


JESUS THE CHRIST

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INTRODUCTION

This tract is a simplified “read” with the old gospel hymn “Let’s talk about Jesus” in mind. The tract was also prepared in view of our annual Palm Sunday visit to central London we joined the witness at Speakers’ Corner, Hyde Park to the glorious name of our wonderful Lord. With some candour despite traditional heckling the message of Jesus Saviour and Lord is spelt out very clearly and questions fielded. The gospel today is beamed by satellite to all the world bringing nearer the day when every nation shall hear of Jesus. I have selected momentous events of five days in His glorious life that condense His redemption story and supplied my brief on the occasion referenced.

Hyde Park talk amplified ...Palm Sunday 2018 (D.V)

PREAMBLE

According to the prophecy of Daniel the precise 173,880 days predicted from the ArtaxerxesII decree until Messiah (Dan.9.25-6) approached Jerusalem in a mission that marked Him and Him alone as Lord. On this very day foretold of God our Lord entered Jerusalem as Messiah to the waving of palms on a carpet of festive garments acclaimed by a myriad voice slogan “Hosanna to the Son of David the one who comes as Lord”.

What a friend we have in Jesus

All our sins and griefs to bear.

What a privilege to carry

Everything to God in prayer

CONTENTS

- 1. BIRTH**
- 2. MANIFESTO**
- 3. GLORY**
- 4. DEATH**
- 5. RESURRECTION**

(1) THE MAN FROM HEAVEN

A now retired corner store owner from Leicester called himself mystically “the man from heaven”. In reality we all begin at birth. Jesus was the eternal word who became man. The story of Jesus birth was written by two people-Luke and Matthew. Luke tells us that every angel in heaven came to salute his birth.

Billy Graham’s most famous story was one of “*an ant and a man*” who wanted to prevent an ant falling to its death. He tried using his hand-no good-his voice-couldn’t reach the ant-it persisted on its way. He thought I must become an ant to turn this ant around. Jesus which means GOD saves was born to do this for man.

Matthew in the first of 66 “beholds” tells of eastern kings who travelled by *God’s Sat-Nav of the stars* from Persia with gifts that hailed Jesus the world’s king priest and sacrifice for sin-with gold frankincense and myrrh.

The other Christmas story writer Luke gives us 72 events in his story. He pins the event of Jesus birth to the reign of Herod the Great. It is an absolute fact. Go there today and you can visit the Herodium-the palace location of Herod for which he had the top of a mountain cut off to make a foundation. You could see from his palace to the Inn in Bethlehem-the infamous Herods are gone but Jesus is alive for evermore and we celebrate His birth every year worldwide with great joy.

Behold, says Matthew quoting Isaiah “The” virgin (*Hebrew hml* []) shall *conceive* (*hrj*) and *deliver* (*dly*) of a son and she shall call his name “God with us” (*Hebrew la mm* []). Isaiah is strenuous to insist that ***even when Mary gave birth*** she was a virgin (Isa7.14). Jesus is the “seed of the woman” foretold to crush Satan in Genesis 3.15

*O now carry me to Bethlehem to see the Lord appear to men
Just as poor as was the stable then, the Prince of glory when He came.*

(2) MANIFESTO DAY AT NAZARETH -MAN WITH A PLAN

Jesus of Nazareth adopted the 600 year old prophecy of Isaiah that Messiah had 6 objectives and He fulfilled every one he spoke of that day.

1. The Spirit is upon me to preach hope to the poor
2. To heal the broken-hearted

3. To proclaim deliverance to the captives
4. Recovery of sight to the blind
5. Forgiveness /unburdening to the deeply depressed
6. And to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.

The gospel of Luke proceeds to demonstrate Jesus keeping every one of those pledges.

1. JESUS AND GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR[LUKE]

- i. The man with the withered hand 6.10
- ii. 16.20 There was in fact a certain beggar named Lazarus-carried by the angels to heaven
- iii. 18.22 The rich man asked to follow & distribute to the poor. Example of cross bearing would reach out-works with faith
- iv. 18.35 The blind beggar by the wayside-met Jesus
- v. 19.8 Lord the half of my goods I give to the poor-Zacchaeus testimony went with his gift.
- vi. 21.1 The poor widow with two mites-she has cast in all she owned-she was a worshipper.
- vii. The thief on the cross represents more poor waifs and strays than any other person in Luke's narrative. It is at the cross that Jesus manifested in all its glory.

2. JESUS HEALS THE BROKEN HEARTED[LUKE]

The heart can be broken by the weight of sorrow or suffering and supremely by the death of one we loved at the end of a wonderful relationship. Those who watched Jesus death and their judgment accepted by Him were broken.

- i. 8.43 A woman with an issue of blood 12 years
- ii. 13.11 The woman bowed for 18 years.
- iii. 17.15 The leper –one of 10 with life angst
- iv. 22.62 At the trial of Jesus Peter wept bitterly
- v. The widow of Nain-the Centurion-the Ruler of the synagogue and Mary and Martha

3. JESUS AND CAPTIVES[LUKE]

Deliverance from Satan and sin comes at two levels-the exorcism-the release Jesus gave in His ministry and the application of forgiveness.

- (i) 5.20 The paralysed man was forgiven
- (ii) 7.48 The sinful woman in Simons house was forgiven
- (iii) The gadarene demoniac was healed to tell 10 cities

4. JESUS AND THE BLIND

The ministry of Christ to the blind was specific and widespread. **There is no faculty so prized as sight.**

- (i) Luke 7.21 John's disciples witness many blind persons receive sight
- (ii) John 9.1 records the miracle of sight given a man blind from birth
- (iii) Matthew 9.27 Two blind men "Have mercy" early and two later as Jesus went to Calvary "Have mercy on us –He touched their eyes and immediately they received sight and followed Him. Did these blind men see Jesus blindfolded? Did they see darkness fall at Calvary?

5. JESUS' FORGIVENESS LIFTS THE DOWNCAST [LUKE]

This means to "bring reality" or "steadfastness" back to the sad depressed and wounded by FORGIVENESS. We have seen He gave it and He taught it as well-it was vital.

- i. No more depressed sad man could be found but the man paralysed in Luke 5.20=The paralytic met reality in accepting forgiveness from Jesus
- ii. Or Luke 7.47 the woman who poured ointment on Christ –she who was a sinner in the city. The woman faced reality in giving her all
- iii. Or the brother of 17.4 who repents 7 times in one day and one has to put up with him for two and a half months and be forgiving. He comes to reality in time
- iv. Or 11.4 the people our Lord had in mind when he coined "Forgive us as we forgive those in debt to us.–**To owe a massive debt** is intensely depressing. The debtor to mercy comes to reality by replicating mercy
- v. Or the posse that crucified Jesus. Such men could gloat over the thieves comeuppance but to see the sky almost fall and the rocks rend and know you are guilty was a sad sad day-and for hundreds who went away beating their breasts. DEPRESSION came to reality at the cross.

6. JESUS AND THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR [LUKE]

All gospel writers call Jesus "Messiah". Jesus said "I must proclaim the Kingdom of God 4.43

- 1. 1.33 The angel at His birth said his kingdom would be everlasting
- 2 He spoke of eating and drinking in his latter day kingdom 22.30
- 3. Pilate wrote Jesus title **This is the king of the Jews 23.38**

Aye and in another sense it was the year in which he offered up His life on our behalf at Calvary. Aye and the year in which he comes to bring his people home-the year of the rapture. Aye and the year in which Christ is crowned king of Israel –when the lion lies down

with the lamb –what a year that will be-when the last war of the world we know will end and Shiloh shall come.

(3) TRANSFIGURATION DAY ON MT HERMON- THE GOD-MAN

THE TRANSFIGURATION 1-13

In the 25th of 35 recorded journeys of Jesus 3 year ministry recorded by Luke the Lord took Peter, James and John by His side and “brought them(as a core group) to a place of right thinking and confidence” (*αναφερω*) privately-confidence in His wisdom and right thinking and plans to go to the cross. How did He do it? He was changed in form right in front of them. His face was beaming and radiant – beyond viewing, his garments glistened – white as light.

(A)BY THE SURPRISE MOVE OF BRINGING BACK MOSES & ELIJAH BEHOLD

Moses and Elijah appeared chatting with Him. The word suggests animation but does not demand that it be articulate to the disciples. Matthew writes “Peter replied” – which suggests there were introductions. He then responded in classic *Peter-speak* with “Lord, to be here is beautiful. Let us make three wooden tabernacles, one for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

This to us appears curious – even utterly out of place – but to the Jews who built booths each autumn at Tabernacles and who dwelt in tents as did the glory of God for forty years it was a bright idea... Peter at length appeared to have hit upon a glorious concept. He put it to the Lord in the hope He might incline readily to the idea.

(B) BY THE SURPRISE MOVE OF RESTORING THE SHEKINAH –sign of God for 40 years in the desert after Exodus

BEHOLD a tabernacle of bright cloud or cloud that transmitted light and teaching overshadowed them. This was Peter’s answer. The glory that accompanied the ancient tabernacle had arrived. That takes us back to *Exodus33.9* – not to the tabernacle amidst the people – but to “the tent of meeting” outside the camp. It spoke of the presence of the Almighty. It happened during the 40years of wilderness wanderings when the Lord is recorded as speaking 150 times to Moses in the Pentateuch. The occurrence promoted worship. So the glory cloud shed light on God’s plans *Exodus33.15* for His “presence” to go with His church as with the children of Israel.

(C) BY THE SURPRISE OF HAVING GOD THE FATHER SPEAK DIRECT TO THE THREE FISHERMEN BEHOLD

a voice from the cloud, saying,

“This is my Son the beloved, in whom I have been content, acquiesced, been content, glad – you must listen to Him.” Suddenly deity and trinity, prophecy and law all came together in Jesus.

(4) THE DAY JESUS DIED FOR OUR SINS-ONE MAN RANSOM

(A) DARK On this fourth day –**the darkest the world ever knew**-from 12noon to 3pm[1Apr 29AD?] the world turned dark Luke 27.45. At 3pm the hour of prayer Jesus “died”. Records from China and South America confirm as Paul said “This thing was not done in a corner”.

(B) WHAT ABOUT “PASSING AWAY”? When somebody dies we say euphemistically “He has passed away”. Do we mean “that’s the end”? Jesus showed us what’s involved in His “passing to another dimension..” when He said “Into your arms I commit my spirit”. His divine spirit re-entered the Joy of the Glorious Unity of the **life of God** John 5. 26

(C) WHY DEATH ?Recall “In the day you eat of the tree you will die”- that’s God’s curse. There is no reprieve without repentance & faith in Jesus. *That is precisely “Why He(Jesus) had to die?”* He said “The son of man is come to seek & save that which is lost” Passing over the judgment we deserve cancelling our curse & judgement writ clear in Genesis is God’s chosen way and the only way of restarting this old broken relationship and renewing the heart of man and it demands nothing less than **creating man all over again** in the image of the lamb of God-Jesus. Deut 21.23 decreed **death on a tree** as the solution to major sin. Mans sin was humongous –hence the cross.

(D) WHY WEAR A CROSS? Nicky Gumbel opens his world renowned Alpha Course series “Explore Life” with a crude gallows around his neck and pronouncing *that it would seem* insane to be proud of such a gallows. Jesus dealt with man’s sin on the cross. He conquered from the cross. He proclaimed your forgiveness from the cross. He declared our spirits are safe in the arms of God from the cross. He introduced us to the Father on the cross. He taught family care from the cross. He appealed for the end of suffering from the cross.

*O the old rugged cross so despised by the world
Has a wondrous attraction for me
For the dear lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark calvary*

(E) WHY NO OTHER WAY? Because our race is under the curse of sin & death *nobody, yes, nobody cursed for disobedience (proved by breaking the commandments)* can by good works gain favour with God and cannot avoid hell and the judgment of the second death but JUST BECAUSE Jesus took the curse redemption is possible and heaven is open. In fact as Jesus cried "It is finished" *tetelestai* from the cross He proclaimed "freedom" to all who believe in His atoning blood.

(F) WHY DID JEWISH SACRIFICE STOP? (Priests became Christians) As a sign of forgiveness by grace the curtain of the temple at Jerusalem was torn from top to bottom Matthew 27.51, Mark 15.38, LUKE 23.45) Jesus priesthood and sacrifice prevailed over animal death symbols.

*Free from the curse O happy condition
Jesus has died and I have remission*

Jesus declared an amnesty to those accepting His mediation countering the curse, eternal death and judgment and hell" The day He died on Calvary was the greatest day for FREEDOM in the history of humanity.

*At the cross at the cross where I first saw the light
And the burden of my heart rolled away
It was there by faith I received my sight
And now I am happy all the day.*

It was *W.E. Sangster*, a Londoner writing on *The Cross* quoted *Horace* "Never bring in a god unless to untie a knot that baffles human skill". The solution to sin's ruin demands God's intervention—that's precisely what the cross involves and ironically it was the legal high priest (Caiaphas) who declares the need for **Jesus to be the sin offering for the whole people.** **God planned the sacrifice and the priest elected of men executed it to prevent the death of the people.**

*The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day
And there may I though vile as he
Wash all my sins away*

(5) RESURRECTION DAY- MAN ALIVE

The Gospel of John has *200 proofs* that Jesus was divine.

I have selected five: one for **ladies**, one for **sporty types**; one for **gardeners**, one for **power walkers** and one for **philosophers, agnostics and sceptics.**

1 Mary finds at dawn the stone which had been rolled down a gradient in a channel and sealed rolled away and the armed guard slumped as if dead.

Matthew tells us it was the job of an angel who at one point was seen sitting on it. Mary by intuition knew somewhat special had happened **2 Peter and John** ran to check it out and see the head napkin which would require unwinding still knotted in its place- the head had passed out of the napkin & the body out of the graveclothes. The quick check left questions.

3 Mary returned and met two angels at head and foot where Jesus body had been. When she peeped in she was weeping. The angels asked “Why are you weeping?” She said “They have taken my Lord I don’t know where?” She sensed someone behind and thought He was the gardener and asked if He had taken the body. He said ‘MARY’. She immediately knew Jesus’ voice-‘My beloved teacher” she said. The gardener mattered.

4 About nightfall the disciples were in an upstairs room they used for meals –two erstwhile disappointed debating guys had just come from meeting Jesus 7.5 miles away-when He appeared within the walls not by the door and showed them His hands and feet. They knew those hands and with the scars of crucifixion He was unmistakable.

5 Thomas was absent-but a week on he who said “I will not believe unless I can test if those were real wounds”-he was there at the evening meal. Jesus returned 8 days after and put Thomas over the very words he spoke earlier. Jesus said Come test the wounds. He said “My Lord and my God.”

Paul refers to the greatest gathering after the resurrection before Jesus ascension when 500 plus plus saw him and He silenced every doubt by intimately approaching any who had lingering suspicions as to who He was. *Believe it or not Thomas carried the good news to India and died for it there hung up in an animal skin till the sun squeezed his life away.*

Jesus said “Because you have seen me whom you longed for you believed – blessed are those who have not seen firsthand and have believed once for all. Joy follows the victory of war – so it is with believers.(cf John 5.21 &26 Jesus is “The life” and “gives life”.

Jesus is risen

Joy joy joy my heart is full of joy
My Saviour dear is ever near-
That’s the reason why my heart is full of joy.

Jesus is Lord

O that with yonder sacred throng we at His feet may fall;
Join in the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all!

GLORY TO THE LAMB!

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