

THE GREATEST

APRIL 2022

In every field or sport there are those who rise above all the rest and excel beyond the ordinary. This is the week that we celebrate the greatest triumph in all of history..... the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We honor and remember him as the greatest person that ever lived. The word 'The Greatest' sums up all the events in the life of Jesus..... past, present and future.

The Greatest Heritage Jesus had the greatest family background one could ever imagine. We are not talking about Joseph and Mary, but the original family of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It was a place of glory, complete unity and perfect love - John 17:5, 11, 24.

The Greatest Birth Jesus was born in simplicity and obscurity, but what made his birth so great was that he was born of a virgin. He had to be, for any earthly Father would have imparted to baby Jesus a sinful Adamic nature. Jesus would need to be a sinless substitute for us so he was born of the Holy Spirit seed and DNA (Divine Nature Attributes).

The Greatest Life Jesus lived an exemplary life that even other religions do admire and sometimes seek to emulate. Mahatma Gandhi never became a believer in Jesus, but he was influenced by the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. Gandhi realized that the best way to bring freedom to India from the British was not through violent revolution but through peaceful protest and the changing of the hearts of the populace. Jesus lived the greatest life because he was the only person to walk this earth who lived in total purity in thought, word and action and walked in perfect love and grace. Jesus showed us that the greatest leader is the one who is the greatest servant. - John 13:14-17. He did not seek the praise of man but the glory and honor of the heavenly Father. - John 5:44, 7:18, 8:29

The Greatest Teacher Jesus had a way of explaining profound spiritual truths with authority, clarity, creativity and simplicity. His teaching brought life to the multitudes. He taught what he already lived. He was not swayed by the opinions of men. - Matthew 22:16

The Greatest Healer Jesus M.D. always had the perfect diagnosis and path of healing for those who came to Him. As one reads through the gospel accounts, one will see many different ways that Jesus healed people. There was no special formula, but each person was treated uniquely. Healing is wholeness which comes to a person's spirit, soul, mind, body, family and all areas of life.

The Greatest Prophet Jesus predicted many things to come, and his accuracy remains 100%. Muslims believe Jesus is a prophet and yet ignore one of his key prophecies; that he would be put to death and rise again from the dead. - Mark 9:30-32.

The Greatest Sacrifice The death of Jesus was the greatest sacrifice ever made. He died for the whole world population in all generations to ever live. It was the greatest expression of love to ever grace mankind. As they hoisted Jesus on the cross, he asked the Father to forgive them, for they did not know what they were doing. The first hours of the crucifixion his enemies mocked him but something happened which caused them to realize that something supernatural was taking place.

The Greatest Darkness As the noon day sun would be expected to give its brightest light, the sky suddenly turned dark. It was a sign of God's judgment on sin as the forces of evil converged upon Jesus. It was similar to the total darkness that engulfed the Egyptians when God brought judgment upon them 2000 years before. This time Jesus was bearing the sin of all mankind as he experienced the torments of hell. (Jesus saved us from the horror of hell, which is to be forever separated from God and the good things in this life which we take for granted. In hell there is no light, love, life, strength, communication, music, beauty, comfort, sleep, rest, peace, joy, kindness, goodness, fellowship, praise, laughter, water, food or purpose. Worst of all, there is no hope) At the end of the crucifixion, Jesus, despite his weakness, was able to shout with a loud voice that he was committing his spirit to God. He then gave up his spirit, for no man could take his life. He laid it down as a fragrant offering unto God on our behalf Ephesians 5:2. Just as Jesus died, God put an exclamation point upon it all as the earth shook, rocks split, tombs were opened and many holy people were raised and came out of them. A Roman centurion then realized that Jesus was truly the Son of God!

The Greatest Access At this same time the veil (curtain) of the temple was torn in two. This caught the attention of the Jewish leaders who condemned Jesus because he was a threat to their religious ways. Jesus had broken the barrier between man and God's holy presence. It was the end of religion and the start of perpetual access to the throne of God. - Hebrews 10:19-22. Only God could have torn the veil from the top down.

The Greatest Comeback All of us are familiar with people who have made a great come back from setbacks. You may think of an athlete who came back from a serious injury or a politician who came back from scandal or devastating defeat in an election. Jesus made the ultimate comeback.....from death! (Note: during the time that Jesus was dead, he was not suffering in hell and being tormented by the devil as some teach today. Jesus went to the place of the dead and proclaimed (preached) his victory. When he uttered the words on the CROSS, **IT IS FINISHED**, the sacrifice was done and paid in full. Jesus did not die in his spirit for it

was the 'through the sacrifice of the **body** of Jesus that we are made holy once for all' - Hebrews 10:10. The cross was enough.) Some teach that Jesus was 'born again' after dying spiritually, based on Colossians 1:18 where it says that Jesus is the 'first born from the dead'. The term born again there means Jesus was first in rank.

The Greatest Revelation

The return of Jesus to earth will reveal his glory. Many will shudder but his followers will rejoice.
- 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10.

The Greatest King

Jesus will reign with righteousness, justice and love. Jesus is the most humble person to walk this earth and will receive the greatest honor and worship for who He is and what he accomplished on this earth. In the end, truth, justice and love will have prevailed. Jesus was crowned with thorns by the Romans, but he will return to earth with a golden crown on his head - Revelation 14:14.

The Greatest Bridegroom

In so many great films, the hero overcomes great obstacles and defeats the enemy of the woman he loves. They are then reunited at the end as they go off into the sunset. Jesus was victorious over all the forces of darkness in order to purchase a bride that he loves so much. He is returning to earth to gather his bride and take her to the glorious place he is preparing for her. It will be the scene of

The Greatest Wedding

Jesus and his bride will live in paradise for all eternity.
Revelation 19:6-9. It is the culmination of the message of the whole Bible which could aptly be described as.....

The Greatest Love Story Ever Told

The Greatest Offer

John 3:16 '.....whoever trusts in the Son of God will have eternal life.'
'Whoever is thirsty, let him come and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.' - Jesus / Revelation 22:17
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