

The Christian Arsenal

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WHAT HISTORY TELLS US ABOUT THE PASSION Understanding the Passion

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Part 1 of 3

INTRO: Every time you write a date, you're using the resurrection of Jesus Christ as the focal point. A.D. and B.C. History was split by this event.

1. HISTORY TELLS US ABOUT THE TRIALS OF JESUS.

"The chief priests were looking for false evidence against Jesus so they could put Him to death. But they did not find anything. Then they said, 'Tell us if you are the Christ the Son of God. Yes it is as you say,' Jesus said. Then they spit in His face and struck Him with their fists. Others slapped Him..." Matt. 26:59-68 (NIV)

JESUS WENT THROUGH SIX TRIALS

3 RELIGIOUS

Annas
Caiphas
Sanhedrin (Religious supreme court)

3 CIVIL

Pilate
Herod
Pilate

Jesus never claimed to be a good man.
Jesus never claimed to be a moral leader.
Jesus never claimed to be a great teacher.

He said: I'm God. I'm the only way to Heaven.

With this claim there are 3 options:

Jesus was a lunatic.
Jesus was a liar.
Jesus was Lord.

2. HISTORY TELLS US ABOUT THE DEATH OF JESUS.

Why did Jesus have to die? Because somebody had to pay for your sin.

"The wages of sin is death..." Romans 6:23a

Example: Who was Timothy McCarthy?

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“God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” Romans 5:8 (LB)

“By the death of Christ we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven. How great is the grace of God which He gave to us in such large measure!” Ephesians 1:7 (GN)

3. HISTORY TELLS US ABOUT THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS.

Newsweek Magazine Quote: “The risen Christ is the center of the Christian faith. The mystery without which there would be no church; no hope of eternal life, no living Christ to encounter today. No other historical figure has ever made the claim that He was raised from the dead. It was this appearance of the resurrected Christ that lit the flame of the Christian faith. It wasn’t the morality of the Sermon on the Mount, which enabled Christianity to conquer Roman paganism, but it was the belief that Jesus was alive. He’d been raised from the dead.”

“By being raised from the dead, He proved He was the mighty Son of God, with the nature of God Himself.” Romans 1:4 (LB)

JESUS IS STILL ON TRIAL

Historical Records of Witnesses Called to Answer the Question – Who do you say Jesus is?

- **Peter** – *“You are the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”* Matt. 16:16
- **Martha** – *“I believe you’re the Messiah, the Son of God.”* John 11:27
- **Thomas** – *“Then Thomas said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God.’”* John 20:28 (NKJV)
- **Judas** – *“Then Judas said, ‘I have sinned for I have betrayed an innocent man.’ ‘That’s your problem’ the priest reported. Then he threw the money on the floor and went out and hung himself.”*
- **Pilate** – *“Then Pilate announced his verdict, ‘I’ve examined Him thoroughly and I find Him innocent. Herod came to the same conclusion and sent Him back to us. Nothing Jesus has done calls for the death penalty.’”* Luke 20:3
- **Thief on the cross** – *“When the soldiers guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and everything else that happened, they were very frightened and they said, ‘He really was the Son of God.’”* Matthew 20:7

You’ve heard the witnesses. Now it’s time for you to decide – **WHAT IS YOUR VERDICT?** Before you answer, consider this:

Believe that Jesus died for me

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A ccept God's forgiveness for my sin.

S witch to God's plan for my life.

E xpress my desire for Christ to be the Director of my life.