

cross. How could they accept such a religion?

* The Roman Empire with all its mighty power and cruelty had vowed to crush Christianity. It persecuted Christians with no mercy; it threw them to hungry wild animals, set them on fire, cut the members of their bodies one after another, used sharp cutting machines to cut their skin while they were alive, just to mention a few. The Empire killed millions of Christians.

* After three hundred years, the Roman Empire was conquered by Christians. The blood of peaceful unarmed Christians overcame the evil and the sword of the Roman Empire!

* To evaluate the situations, first, nobody should logically accept such a religion. Second, except for trusted history records and historians, we could never accept the defeat of the powerful Roman Empire. When you think about the whole situation, you'll see there is no other explanation except the work of a supernatural power, the power of God, which both convinced people to accept Christianity and conquered the empire.

The Gospel:

* The Gospel was not written by philosophers or famous writers or psychologists but by simple people. Yet, it is the most powerful book ever written. It promises the reader inner peace, joy, salvation, forgiveness of sins, ethical changes, uprooting of evil from the heart. In addition, it offers regeneration of individuals, a new spiritual birth, where people will have an internal power to live pure, honest, loving, caring, and holy lives.



* It includes the best spiritual and ethical writings. It does not drive people to evil or to hatred or to wars, but rather it urges them to love others, deal peacefully and kindly with one another, take care of the poor and the disadvantaged, respect all and accept all as sisters and brothers. It is enough to read the Sermon on the Mountain in Matthew chapters 5-7 in order to comprehend the great spiritual height of the Gospel.

* Over the centuries, the Gospel was put to test. It delivered its promises. It is continuously changing people from thieves, criminals, uncaring, arrogant, evil, or cruel, to new people full of goodness and love. The Gospel guided the pioneers to establish universities, hospitals, orphanages, and organizations to help the poor, victims of wars, and disasters.

* There is no explanation on how a simple book could have its amazing impact on people except by recognizing its source, God. Only the living God could do such miraculous acts in the lives of people and in communities.

What Is Next?

After you have thought of these eye-opening facts, **Christianity will offer you what your soul is longing for.** What are you waiting for? Is it time to have inner peace and joy?

Do you need forgiveness of your sins? Do you long for salvation?

Do you wish to have a new life full of spirituality?

* So, please start reading the Gospel and accompany reading with talking to the Lord Jesus Christ. You and others will see changes in your life.

* You may join a Bible Study in one of the oldest churches such as the Orthodox churches.



Why Is Christianity an Amazing Religion?

By Victor Beshir

Christianity, a religion started by a poor carpenter who never attended a school or ran a business, whose life ended on a cross, but he came to life again of his own will and power. His followers were a few fishermen without education, money, military, or political power. To make matters worse, the whole world united to crush the new religion, including the Roman Empire, the Jews, and other religions of that time. Yet, Christianity spread throughout the world with its invitation to love, peace, goodness, acceptance of all, salvation, and new life. How could that happen? Let's examine, think, and conclude.

What Did Jesus Christ do?



* He raised the dead, healed the sick with just a word, fed 15,000 people with just five loaves and two fish, and stopped storms, just to mention a few.

He did them all in front of many witnesses including his enemies. No man could do all those things collectively.

* He was born of a virgin, raised from the dead after three days, and ascended to heaven in front of many witnesses. Historians like Josephus acknowledged those events. Who could this person be? All those actions are beyond the ability of any ordinary human being!

* He never taught what he did not apply to his own life. Jesus lived a pure, honest, and exemplary life. He never committed a sin, never made a mistake, never had lust, hatred, envy, pride or greed in his heart, but rather lived a life of love, care, and compassion. In short, Jesus led an unmatched holy and perfect life, such that no human being could come close to what Jesus attained.

* On his last day, Jesus forgave those who mocked him, flogged him, beat him, and crucified him. When one philosopher thought of this, he wrote, "If Jesus Christ is not God, he is God at the cross."

* He declared that he is the Son of God and the source of life, truth, inner-peace, joy, and salvation. He said to Christians that he will be with them to the end of time, and he will be in the midst of two or three people gathered in his name. Whoever makes such declarations is either a mad person, or a liar, or telling the truth.

* Examining Jesus Christ's life, we find he never lied, and he did all that he promised including matters beyond the capabilities of a man. His words were very wise. His high ethical standard proves that he is telling the truth. Moreover, history's record showed he did all of the above. Thus, we have no other choice except to believe what he said and did.

* To rest assured of who Jesus Christ is, even before his birth there were over 300 written prophecies (divinely inspired predictions) that told of everything in his life, from his birth to his crucifixion to his resurrection. Those authentic prophecies were written between 1800 to 400 years before Jesus' birth. A mathematician calculated the probability of fulfilling all those prophecies on one person is 1 to 10^{28} .



His First Followers:

* To establish a new religion in a world that recognizes only power, money, politics, and education, someone could conclude that Jesus would select politicians, militants, business people, the well educated, the wealthy, orators, and people who held public offices to spread the new religion. To the surprise of all, Jesus selected his first followers, disciples, from poor, noneducated, simple fishermen with no experience in public or political offices, and had no knowledge of languages to convince the world with the new religion.

* Those few disciples with all their deficiencies were able to establish the new religion in most of the famous cities of the world in less than thirty years. Think of those who invaded the world in the past, and immediately you will realize that they invaded the world using military power, political power, or violence. So, how could the disciples of Christ spread Christianity without any of those capabilities? The only answer is that Christianity is not a religion that came from man but it came from God who uses the weakness of men to show his miraculous work in order to convince people.

The First Christians:

* Think of those who accepted Christianity in the first three centuries. They were offered a religion that didn't promise an easy life, or richness, or sensual pleasures-as some religions offered at that time-, or power, but rather a cross and a religion is fiercely attacked by all the mighty power of those days: The Roman Empire, Judaism, and the priests of idol worship. In addition, they knew that acceptance of this religion could end their life in a horrific death. They were asked to believe in a person whose life seemingly ended on the