

WHY JESUS REALLY CAME

John 3:17

Introduction: For centuries Israel looked for the "promised One," the "Messiah." Israel believed that when the promised "One" came he would restore Israel to its former greatness, destroy all their enemies, set up a kingdom like the world had never seen and Israel would be right in the midst of it all. However when the promised "One" did come, Israel did not recognize Him for He wasn't doing any of the things they thought the promised "One" was supposed to do. They just could not accept Jesus and what He was and was not doing. Jesus tried to explain His real intent and purpose for coming to a man named Nicodemus who didn't understand Jesus at the moment, but after Jesus' crucifixion, he realized what Jesus was talking about and believed.

I. THE MESSIAH SHOULD COME TO CONDEMN ALL BUT ISRAEL, GOD'S CHOSEN ONES

1. Who would have ever expected or suspected that the Messiah would come for any other purpose than to bring punishment to those who had been mistreating God's people.
2. The world was in a terrible condition when Jesus came.
 - Was Rome and the rest of the world sorry for their sins? Were the world powers trying to recover from their past acts of cruelty? Were people struggling to be free of sin?
 - Was not the world ignorant and even against God? Didn't the world love and enjoy sin more than anything else?
 - Why else would God's Son, the Messiah, ever visit earth but to punish all that was evil?
3. In times past God has sent Heavenly Visitors.
 - Some of God's Angels were sent on trips of mercy.
 - Some of God's Angels were sent to bring destruction and disaster.
 - They destroyed Sodom and Gommorah
 - They killed all the first born of Egypt.
 - They killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers.
 - Who could not but tremble upon the thought of a messenger coming from heaven to earth/
 - Any messenger from heaven would bring only judgment, death, and disaster and that was what the long awaited for Messiah was to do according to Jewish traditional belief.
 - No Messiah would be coming as a "savior."
4. Before God sent Jesus, the promised Messiah, did He really know how Jesus would be treated?
 - Perhaps God thought His Son would be treated with dignity and honor.
 - Surely God's own Son would be heard and obeyed by Israel and Israel would return to God once again in faith and loyalty.
 - God did know how His Son would be treated. Prophets spoke of the wicked treatment God's Son would receive long before Jesus came to earth.
 - God knew that the world, Israel, His own chosen people, would want to and even kill Jesus. They would not believe Him, despite all that Jesus did and showed them.
 - God knew all this and yet, He sent His only begotten Son into the world, not to judge or condemn or punish, but to save.

II. GOD SENT HIS SON, JESUS, INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE, NOT CONDEMN

1. No matter what people may say, teach or believe, Jesus, God's Son, came to this world.
2. God's Son came to atone for mankind's sin.
 - It's impossible for any person to make atonement to God for his/her own sin.
 - Angels would do so if possible, but not even Angels can atone for mankind's sin.
 - There was/is only one way for mankind's sin to be atoned for and that was/is for God's own Son, Jesus to do it.
 - No greater love can be found that that which God the Father and His Son, Jesus has shown.
3. God's Son came to work out righteousness for sinful man.
 - Nobody can do what is necessary to be able to stand before God, spotless and accepted.
 - Think! God refused to leave mankind in his/her sinful condition but sent His Son to make it possible for sinful man/woman to have righteousness.
 - Every believer in God's Son, Jesus, is clothed in the righteousness of Jesus.
4. God's Son came to exalt believers in Him to Glory.
 - Jesus came to make the way for mankind to have his/her sins forgiven and be accepted before God, but also to bring eternal salvation to those who have believed, thus being the author and finisher of the believer's faith.
 - God's Son, Jesus, has delivered all who believe in Him from the penalty of Hell and therefore enables the believer to live an abundant life, raising from the grave all who have believed and will give each believer a place to sit around the throne of God.
 - Nobody could then or today believe that Jesus didn't come to condemn and judge the world but instead came to save those who would believe. How marvelous! How wonderful!

CONCLUSION:

1. With all these facts and knowledge, there are still countless who don't believe.
 - How great is their condemnation.
 - God's greatest acts of love and mercy stand refused.
 - In a sense unbelievers have/are trampled under under unbelieving feet God's love and the blood of God's Son, Jesus who came to make all God's desires for man, possible.
2. Those who might still question Jesus' power to save, think:
 - Would God have ever sent Jesus if Jesus could not have done what needed to be done?
 - Has Jesus lost the power that He once had?
 - Do not be afraid, Jesus came to save everyone, that means YOU as well as anyone else.
3. To those of us enjoying our salvation:
 - What can we do for God in return for what He has done for us? God gave us His Son.
 - What can we give back to God and His Son, Jesus?