

Palisades Community Bible Church

Online Sunday School

What Is The Greatest Event In Human History?

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A few years ago, I became acquainted with an interesting couple; he was 103 and she was 98. Both were in excellent health; he was still driving, mowing his yard and they both worked their large vegetable garden. I was amazed by their vitality and positive outlook.

One afternoon, over a glass of tea, I asked them what they considered to be the most important advent in their lifetimes. In unison, they answered; “The telephone.” Their faces lit up as they explained the contrast between communication when they were children, and today. They told of waiting months for letters, of walking miles to the telegraph office, and how exciting it was when the hotel got the first telephone in town. They talked about what amazing advances had come about because the telephone connected the world.

What a difference today! It doesn't take long for a baby to graduate from teething ring to iPhone!

What do you think is the single greatest event in human history? Can you think of one event that stands above all others in importance? What was the most consequential of all? Perhaps, some of these come to mind?

- The assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, which launched WWI?
- The birth of Muhammed in 570 AD, which led to organizing billions of people in the Islamic faith?
- The Medical Revolution?
- The Industrial Revolution?
- The Renaissance?
- The Boston Tea Party, which led to the formation of the most powerful and free nation in history?
- Germany's invasion of Poland, which sparked WWII?

- Man landing on the moon?
- September 11, 2001 which started the longest military conflict in US history?
- The birth of Christ, which began the largest religion in the world?

Each of these events is super-important. However, there is one event that eclipses them all. It is more important for many reasons. It is also exceptional (unique) for many reasons.

The list, above is important because each event affected so many people. But, ONE event affects, not only every human on the planet, it has affected all of human history....and will affect all its future!

Which Event Is Most Consequential Of ALL?

Do you know? It isn't the BIRTH of Jesus. It is His death, burial and resurrection!

OK, I hear you thinking; "What about creation?" Yes! IMPORTANT, but creation started it all. The question pertains to the history of humanity. Wasn't Jesus' birth at the top of the list? Yes, but understand that Jesus was born to ultimately go to the cross. That was His major act.

Jesus spent his 33 years demonstrating – proving – who he is: the God of the universe in human flesh. Jesus' ultimate purpose for walking among us was to pay our sin penalty by serving as the sacrificial lamb of God by taking our sins upon himself. Jesus was born to die for us. Yet, He stayed in the grave for only three days, and was raised again. He appeared to hundreds of eye witnesses. Later, after ascending to heaven (in the presence of witnesses), He descended from heaven, appearing before other witnesses. About a year, or more, after Jesus' resurrection from the grave, He confronted Saul of Tarsus – who had been persecuting and imprisoning new Christians.

Acts 9: 4 "And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" 5 And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."

The events in our list, above, are important because of their effects on human lives; lost or saved. The resurrection of Jesus is unique; it marks a person who

rose to life after having died. In the list, above, each event is either a human achievement or human tragedy. In the case of Jesus' resurrection, it is the direct intervention of GOD (who else can raise the dead?). This very act of resurrection is also our creator's promise to every human; each person has an eternal soul, and will be raised from the dead and given a new body. Where your soul spends eternity is 100% up to you.

1 Corinthians 15:50-52 "Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed."

John 6:39 "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day."

John 5:25 "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live."

Others Were Raised To Life After Dying

If you're a student of the Bible, you might know that the Scriptures record TEN resurrections from the dead. By the way, the scriptures use numbers (numerology) to convey significance and meaning. The number TEN portrays God's perfection and order. TEN signifies:

- **Law** – Ten Commandments. Ten represents man's responsibility
- **Perfect Power** - In Genesis 1 we find the phrase "God said" 10 times, which is a testimony of His creative power, the product of which, God called "good."
- **Faith** - A tithe is a 10th of our earnings and is a testimony of our faith in the Lord.
- **Completeness** – 7 (perfection) + 3 (completeness) = Ten (completeness of perfect order).

So, ten resurrection events tells us that it is part of God's complete and perfect plan for mankind. So, let's glance at these resurrection events, then look at Jesus'

resurrection as the single most important event in human history. Here are the ten:

1. **Widow of Zarephath's son, by Elijah**

1st Kings 17:22 "And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived."

2. **Shunammite woman's son, by Elisha**

2nd Kings 4:34,35 "And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and he stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm. Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes."

3. **Man raised when he came into contact with Elisha's bones**

2 Kings 13:20,21 "And Elisha died, and they buried him. And the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the coming in of the year. And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band of men; and they cast the man into the sepulcher of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet. "

4. **Widow of Nain's son, by Jesus**

Luke 7:14,15 "And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother. "

5. **Jairus' daughter, by Jesus**

Luke 8:52-56 "And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn, knowing that she was dead. And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise. And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat. And her parents were astonished: but he charged them that they should tell no man what was done. "

6. **Lazarus, by Jesus after 3 days**

John 11:43,44 "And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and

foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.”

7. **Jesus, by God**

Acts 2:24 “Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.”

8. **Many Holy People Came Out of Their Tombs When Jesus Died on the Cross**

Matthew 27:52 “And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,”

9. **Dorcas, by Peter**

Acts 9:40 “But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.”

10. **Eutychus, by Paul**

Acts 20:9-12 “And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead. And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him. When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed. And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted.”

As for Jesus’ BIRTH and earthly life; it was the most unique and important ministry in human history for at least two reasons; a) it was foretold in hundreds of Old Testament prophecies, making it an eternally significant historical event. b) it was God, himself, stepping down from heaven to **nullify every “religion” on earth** and reach out to man. Jesus’ ministry satisfied every demand of the Mosaic Law and every prophesy in God’s Word. Jesus satisfied every characteristic of Messiah, from the virgin birth, to healing the sick, raising the dead, to Himself being raised from the dead.

1 Corinthians 15: 55 ““Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”

Every religious leader in human history is dead and buried, except Jesus and Satan. All “religions” apart from Christianity are man-made. All man-made religions are human-based and promote the false teaching that one’s good works are sufficient to erase one’s sin before god.

What about Judaism? They, above all, are without excuse because God is alive and Messiah is alive, yet they reject Messiah, who is THEIR God in the flesh! Their OWN scriptures foretold of Jesus, and Jesus testified of His authenticity, but they rejected Him. They are God’s chosen and they rejected Him. God will deal with them justly.

God Is Too Great For Mortals To See

Remember when God revealed Himself to Moses on Mt. Sinai? God had to hide Moses in the rocks and forbid him to look at His face, lest Moses die. God passed over Moses in His full glory and Moses was only able to look at God’s back – and that caused Moses’ hair and beard to turn brilliant white and his face to glow like a light. Had he looked at the front of God, Moses’ mortal body would have been destroyed. God is speaking;

Exodus 33: 22 “and when My glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. 23 Then I will take My hand away, and you will see My back; but My face must not be seen.”

On the mount, God was showing Moses His glory. When God condescended (lowered Himself) from the heavens in the form of a human (Jesus), He was reaching to man as a man. As a father extending his arms through prison bars for his errant child, God reached to us. God had to clothe Himself in humanity, in order to walk with mortals. Had God stepped among mortals in His full glory, the mortals would have died. Look back at the passage; 1 Corinthians 15; 50-52. Jesus is telling us that we will not see heaven in our mortal flesh, but that we will be changed so that we CAN see God!

John 14: 8 “Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us.” 9 Jesus replied, “Philip, I have been with you all this time, and still you do not know Me? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father

and the Father is in Me? The words I say to you, I do not speak on My own. Instead, it is the Father dwelling in Me, performing His works.”

Jesus, God Himself, Left Heaven And Reached Out To Us

Hebrews 2: 9 “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor (resurrected and seated at God’s right hand) because He suffered death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.”

Acts 2:24 “God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.”

Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection was **the most important event in all of history** because the Messiah, which had been foretold, fulfilled all prophecies to the letter. Because of this, Jesus’ death was the only thing that could satisfy the requirements for forgiving the sin of mankind. NOTHING else could do this. NOTHING else could break the yoke of sin that had been placed on mankind when Adam and Eve rebelled. Jesus said:

Matthew 5:17–18 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.”

Think of it; from the time Adam and Eve listened to Satan and rejected God, sin has ruled in the lives of mankind. Jesus’ work on the cross broke that power. His resurrection was the fullest, most legitimate PROOF of God’s power over death and His crushing of Satan’s head.

Genesis 3: 15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he (Jesus) will crush your head, and you will strike his heel (the cross).”

Far too many who portray Jesus on the cross depict it as a tragedy, a failure, a triumph of evil over good. Nothing could be further from the TRUTH! They play

this false interpretation on 'human concerns' and not 'the concerns of God.' Here, we see Jesus rebuking that Satanic notion:

Matthew 16: 21 "From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. **22** Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" **23** Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

Prior to Jesus' work on the cross, the only remediation for sin was through regular animal sacrifice. The head of the home would confess his sin before God, and place his sin on the head of the lamb. The innocent creature was put to death for that sin. It was the realization of one's weakness and submitting to God's grace. It demonstrated that without the shedding of innocent blood, there is no removal of sin. This practice was the living vision of what Jesus, Messiah, would do for humans when He would be sacrificed on the cross. Without Jesus' sacrifice, mankind was doomed to reap the rewards sin for eternity.

Hebrews 9:22 "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

It Is Finished!

Jesus' final words on the cross were; "It is finished." The beatings, the torture and the brutality of the cross did not kill Jesus. Jesus took the sin of humanity upon Himself. He was punished for it, and hung on a criminal's cross to die at the hand of humans. But, man's works did not take Jesus' life. When the full measure of man's sin was finally placed on Him, God, the father had to distance Himself from the Son – God is too holy to be in the presence of sin! This grieved Jesus but it did not kill his body.

So, feeling the Father moving away from Him, Jesus cried; "Father, why have you forsaken me?" Then, after a while, he said; "I thirst."

John 19: 29 “ A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips.”

Do you recognize the hyssop plant? Is it significant? Have a look at this next passage. It’s when the Jews were captive in Egypt and God had afflicted Egypt with many plagues. The final plague was the death of every first-born male in Egypt, except:

Exodus 12: 21 “Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and told them, “Go at once and select for yourselves a lamb for each family, and slaughter the Passover lamb. 22 Take a cluster of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin, and brush the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out the door of his house until morning. 23 When the LORD passes through to strike down the Egyptians, He will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway; so He will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.”

The hyssop was used to cover the doorpost of their homes with the blood of the Passover Lamb so that the destroyer would not enter! Why did those at the cross use the hyssop stalk? It was another confirmation that Jesus is the Lamb of God, and His blood, alone, is our salvation from the “destroyer.” Do you see how God weaves and intertwines His Word so that it has meaning and truth from every angle?

Having received his drink, Jesus said “It is finished.” and **dismissed His spirit**. Man did not kill Him. Jesus dismissed his spirit. In completing all this, Jesus fulfilled over 350 extremely explicit prophecies throughout thousands of years of recorded history. Jesus continues to fulfill even more prophecies today, and will continue until the time that He returns for His Church. Therefore, it could be argued that the greatest event in human history has not finished occurring!

You know the story; Jesus’ body was taken down from the cross and laid in a tomb. A stone so large that it took many men to move it sealed the tomb. Roman guards were placed outside the tomb because the Romans feared that, if Jesus’ body were to be stolen, it would cause an uprising. On the third day, the stone had been moved and Jesus was not inside;

John 20: 11 “Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb **12** and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. **13** They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” “They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” **14** At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. **15** He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” **16** Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).”

The miracles continued as Jesus walked and talked with His friends and Disciples. This was witnessed by hundreds of people until it was time for Him to return to heaven;

Acts 1:9-11 “Now when He (Jesus) had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.’ ”

The Resurrection Is The Key

The process of the forgiveness of sin is similar, today, as when the ancient Jews put their sins upon the sacrificial lamb. Jesus is the lamb:

Isaiah 53:7: “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.”

John 1: 29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

In the same way as the ancient Jew took a perfect, flawless, innocent lamb to the temple and “put his own sin upon the lamb,” Jesus is the lamb of God. The multitude of miracles surrounding the life and death of Jesus prove that. But,

without the resurrection, Jesus would be just another martyr. He had to fulfill ALL the prophecies. He had to finish the work by going to the cross. In doing so, we have 100% confidence in Him as our sole solution for sin.

Apart from the resurrected Son of God, no amount of religion, religious traditions, godly talk, good intentions, belief systems, good works, etc., will save you from your sin condition.

Romans 3: 9 “What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin.”

Only God’s perfect lamb can do it. Jesus can do it only if you do as the ancient Jew and acknowledge your sin, repent of your sin nature before God and ask Jesus to bear the burden of your sin....because you CANNOT.

1 John 1: 9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

There is one more reason Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection is the single most important event in human history: because putting your sin in Jesus’ hands is the single greatest event of your own mortal life. This goes for every human on the planet. From that point on, your life will begin the process of being made new in Christ. Your immortal soul is, at that moment, assured of eternity in God’s presence. It’s entirely your choice, though. You cannot be forced.

John 14: 6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 20:31 “But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

John 5:24 “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”

John 3:36 “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”

So, Why Is There STILL Evil In The World?

I once removed a small pine tree from my yard. As you know, grass doesn't grow directly under pines, so there was a round patch of bare earth left behind. I purposed to plant grass there when I had the time to get to it. After only a couple of days, I looked at that bare patch and it was covered with sprouts of weeds. This puzzled me because the patch was in the middle of the yard, surrounded by weed-free grass. I stepped up my effort to get the grass seeds in, but they were no match for the weeds! The weeds choked out the sprouting grass, and I was left with a daily reminder of what sin is like when it's given an opportunity to grow, replicate, fester, and spread!

I asked a retired farmer what was going on. He told me that the weed seeds are blowing in the air all the time. When they land in thick, healthy grass, they cannot sprout. But, when they land on open soil, they are voracious about taking over. What an illustration of SIN!

When God created Man, He gave us free will. Man has always had the freedom to love God, or reject Him. We are constantly faced with the choice of obeying God, or following our lusts. A human heart without Jesus in it, is fertile soil for evil. Unconfessed sin – UNFORGIVEN SIN – sprouts and grows like weeds. No amount of good works or human religions will overcome or defeat sin in your life. There is but one solution: Jesus.

Jesus is your only solution, and best solution, because of what He accomplished in the greatest event in human history!

John 14: 6 Jesus answered; "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."