



The Four Greatest Days in Human History

Nearly 40 years ago on July 16, 1969 Apollo 11 departed earth with three astronauts aboard to achieve a mission that before had never been accomplished-land a manned spacecraft on the moon and take a “moon walk”. The task was accomplished successfully as Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon.

These men were willing to set aside the safety and security of their surroundings on earth to go to an environment that they knew was hostile and involved great risk with no guarantee that they would return to earth safely. They were compelled by their sense of duty to the country as President John F. Kennedy in a 1962 speech given at Rice University in Houston, Texas, reaffirmed America's commitment to landing a man on the moon before the end of the 1960s.

2000 years ago Jesus was compelled by a sense of duty and obedience of His Father to leave the security, comfort and splendor of heaven to come to this hostile environment of earth. Jesus was willing to set aside His glory and fellowship with the Father to come to this earth where he would be rejected by his own family,

where he would be spat upon, mocked, beaten, and eventually placed on a cross and crucified. The Astronauts engaged in their journey not knowing exactly what they would encounter, but continued with the expectation that they would return safely to earth. Jesus however, knew exactly what He would encounter and yet He willingly came, knowing the consequences that would await His arrival.

Thousands of years before Jesus came to earth, He and God the Father were involved in the creation of the world and man. John chapter one refers to Jesus as the Word. John writes, “In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with God and the Word was God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made”. God and Jesus had created a perfect world and a perfect husband and wife to take care of the earth that God had made. You know the story; Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit and plunged the world into sin. The sin of Adam and Eve has been passed down to every man and woman since that day. God cannot look upon sin. Sin separated man from God. Man was doomed to spend both his temporal life on earth and his eternal life separated from God.

Even though man had brought the curse of sin upon himself, God still loved us and wanted the relationship to be restored. The only way for this relationship to be restored was through the sacrifice for sin that was required to satisfy Gods righteous demands. God’s righteous demands could only be satisfied by God’s Son Jesus coming to earth and being the sacrifice for the sins of mankind. The Bible says in Romans chapter five, “For by one mans disobedience (Adam) many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one (Jesus) shall many be made righteous”.

Luke chapter two gives us the account of the coming of Jesus to earth to save man from their sins. Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem because of an enrollment decree, which commanded

each Hebrew citizen to be counted from that town where he or she was born. During their journey Mary gives birth to the Savior. She “wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn”. This was the fourth greatest day in all of human history.

The third greatest day in human history occurred 33 ½ years later when this baby, who was born in a stable in Bethlehem, went to the cross of Calvary where he died for the sins of the world. “And when they were come to the place which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left” (Luke 23:33).

The second greatest day in human history occurred three days after Jesus was crucified when an angel announced, “Fear ye not; for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here; for he is risen as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay” (Matthew 28:5,6).

The greatest day in human history is yet to happen. It will occur when Jesus comes back to earth to establish his millennial reign upon earth. “And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever” (Revelations 11:15).

When Jesus came to earth the first time at His birth in 4 B.C., He came as a suffering Savior who came for the purpose of laying down His life so that we can be saved from our sins and receive everlasting life. When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem the Sunday before His crucifixion he rode into the city on the back of a lowly donkey. It was customary in that day when a king from a foreign land rode into town on a donkey it meant he was coming to make peace. If the king arrived on a horse it meant that he had come to make war and establish his kingdom.

Jesus came to make peace between sinful man and the righteous God. “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him” (John 3:36).

The next time Jesus comes to earth He will be riding on a horse. This time Jesus will not come as the suffering Savior but He will come as a mighty king to destroy the enemies of God and establish His kingdom. “And I saw heaven opened; and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True; and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS” (Revelations 19:11,15,16).

It is an awesome thought to ponder that Jesus would step out of the portals of heaven and take on the form of human flesh who was tempted as we are, who endured all the physical limitations that we do (He thirsted, He was hungry, He hurt, He wept) yet Jesus endured all of this to save us from our sins. All we have to do to receive eternal life is to receive Christ’s offer of forgiveness and invite Jesus into our life and make Him our Savior and our King.

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