



REPENT AUSTRALIA

“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

2 Chronicles 7:14

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JUST WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

A Christmas Message

It is Christmas time again. It's the season when Christians worldwide celebrate the birth of Christ. Until recently the calendar commenced with His birth: AD or Anno Domini---'In the year of the Lord'. Now in our so-called enlightened society we have discarded the AD and substituted it with CE or Common Era. It seems that we must do everything we can to get rid of Christ. In other words, the world at large in its unbelief has decided to move on from acknowledging that time is no longer bound to the Holy One who was once regarded as the centrepiece of history. Generally speaking, most people now only hear His name in blasphemy. Only Christians, it seems, use it in reverence and awe.

Jesus Is an Historical Fact

This brings us to that most important question: *Just who is Jesus Christ?* The historical fact that Jesus lived is firmly established---even though attempts have been made over the last two hundred years to disprove it. Not only is the entire New Testament founded upon Christ and the development of the early Christian Church but the passage of world history is inexplicable apart from the historical fact that Jesus Christ lived and died and rose again. Moreover, hundreds of years before His birth numerous prophecies were recorded in the Old Testament that found their fulfilment in Him. He was born the Messiah, the Anointed One and the Chosen One of Israel. He is the Wonderful Counsellor of whom Isaiah prophesied; He is the prophesied Stem of Jesse, the Branch of Zechariah and the Sun of Righteousness. There is nothing in world history to compare with the foretelling of the many events in Jesus' life in the OT Scriptures, including the place of His birth, and His suffering and death on a cross. Furthermore, after His resurrection, He Himself declared that in His life, death and resurrection from the dead the Scriptures were fulfilled. His disciples Peter, Stephen and Paul all spoke of the life, suffering and exaltation of Jesus as a fulfilment of the promises of God in the Old Testament.

Unique Among Men

All the other founders of religions were men who sought after truth and strove to gain spiritual insight. On the other hand, from His supernatural conception to His ascension to heaven, Jesus Christ alone revealed the love and grace of God, His righteousness and desire to save fallen humanity. Without doubt, He is unique among men. No wonder the apostle John began His gospel by writing of Him as the Logos (Word): "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not comprehend it...The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." John goes on to say: "No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son who is in the

bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.” When John the Baptist was baptising at the River Jordan, he saw Jesus approaching and pronounced, “The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

He Is Coming Back

For three and a half years, in the power of the Holy Spirit’s anointing, He went about doing good, healing the sick and lame, raising the dead, setting free those under the oppression of the devil, preaching and teaching. Finally, goaded by the high priests the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, acceded to their cries and agreed to crucify Him. After His agonising death, Jesus’ body was taken down from the cross and buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. On the third day He rose from the dead and for forty days appeared to His disciples promising to send the Holy Spirit to empower them to be His witnesses, starting in Jerusalem and spreading out to the ends of the earth. After promising to be with them always, He ascended into heaven and a cloud hid Him from their sight as two angels in white spoke to those gathered on the Mount of Olives, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up to heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you to heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.” Yes, Jesus Christ *is* coming back! He’s returning to reign as King of kings.

A Name above Every Name

The Apostle Paul writes of Jesus to the Philippians, “He humbled Himself and became obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him and given Him a name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.” While a prisoner exiled to the island of Patmos, the Apostle John received a revelation of Jesus Christ with this message to all believers: “Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him. ‘I am the Alpha and the Omega,’ says the Lord God, ‘who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.’” John then was confronted with the living Christ whose face shone like the brilliance of the sun in all its splendour. Awestruck, the spellbound apostle fell at His feet and the Lord placed His right hand on him and said, “Be not afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of Death and Hades...To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be My son.” (Rev. 1:17 & 21: 6-7)

Transformed Like His Glorious Body

Just who is Jesus Christ? He is the Son of God who left His heavenly glory to dwell on earth and show us the Way, the Truth and the Life which leads to eternity in His Father’s kingdom. Jesus once explained that no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again, until he is ‘born of water and the Spirit’. This means to repent, trust in Christ and be filled with the Holy Spirit, no longer tied to this materialistic world but having “citizenship in heaven from which we eagerly await the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body.” Hallelujah! What a Saviour!

PRAYER

Omniscient Father, as joint-heirs with Jesus Christ, cleansed by His precious blood, we pray that You will meet all our spiritual and physical needs for we live by faith, and trust all the promises in Your Living Word. Lord Jesus, thank You for being the Centrepiece of Civilisation, the Loftiest Idea in Literature, the Key to Knowledge, the Wellspring of Wisdom, the Doorway of Deliverance, the Pathway of Peace, the Roadway of Righteousness, the Highway of Holiness and the Gateway to Glory. We acknowledge that Your grace is matchless, Your mercy is everlasting, Your love is unchanging, Your yoke is easy and Your burden is light, Your power is irresistible and Your judgments are irrevocable. Holy Father, we praise You that JESUS CHRIST *will* be enthroned as King of kings and Lord of lords in Your coming Kingdom of love, joy and peace, to the glory of Almighty God. Amen.

Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas season and a glorious New Year in 2012.

R.A: Led by our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify the Fatherhood of God with the Brotherhood of Man; in love and in faithfulness to bring glory and honour to His holy name.

REJOICE IN COVENANT PRAYERS FULLY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT DAILY FOR AUSTRALIA’S REVIVAL.