

The Greatest Life Ever Lived



December 25, 2012

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Nearly two thousand years ago in an obscure village, a child was born of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village (called Nazareth) where He worked as a carpenter until He was thirty.

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Then for three short years He became an itinerant preacher. He healed the sick, cast out demonic powers, calmed the raging storm, multiplied food to feed the hungry and most important of all He taught the principles of an unseen Kingdom, that radically challenged human thinking.

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This man never went to college or seminary. He never wrote a book. He never held a public office. He never had a family nor owned a home. He never put His foot inside a big city nor traveled even 200 miles from His birthplace. And though He never did any of the things that usually accompany greatness, throngs of people followed Him.

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While He was still young, the tide of public opinion turned against Him. His followers ran away. He was turned over to His enemies and sentenced to death on a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth - the simple coat He had worn. His body was laid in a

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But three days later this Man arose from the dead - living proof that He was, as He had claimed, the Savior whom God had sent, the Incarnate Son of God.

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Centuries have come and gone and today the risen Lord Jesus Christ is the central figure of the human race. On our calendars His birth divides history into two eras. One day of every week is set aside in remembrance of Him. And our two most important holidays celebrate His birth and resurrection. On church steeples around the

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This one Man's life has furnished the theme for more songs, books, poems and paintings than any other person or event in history. Thousands of colleges, hospitals, orphanages and other institutions have been founded in honor of this One who gave His life for us.

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All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the governments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned have not changed the course of history as much as this One Solitary Life.

This is JESUS CHRIST!

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H. G. Wells, British writer, (1866-1946)

“By this test, Jesus stands first.”

“I am a historian, I am not a believer, but I must confess as a historian that this penniless preacher from Nazareth is irrevocably the very center of history. Jesus Christ is easily the most dominant figure in all history.” “Christ is the most unique person of history. No man can write a history of the human race without giving first and foremost

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He was 'very' human.

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He was compassionate.

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He faced temptations.

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**He was powerful. He healed the
sick and dominated demons,
disease and death.**

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**He suffered humiliation, false
accusation and eventually death
on the Cross.**

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Today 2000 years later:

- **Lives are radically transformed by faith in this Man**

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Today 2000 years later:

- **Sick bodies are healed in the name of this Man**

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Today 2000 years later:

- **Demons tremble at the sound of His name**

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Napoleon Bonaparte, First Emperor of France (1769-1821)

Well then, I will tell you. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne and I myself have founded great empires; but upon what did these creations of our genius depend? Upon force. Jesus alone founded His empire upon love, and to this very day millions will die for

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Napoleon Bonaparte, First Emperor of France (1769-1821)

. . . I think I understand something of human nature; and I tell you, all these were men, and I am a man; none else is like Him: Jesus Christ was more than a man. . . . I have inspired multitudes with such an enthusiastic devotion that they would have

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**Napoleon Bonaparte, First Emperor of
France (1769-1821)**

***When I saw men and spoke to them, I
lightened up the flame of self-devotion in
their hearts. . . . Christ alone has succeeded
in so raising the mind of man toward the
unseen, that it becomes insensible to the
barriers of time and space.***

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Napoleon Bonaparte, First Emperor of France (1769-1821)

Across a chasm of eighteen hundred years, Jesus Christ makes a demand which is beyond all others difficult to satisfy; He asks for that which a philosopher may often seek in vain at the hands of his friends, or a father of his children, or a bride of her

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Napoleon Bonaparte, First Emperor of France (1769-1821)

He demands it unconditionally; and forthwith His demand is granted. Wonderful! In defiance of time and space, the soul of man, with all its powers and faculties, becomes an annexation to the empire of Christ. All who sincerely believe

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Napoleon Bonaparte, First Emperor of France (1769-1821)

This phenomenon is unaccountable; it is altogether beyond the scope of man's creative powers. Time, the great destroyer, is powerless to extinguish this sacred flame; time can neither exhaust its strength nor put a limit to its range. This is it, which

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The Eternal God became man.

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**He came to demonstrate God's
love.**

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He came to redeem mankind.

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**He came to model for us the life
that God intends for us.**

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**He came to empower us to live life
the Jesus Way!**

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**His was the greatest life ever
lived.**

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"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)