



Fascinating and Staggering

Nancy L Harry

Jesus led a life of righteousness. He expounded the ways of a loving God and summarized the Ten Commandments with the words—love God and love others. He taught God's truth and healed all who came to him. We are told that only a portion of the miracles he performed were recorded and these were recorded for our benefit, so we would believe that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God. And by believing we would receive life in his name.

As Jesus stressed the ways of God rather than traditions set up by man, toes were stepped on and some became offended. As a result, he was rejected and despised by many. He was slandered and hated. He was beaten and illegally tried and sentenced to a criminal's death. He had to bear seeing his mother and his most faithful friends watching his life slip away at the foot of a cross, until he took his last breath.

After mourning the death of Jesus for three days, those who had known him and those who had loved him, discovered him walking the streets once more. The power of God had restored life to his dead body; he was resurrected back to life. After remaining on the earth another forty days, he appeared to many. On one occasion over 500 saw him at one time. His closest friends then watched him ascend into the sky and disappear through the clouds, as he returned to his heavenly Father and his first abode in heaven.

Fiction? No—reality, witnessed and documented by many in the pages of history. The beginning is fascination but the ending is staggering. Jesus allowed himself to be captured and wrongly represented. He willingly hung on a cross to take the punishment of death for our sins upon himself. He became our hero, our Savior and as our eternal High Priest, he intercedes for us day and night. We can receive the gift of forgiveness for our sins and life everlasting with God, when we believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus and accept the sacrifice he made for us.

A young boy went to God and asked for this gift of forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus. Hearing of this event an elderly woman approached the boy and asked him what he could have done at such a young age that would require forgiveness. He answered, "The Bible says I am to love God with all my heart, with all my soul and with all my mind, and I didn't do that."

A man's son was murdered. The one who did this terrible crime was found and put in prison. The father of the victim went to see his son's killer. The father said to him, "I forgive you." Even the judge showed him mercy, freeing him from prison. The father then said, "Now I will treat you as my own son and take care of you." Incredible you may say. But this is exactly what God's love did for us! In reality, our sins killed Jesus. Yet God comes to us and offers us forgiveness, letting the blood of his Son be the payment for our sins, freeing us to live eternally in his presence. On top of that, he accepts us as his own children.

It was the Father's love that allowed Jesus to be sacrificed to provide a way to bring us back into relationship with a loving God. It was Jesus' love for his heavenly Father and for us that caused him to endure so many atrocities. Now he lives again and is called the King of kings and the Lord of lords! Truly, it is a time to rejoice and be thankful.