



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#68)
Good News – Facts about Jesus (2)

The **FIVE** JESUS facts.

1. His life on earth.
2. His death.
3. His resurrection.
4. His ascension into heaven.
5. His future coming.

Based on EYEWITNESS accounts...

- ✓ HIS LIFE AND DEATH...
We ourselves are witnesses of everything [Jesus] did ...
Acts 10:39a (CSB)
- ✓ AFTER HE CAME BACK TO LIFE...
[Seen] by us whom God appointed as witnesses, ...
Ac 10:41b (CSB)

The reason for such accounts...

... you will know that what you've been told is true.
Luke 1:4 (GW)

THE BOOK OF ACTS SHOWS HOW THESE FACTS ARE PART OF THE GOOD NEWS.

FOR MORE DETAILS
We can look throughout the New Testament.

The FIVE "Jesus facts"

1. His life on earth.
2. His death.
3. His resurrection.
4. His ascension into heaven.
5. His future coming.

- 1) **His life, death, resurrection, etc.**
We have detailed reports in the gospels (= Matthew, Mark, Luke, John). Also future events in the book of Revelation.
- 2) **The significance of these facts.**
This is explained in the epistles (= the New Testament books after Acts), and in some parts of the gospels (especially John).

★ **In the book of Acts, we see...** →

✓ **FACT #1 – HIS LIFE ON EARTH.**

In Acts, there is less focus on FACT #1.

- Luke (who wrote Acts) already recorded this information in the gospel that goes by his name.
- The apostles placed greater emphasis on the facts surrounding the purpose of his coming – his death, resurrection, etc.
- What they said about FACT #1 would be determined by the situation at hand.

MANY OF THE JEWS ALREADY KNEW THESE DETAILS, AND DIDN'T NEED RETOLD.

"People of Israel, listen! God **publicly endorsed** Jesus of Nazareth by doing wonderful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, **as you well know.**"
Acts 2:22 (NLT)

Even so, we do find some basic summary statements:

⇒ **GOD DEMONSTRATED HIS APPROVAL OF JESUS.**

God **publicly endorsed** Jesus of Nazareth ...
Acts 2:22b (NLT)

(Those who killed Jesus knew this.. which shows how horrible and inexcusable their actions really were.)

⇒ **JESUS WAS ANOINTED (CHOSEN AND PREPARED) BY GOD FOR A SPECIAL PURPOSE. WITH THE SPIRIT'S POWER, HE DID MANY GOOD THINGS.**

... God **anointed** Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, ... he went about **doing good** and **healing** all who were under the tyranny of the devil, because God was with him.
Acts 10:38 (CSB)

⇒ **HE WAS ALSO SUPERIOR TO JOHN THE BAPTIZER.** (See Acts 13:24-25.)

✓ **FACT #2 – HIS DEATH.**

The Jews rejected and killed Jesus (with the help of non-Jews).

The apostles did not downplay the seriousness. They described it exactly the way it was, even when speaking directly to those who did the evil deed. ("You killed him....")

"... this Jesus whom you crucified."
Acts 2:36b (NASB)

... you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.
Acts 2:23b (NIV)

Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you [God] anointed.
Acts 4:27 (NIV)

JESUS' DEATH: FULFILLING PROPHECY AND GOD'S SOVEREIGN PLAN.

By killing Jesus, the people were accomplishing what Scripture said would happen. God's sovereignty was involved.

Human responsibility was also involved, since Scripture says that the two concepts *work together*.)

Though he was delivered up according to God's determined plan and foreknowledge, you used lawless people to nail him to a cross and kill him.

Acts 2:23 (CSB)

In this way God fulfilled what he had predicted through all the prophets—that his Messiah would suffer.

Acts 3:18 (CSB)

In fact, everything they did occurred according to your eternal will and plan.

Acts 4:28 (NLT)

The Jews had no legitimate excuse for rejecting and killing Jesus.

IF they had been willing to pay attention to Old Testament Scripture, they would have recognized who Jesus was.

The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled **the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath.**

Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. When they had carried out **all that was written about him**, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb.

Acts 13:27-29 (NIV)

SINCE they *ignored* Scripture, they *fulfilled* Scripture... and will be held accountable for doing so.

Here are some examples of prophecy they fulfilled ...

EXAMPLE #1 **The prophets told about the way Jesus would be mistreated.**

EXAMPLE: ISAIAH 53:7-8 DESCRIBED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO JESUS.

The passage of Scripture he [= the official] had been reading was this:

THE O.T. QUOTE { "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter. And as a lamb is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. He was humiliated and received no justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth."

... So Philip began with this same Scripture and then used many others to tell him the Good News about Jesus.

Acts 8:32-33, 35 (NLT)

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED!

EXAMPLE #2 **The prophets described the people's attitude.**

EXAMPLE: PSALM 2:1-2 – A DESCRIPTION OF THEIR REBELLION.

"You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

THE O.T. QUOTE { " 'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.'

Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed.

Acts 4:25-27 (NIV)

Trying to keep Jesus dead was a "vain plot" that could not succeed! (See example #3.)

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED!

LIKE MOST PEOPLE, THEY CONSIDERED THEMSELVES BETTER THAN THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE THEM.

"And you say, 'If we had lived in the days of our forefathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' "

Matthew 23:30 (NIV)

IN REALITY, THEY WERE NO BETTER.

Their ancestors killed God's prophets; they killed Jesus.

"You are always resisting the Holy Spirit. As your ancestors did, you do also. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They even killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become."

Acts 7:51b-52 (CSB)

EXAMPLE #3 **The prophets also stated that Jesus would not stay dead.**

QUOTING PSALM 16:10 – JESUS' DEATH WAS ONLY A TEMPORARY MATTER.

But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was **impossible** for death to keep its hold on him.

David said about him:

THE O.T. QUOTE { ... you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

Seeing *what* was ahead, [David] spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay.

Acts 2:24-25a, 27, 31 (NIV)

THE O.T. QUOTE { Another psalm says, 'You will not allow your holy one to decay.' [David died...] However, the man God brought back to life [= Jesus] had a body that didn't decay.

Acts 13:35, 37 (GW)

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED!

Jesus **COULDN'T** stay dead! It was **impossible!**

There are many reasons this would be true (such as Jesus' deity, his sinless nature, etc.)

But even if they didn't know "why" it was true, they should have paid attention to the prophecies that **told them** it was true.

If they had paid attention to the Scripture they claimed to believe...

Not only would they have NOT killed Jesus... but they would have realized that attempting to do so would be a futile act, guaranteed to fail in the long run!

Since the "death" aspect was only a temporary point in time, and could not last forever...

This brings us to the next fact...

FACT #3 – HIS RESURRECTION.

Jesus' corpse **couldn't** decay; he **couldn't** stay dead. He **had to** come back to life! And this is exactly what happened.

With great power the apostles continued to testify that the Lord Jesus had come back to life.

Acts 4:33a (GW)

But God raised him from the dead, and for many days he was seen by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people.

Acts 13:30-31 (NIV)

JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION – TWO INTERRELATED FACTS.

Since Jesus' body **couldn't** experience decay, his resurrection is almost like the "logical conclusion" of his death!

AN ONGOING THEME: **THEY KILLED JESUS... GOD RAISED HIM TO LIFE.**

You killed the author of life, but **God** raised him to life. And we are witnesses of this fact!

Acts 3:15 (NLT)

With the help of lawless Gentiles, **you** nailed him to the cross and murdered him. However, **God** released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life again, ...

Acts 2:23b-24a (NLT)

"**They** killed him by hanging him on a tree, but **God** raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. ... by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead."

Acts 10:39b-40, 41b (NIV)

(More examples: See Acts 4:10b; 5:30.)

THESE TWO FACTS – JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION – HAVE A CENTRAL ROLE IN THE GOOD NEWS...

Both are constantly stressed – because without them, **there would be no Good News.**

BOTH WERE REVEALED IN OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE CENTURIES BEFORE THEY OCCURRED.

[Paul] reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to **suffer and rise from the dead.** "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah."

Acts 17:2b-3 (CSB)

"[I am] saying nothing other than what the prophets and Moses said would take place—that the Messiah would **suffer**, and that, as the first to **rise from the dead**, he would proclaim light to our people and to the Gentiles."

Acts 26:22b-23 (CSB)

YOUR MISSION

CONSIDER the FACTS and their role in your salvation!

The FIVE "Jesus facts"

1. His life on earth.
2. His death.
3. His resurrection.
4. His ascension into heaven.
5. His future coming.

FACT #1 – The foundation that makes the other facts possible.

FACTS #2 & #3 – A central part of the Good News. **BUT THEY ARE CENTRAL FOR A REASON:**

These two "Jesus facts" – his death and resurrection – make **FACTS #4 & #5** possible.

(God willing, we will look at them next time.)

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