible, reasonable and most satisfying way to live, to continue the work He started. He is mankind's Lord, Saviour, Redeemer, Messiah and Master. We need to strive to please Him by obeying His Word, to be sincere, devoted and His ambassador. Jesus makes our life worthwhile. How anyone can go through life and face death without knowing Jesus will be terrifying for them. Apart from Jesus, what is there, either for this life or the next? With Jesus we have peace, hope, contentment, forgiveness, joy, life here and life forever, an eternal life that will never end. Our earthly bodies will die at some time but will be replaced by a beautiful, perfect, healthy, strong, immortal, incorruptible body that will never die (1 Corinthians 15:50 to 54). Unsaved people try to laugh it off but deep down they are very frightened of death (Hebrews 2:15). Every sensible and wise person secures their eternal life but foolish people mock and scorn God's only way of salvation. We need to have a reverend attitude towards God's holiness and His only way of salvation. Death never means non-existence. Our souls will live forever but if we choose Jesus we will live with Him forever. If people reject Jesus they will live without His presence forever. Living for Jesus is the sweetest, dearest thing in life (Psalm 34:8). We can have a humble gratitude and adoration for the Jewish Man Who died for us. 'Is God the God of Jews only? Is He the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since indeed there is one God Who will justify the Jews by faith and the Gentiles through faith' (Romans 3:29 & 30).

Amen and God bless you.

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