



## **This Man, Jesus**

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The Bible says the way to heaven is through Jesus. Why? What was so different or special about this man? Since God is perfect, holy and righteous, he does not want to co-exist with sin. Yet we have all sinned and fallen short of his glory. The punishment for sinning, we are told, is death. Without a Savior, all humanity is doomed. But God loves us. It breaks his heart to see us live for even a few moments in time, without hope of a continual existence with him.

According to John 1, Jesus was originally part of the Godhead. He was there when God said, "Let us make man in our image..." Yet, he was willing to give up his deity and take on human form with flesh, blood and bone. He was born of the Virgin Mary and the Holy Spirit. In the beginning, we also see the Holy Spirit was part of the Godhead. The very first verse of the Bible says he was hovering over the waters. And so, we have the triune God.

Jesus lived his life upon this earth as a man without sin, setting us an example of the ways of God. As he grew and matured, he became aware of his relationship to God and his purpose. At the young age of thirty-three, he willingly gave his life to rescue humanity from their fate. He had no sin of his own to deserve the punishment of death. Because he had been part of the Godhead, he carried the DNA of God within him, for all children carry the DNA of their parents. This made his life worth more than all peoples together—whoever lived or will live.

Instigated by jealous foes, Jesus was arrested, condemned and sentenced to death. He was beaten mercilessly until unrecognizable. As was done in those days, he was nailed to a cross as a common criminal and left to die. In this dark hour, God placed the sins of the world on this young man's shoulders. Three hours passed as he hung on the cross awaiting his last breath. The sky began to darken turning shades of black and deep blue, the color of his many bruises. Blood trickled and ran from his wounds, as he became the sacrificial lamb for the world. Death approached and his coat of righteousness was stripped away, being replaced by all the ugliness, evil, malicious wrongdoings of all humankind.

God watched from heaven, then looked away and turned his back on the Son he loved. Jesus cried out, "Why have you forsaken me?" But now he was covered in the sins of the world. With his last breath, he uttered the words— "It is finished." He had completed his purpose. Humanity now had a way to be released from the penalty of their sins. They were set free from the sins that enslaved them. Free to establish a relationship with the God who created them and loved them. God draws us to himself as we come to be washed in the blood of his son. Cleansed, we are covered with his righteousness.

Take time to remember the tremendous love God had for mankind to give the life of his son willingly for us. Take time to remember the deep love Jesus had, to do the will of his father by sacrificing his life, willingly, for ours. Salvation, the good news, isn't about how good we are or which church we belong to; it is about God's mercy, love and sacrifice for us.