

“He’s Alive...”

It is amazing how songs affect our lives. When it comes to the above topic there are many choices of songs that sometimes become a part of our inner being. One such song for me is quite traditional at Easter time. That song is “*He Lives.*” A portion of that song goes like this; “*He walks with me and talks with me along life’s narrow way. You ask me how I know he lives; he lives within my heart.*” Unfortunately, for a lot of people this is not true. May I share a few thoughts with you for just a moment?

We can find no one today that is an academic or any religion of today that says Jesus did not walk on this earth about two thousand years ago. Jesus did walk on this earth. If one can accept this then one can also accept the fact that he was a great person of history. No one in the field of academics or any religion of this world denies this. In addition they do not deny that he was a teacher and miracle worker. So, what is the problem? Jesus being the Son of God and a resurrection from the dead after crucifixion appears to be the problem. That is where some academics and some religions draw their line. Why? To accept that Jesus is the Son of God and that He resurrected from the dead means that He Lives.

Have you ever been in a position where you have witnessed something and your immediate response is I can’t believe what I just saw. You saw it with your own eyes and still you can’t believe. Illusionists can put most of us in that frame of mind. But remember, you saw it and you could not believe. Did your eyes trick you or.....? That is exactly what an illusion is. One’s eyes and mind are tricked for a period of time. You know what I am talking about. Witnessing a person being cut in half and separating the parts of their bodies and watching their hands and toes move. Or, a person in a box and a bunch of sharp spears shoved through the box and when the box is open...well, the spears you see but the person is gone. Were the people of Jesus time tricked? Certainly not, especially the Romans who crucified him. You are on a cross for hours, your body is pierced with a spear and you die. Roman soldiers were not in the habit of taking people off a cross until they were dead. Jesus was dead. That was no illusion. He was put in a tomb and the tomb was sealed. Roman soldiers guarded the tomb. As far as the Romans were concerned the body of Jesus was destined to be in one place after the death on a cross and that place was a tomb. And that is exactly where he was until

Have you ever had to testify in court as a witness? I did once and let me tell you that is something you do not forget. It also makes you very aware of how a part of our judicial system works. And before one testifies, hand placed on the Bible and another hand raised and “Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?” The truth. There has been no one today in the academic field or any religion that discounts the fact that Jesus walked on the earth. That is the truth. So, if He walked and He also taught and He was a healer and this is the truth, then where do we find people who witnessed his healing and denied it? Certainly not the Romans of ancient times. A Roman centurion, a man in authority over many soldiers identifies Jesus as Lord and when Jesus offers the man help that he requests.....

you know the storythe servant was healed. An illusion. No. The servant was healed. A teacher, a healer. The Truth. Well, after the death of Jesus, after he was placed in a guarded tomb, his followers found themselves in a locked room, scared, and hiding. Their Master, their teacher, the healer was gone and they were afraid. Then suddenly, ***“Peace be with you.”*** Jesus appears to them, not just once but twice and the second time, remember Thomas, doubting Thomas? ***“My Lord and my God!”*** The Truth. And before his ascension Jesus appeared to hundreds of people. No illusion. The Truth. Paul writes that Jesus appeared to five hundred people at one time and further stated that if one did not believe him, he told them to go talk to these who were witnesses. Eyewitnesses of a man who they saw and heard and had died days before and placed in a tomb. And we have historical evidence, written documents by those who were recording history as it occurred verifying Jesus walking again on this earth, preaching, teaching and healing **after** his death. No illusion. No ordinary man. And this resurrection is the best evidence of the one thing that many want to deny. This resurrection meant that this Jesus was the Son of God. The Truth based on evidence, on scripture, on eyewitness accounts. He Lives and He is Alive.

“You ask me how I know he lives; he lives within my heart.”

Matthew 28:6

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