

Jesus in History



What was Jesus' Impact?

Jesus' Impact



Joh 20:29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

- ✧ Joh 20:30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;
- ✧ Joh 20:31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Jesus' Impact



- ❧ What was written in the word of God was enough for many to believe throughout the years.
- ❧ The testimonies and the acts of men and women down through the centuries continue to speak of Jesus.
- ❧ *Rev_12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their **testimony**, and they did not love their lives to the death.*

Jesus' Impact



❧ One Solitary Life

❧ Jesus is Lord, yet He declares His Lordship through the power of humility and grace...

"Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty and then for three years was an itinerant preacher. He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college.

Jesus' Impact



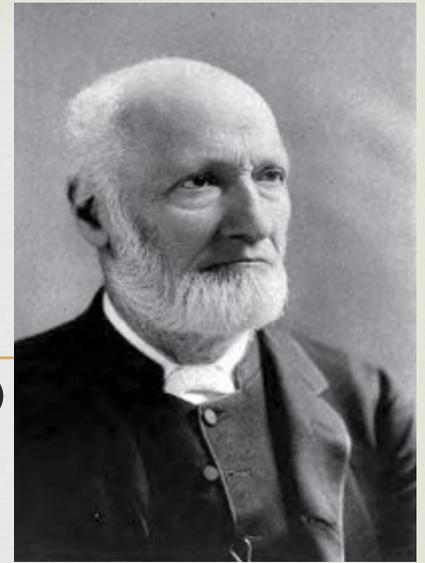
- ❧ He never put his foot inside a big city. He never traveled more than two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He never did one of those things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but himself....
- ❧ "While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed on a cross between two thieves. While he was dying his executors gambled for the only piece of property he had on earth - His coat. When he was dead, He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Jesus' Impact



❧ "Nineteen long centuries have come and gone and today He is the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever were built, all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life."

Jesus' Impact



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- ☞ Philip Schaff (Christian Historian of the 19th century)
- ☞ *"Jesus of Nazareth, without money and arms, conquered more millions than Alexander the Great, Caesar, Mohammed, and Napoleon; without science and learning, he shed more light on things human and divine than all philosophers and scholars combined; without the eloquence of school, he spoke such words of life as were never spoken before or since, and produced effects which lie beyond the reach of orator or poet; without writing a single line, he set more pens in motion, and furnished themes for more sermons, orations, discussions, learned volumes, works of art, and songs of praise than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times."*

Jesus' Impact

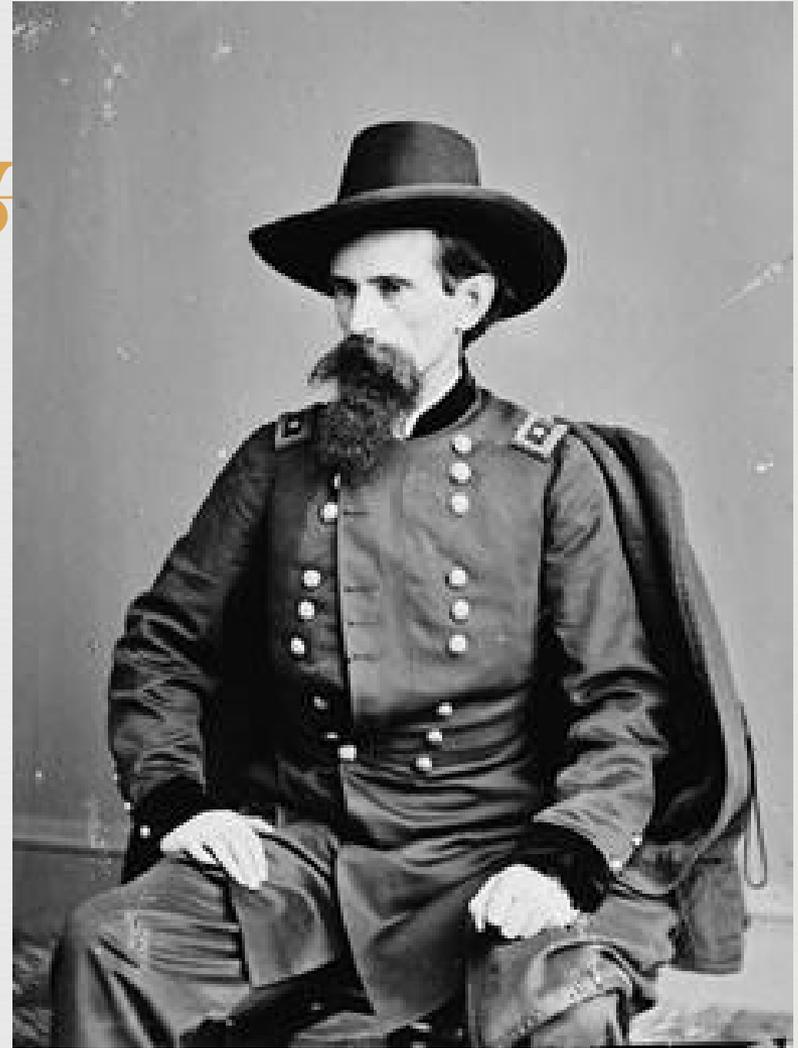


❧ *Modern Day Christians*

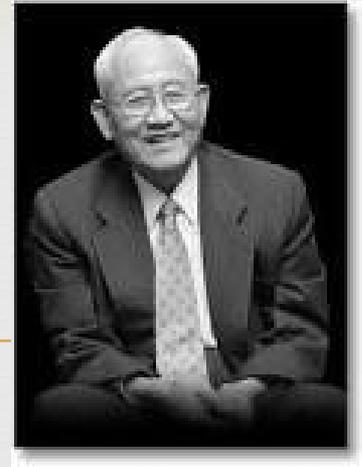
- ❧ The power of Christ knows no boundary of time or space. In our own age, many skeptics have been convinced just as thoroughly their first-century counterparts. For example, Lew Wallace, a famous general and literary genius, was a known **atheist**. For two years, Wallace studied in the leading libraries of Europe and America, seeking information that would forever destroy Christianity. While writing the second chapter of a book outlining his arguments, he suddenly found himself on his knees crying out to Jesus, "My Lord and my God."

Jesus' Impact

When confronted by solid indisputable evidence, he could no longer deny that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. Later, Lew Wallace wrote the book Ben Hur, one of the greatest English novels ever written concerning the time of Christ.



Jesus' Impact



Similarly, in Korea, Joon Gon Kim, a well-known Christian leader, witnessed his wife and father slaughtered before his eyes by Communist sympathizers from his own village. He himself was beaten senseless and left for dead. He survived the beating and asked God to give him love for the souls of his enemies. He eventually led 30 Communists to believe in Christ, including the person responsible for the death of his family members.

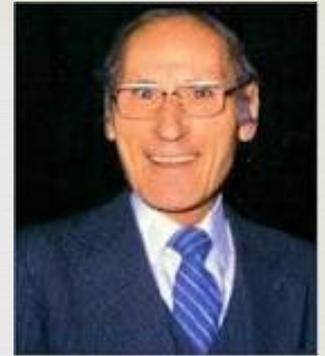
Jesus' Impact



Many other men and women in our century have dedicated their lives to spreading the Christian message, often braving torture and death. For example, one of Romania's most widely known Christian leaders, Richard Wurmbrand, spent 14 years in prison and was repeatedly tortured for running the underground church under Communist rule. Even after international pressure secured his release from Romania, he continued to receive death threats from the Communist regime. But these attempts at intimidation did not silence him. He kept publicly spreading the good news of Christ.

Tortured for His Faith

Haralan Popov



✧ This book exemplifies the requisition for Christians to submit completely and without reservation to Jesus Christ. Popov was blessed with physical manifestations of Jesus during his darkest hour. His experiences after 13 consecutive years of torture, fear and starvation enabled him to proclaim this period of his life as an experience he would not trade, and without hesitation, to declare it was all worth it. To walk out of the Bulgarian Communist prison system after 13 years, recounting the countless men who came to Christ and went on to be with the Lord, Popov has said it was indeed worth every moment of suffering he was privileged to endure. This is truly a special man and a wonderful book to read again and again.

Jesus' Impact



- ❧ Not only does the love of Christ impel Christians to face persecution and death but also to work to make the world a better place.
- ❧ Mother Theresa was an outstanding example of a life poured in the service of Christ. Of her well-known ministry among the poor, she said: "*Our work is only the expression of the love we have for God.*"



Jesus' Impact



- ❧ Like her, many others have given their lives to serve the destitute and the outcast, either in their homeland or abroad. William and Katherine Booth, founders of the Salvation Army, believed that ministering to the poor was like ministering to Christ Himself.
- ❧ The movement they launched enlisted the tireless efforts of enthusiastic people who wanted to make a difference in the world around them.



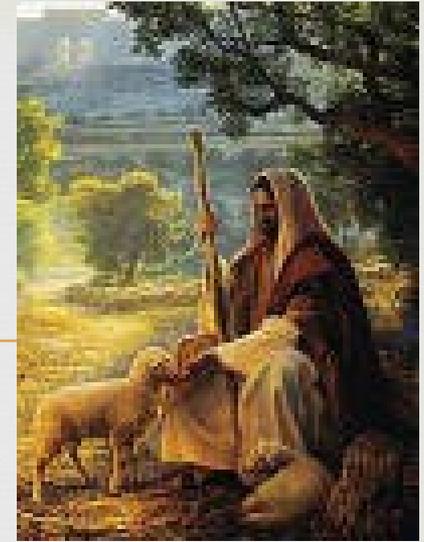
Jesus' Impact



❧ Kathryn Kuhlman

- ❧ *The world called me a fool for having given my entire life to One whom I've never seen. I know exactly what I'm going to say when I stand in His presence. When I look upon that wonderful face of Jesus, I'll have just one thing to say: 'I tried.' I gave of myself the best I knew how. My redemption will have been perfected when I stand and see Him who made it all possible.*
- ❧ Katherine ministered healing to thousands in a day when women were rebuffed.

Jesus' Impact

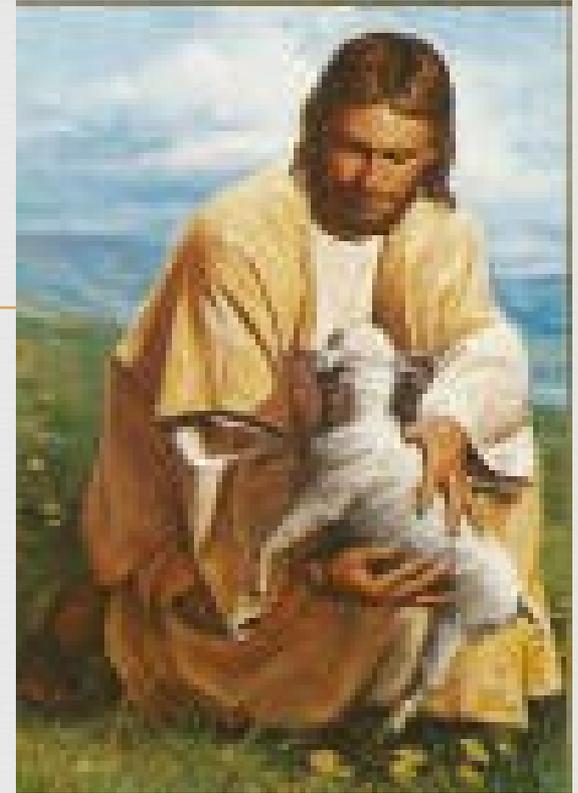


❧ *"When Jesus Christ left this earth," Griffith Thomas writes, "He told His disciples that after His departure they should do greater works than He had done, and the centuries of Christianity have borne out the truth of this statement. Works greater in kind have been done - are being done. Jesus Christ is doing more wonderful things today than ever He did when on earth, redeeming souls, changing lives, transforming characters, exalting ideals, inspiring philanthropies, and making for the best, truest, and highest in human life and progress."*

Jesus' Impact

❧ Griffith Thomas continues:

"We are therefore justified in calling attention to the influence of Christ through the ages as one of the greatest, most direct, and most self-evident proofs that Christianity is Christ, and that Christ has to be accounted for. It is impossible to consider this question solely as one of history; it touches life at every point today."



What if Jesus Had Never Been Born? - James Kennedy



Quick overview of the contributions Christianity has made to mankind, because Jesus is still alive and still makes an impact.

- (1) *Hospitals, which essentially began during the Middle Ages.*
- (2) *Universities, which also began during the Middle Ages. In addition, most of the world's greatest universities were started for Christian purposes.*
- (3) *Literacy and education for the masses.*
- (4) *Capitalism and free enterprise.*
- (5) *Representative government, particularly as it has been seen in the American experiment.*
- (6) *The separation of political powers.*

What if Jesus Had Never Been Born? - James Kennedy



(7) Civil liberties.

(8) The abolition of slavery, both in antiquity and in more modern times.

(9) Modern science.

(10) The discovery of the New World by Columbus.

(11) The elevation of women.

(12) Benevolence and charity; the good Samaritan ethic.

(13) Higher standards of justice.

(14) The elevation of common man.

What if Jesus Had Never Been Born? - James Kennedy



- (15) *The condemnation of adultery, homosexuality, and other sexual perversions. This has helped to preserve the human race, and it has spared many from heartache.*
- (16) *High regard for human life. (children, gladiators, cannibalism)*
- (17) *The civilizing of many barbarian and primitive cultures.*
- (18) *The codifying and setting to writing of many of the world's languages.*
- (19) *Greater development of art and music. The inspiration for the greatest works of art.*
- (20) *The countless changed lives transformed from liabilities into assets to society because of the gospel.*
- (21) *The eternal salvation of countless souls.*

Jesus' Legacy- Life to the Fullest



- ❧ We relax with our loving families,
- ❧ safe from fear and harm,
- ❧ in a safe and civil society,
- ❧ protected and sustained by institutions of health and education created by great men and women of God.
- ❧ We enjoy the comforts that sprang from Christians who have laboured past in the sciences.
- ❧ We enjoy free enterprise and liberty to follow Christ without fear or reprisal. This is all the work of Jesus Christ!

The Incomparable Christ



❧ *"The Incomparable Christ" Author Unknown*

❧ *"More than nineteen hundred years ago there was a Man born contrary to the laws of life. This Man lived in poverty and was reared in obscurity. He did not travel extensively. Only once did He cross the boundary of the country in which He lived; that was during His exile in childhood.*

❧ *"He possessed neither wealth nor influence. His relatives were inconspicuous, and had neither training nor formal education. In infancy He startled a king; in childhood He puzzled doctors; in manhood He ruled the course of nature, walked upon the billows as if pavements, and hushed the sea to sleep. He healed the multitudes without medicine and made no charge for His service.*

The Incomparable Christ



- ❧ *"He never wrote a book, and yet all the libraries of the country could not hold the books that have been written about Him. He never wrote a song, and yet He has furnished the theme for more songs than all the songwriters combined.*
- ❧ *"He never founded a college, but all the schools put together cannot boast of having as many students.*
- ❧ *"He never marshaled an army, nor drafted a soldier, nor fired a gun; and yet no leader ever had more volunteers who have, under His orders, made more rebels stack arms and surrender without a shot fired.*

The Incomparable Christ



- ❧ *"He never practiced psychiatry, and yet He has healed more broken hearts than all the doctors far and near. Once each week the wheels of commerce cease their turning and multitudes wend their way to worshipping assemblies to pay homage and respect to Him.*
- ❧ *"The names of the past proud statesmen of Greece and Rome have come and gone. The names of the past scientists, philosophers, and theologians have come and gone; but the name of this Man abounds more and more.*
- ❧ *Though time has spread nineteen hundred years between the people of this generation and the scene of His crucifixion, yet He still lives. Herod could not destroy Him, and the grave could not hold Him.*

The Incomparable Christ



❧ *"He stands forth upon the highest pinnacle of heavenly glory,
proclaimed of GOD,
acknowledged by angels,
adored by saints,
and feared by devils,
as the living, personal Christ, our LORD and Saviour."*

The Future

❧ *Rev 19:11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse.*



And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

❧ *Rev 19:13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.*

❧ *Rev 19:14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.*

❧ *Rev 19:15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*

❧ **Will you be with Jesus when He comes?**