

Who is Jesus and why did He come to earth?

Gen. 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Gen. 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts.

God is the creator of all things.

Gen. 2:8 The Lord God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. **9** Out of the ground the Lord God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Gen. 2:16 The Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; **17** but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

But some time later

Gen. 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'" **2** The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; **3** but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" **4** The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! **5** "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." **6** When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

In the New Testament we read about this

Rom. 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man the sin entered into the world, and the death through the sin, and so the death spread to all men, because all sinned

So, man had sinned. Did man do better over time? About 1,500 years later we come to the time of Noah.

Gen. 6:5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. **6** The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. **7** The Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made

them." **8** But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

About another 200 years later, Gen. 11:4 They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *is* in heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

5 The Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. **6** The Lord said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them.

Another 200 years later God chose one man, Abraham, and made four contractual promises to Him and His descendants.

1. Land - Gen 15:18-24
2. Descendants and He would be their God - Gen 17:6ff
3. Circumcisions as a sign - Gen 17:10
4. Multiplied descendants, who is a HE

who would control His enemies - **Gen. 22:17** indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of His enemies. **18** "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

In three generations this family traveled to Egypt according to God's plan and stayed for 400 years. In Exodus, this family abandoned hope of the land and God's other promises, but God rescued them from Egypt with ten plagues. However, the people complained shortly after leaving the land.

Ex. 14:11 Then they said to Moses, "Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you dealt with us in this way, bringing us out of Egypt?" **12** "Is this not the word that we spoke to you in Egypt, saying, 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness."

Ex. 15:22 Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. **23** When they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter; therefore it was named Marah. **24** So the people grumbled at Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"

Ex. 16:2 The whole congregation of the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. **3** The sons of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the Lord’s hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat, when we ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

Ex. 17:1 Then all the congregation of the sons of Israel journeyed by stages from the wilderness of Sin, according to the command of the Lord, and camped at Rephidim, and there was no water for the people to drink. **2** Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water that we may drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” **3** But the people thirsted there for water; and they grumbled against Moses and said, “Why, now, have you brought us up from Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?”

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Ex. 19:1 In the third month after the sons of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. **2** When they set out from Rephidim, they came to the wilderness of Sinai and camped in the wilderness; and there Israel camped in front of the mountain. **3** Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel: **4** ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles’ wings, and brought you to Myself. **5** ‘Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; **6** and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.” **7** So Moses came and called the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the Lord had commanded him. **8** All the people answered together and said, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do!” And Moses brought back the words of the people to the Lord.

So God gave them the Law with the ten commandments.

So, did they obey this law?

2Kings 17:6 In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and carried Israel away into exile to Assyria, and settled them in Halah and Habor, *on* the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. **7** Now *this* came about

because the sons of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up from the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and they had feared other gods **8** and walked in the customs of the nations whom the Lord had driven out before the sons of Israel, and *in the customs* of the kings of Israel which they had introduced. **9** The sons of Israel did things secretly which were not right against the Lord their God. Moreover, they built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city. **10** They set for themselves *sacred* pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree, **11** and there they burned incense on all the high places as the nations *did* which the Lord had carried away to exile before them; and they did evil things provoking the Lord. **12** They served idols, concerning which the Lord had said to them, “You shall not do this thing.”

In fact, almost one thousand years later the last prophet of the Old Testament wrote, Mal. 2:17

You have wearied the Lord with your words. Yet you say, “How have we wearied *Him*?” In that you say, “Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and He delights in them,” or, “Where is the God of justice?”

How about us? Have we done better?

Rom. 3:9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; ...**19** Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God.

So, about four hundred years later between 7 and 4 BC, Jesus came to earth. Most had given up hope that God would give them their kingdom and King. The people were under Roman rule. So they responded mainly in one of two ways. Like Matthew/Levi who wrote Matthew - the worked with the Romans. Matthew was a tax collector. Others like Simon the Zealot (a disciple of Jesus) plotted to undermined or even rebel against Rome. But Jesus announced that the kingdom was near.

Matt. 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

But when Jesus told them about this kingdom, He warned them.

Matt. 5:20 “For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses *that* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. **These were religious scholars.**

What does this righteousness look like?

Matt. 5:21 “You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘You shall not commit murder’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.’ **22** “But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty *enough to go* into the fiery hell.

Matt. 5:27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery’; **28** but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Matt. 5:38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ **39** “But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

Matt. 5:43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ **44** “But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Matt. 7:28 When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; **29** for He was teaching them as *one* having authority, and not as their scribes.

Jesus then went and healed many people.

Matt. 8:1 When Jesus came down from the mountain, large crowds followed Him. ...**16** When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill.

Matt. 9:11 When the Pharisees saw *this*, they said to His disciples, “Why is your Teacher eating with the tax collectors and sinners?” **12** But when Jesus heard *this*, He said, “*It is* not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick. **13** “But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire compassion, and not sacrifice,’ for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.

Israel’s leaders accused Jesus of casting out demons by the prince of demons.

Matt. 9:34 But the Pharisees were saying, “He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons.”

Matt. 11:12 “From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men seize it by force.

Matt. 11:16 “But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market places, who call out to the other *children*, **17** and say, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’

18 “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon!’ **19** “The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

20 Then He began to denounce the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent.

Matt. 12:7 “But if you had known what this means, ‘I desire compassion, and not a sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the innocent. **8** “For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

Matt. 12:9 Departing from there, He went into their synagogue. **10** And a man *was there* whose hand was withered. And they questioned Jesus, asking, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?” — so that they might accuse Him. **11** And He said to them, “What man is there among you who has a sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it and lift it out? **12** “How much more valuable then is a man than a sheep! So then, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.”

13 Then He *said* to the man, “Stretch out your hand!” He stretched it out, and it was restored to normal, like the other. **14** But the Pharisees went out and conspired against Him, *as to* how they might destroy Him.

So when they arrested Him and tried Him and He admitted that He is God, they were furious.

Matt. 26:63 But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest said to Him, “I adjure You by the living God, that You tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God.” **64** Jesus *said* to him, “You have said *yourself*; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.” **65** Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has blasphemed! What further need do we have of witnesses? Behold, you have now

heard the blasphemy; **66** what do you think?" They answered, "He deserves death!"

When a Roman official questioned them about Jesus we read,

Matt. 27:22 Pilate *said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all *said, "Crucify Him!" **23** And he said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they kept shouting all the more, saying, "Crucify Him!" **24** When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but rather that a riot was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this Man's blood; see *to that* yourselves."

Matt. 27:33 And when they came to a place called Golgotha, which means Place of a Skull, **34** they gave Him wine to drink mixed with gall; and after tasting *it*, He was unwilling to drink. **35** And when they had crucified Him, they divided up His garments among themselves by casting lots. **36** And sitting down, they *began* to keep watch over Him there. **37** And above His head they put up the charge against Him which read, "THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS."

Matt. 27:50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

Matt. 27:59 And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, **60** and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away.

Matt. 28:1 Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first *day* of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. **2** And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. **3** And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. **4** The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men. **5** The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. **6** "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.

Matt. 28:8 And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples. **9** And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. **10** Then Jesus *said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me."

Later, in Acts His disciples said,

Acts 10:43 "Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

and

Acts 13:38 "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, **39** and through Him everyone who believes is declared righteous from all things, from which you could not be declared righteous through the Law of Moses.

Do, you wish to be forgiven all your sins?

Do, you wish to be righteous with God?

Then you too need to believe that Jesus came to die for our sins to be buried and to rise again.

1Cor. 15:3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,