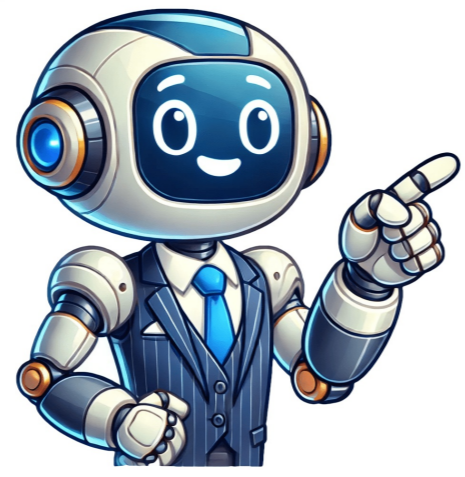


Continue

































that his daughter had just died. The nobleman had strong faith that Jesus could make his daughter well again. Jesus and his disciples went to the nobleman and saw the gathering of mourners. Jesus told the mourners to leave the house. He also told them that the girl was not dead but asleep. The mourners laughed at him. But, after the mourners left the home, Jesus took the girl by the hand and the girl rose up to her feet. Jesus heals two blind men (see Matthew 9:27-34) Two blind men learned that Jesus was nearby and they called out to him. "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" Jesus asked the blind men if they truly believe that he had the power to heal them. They told him that they did. Jesus then touched their eyes and restored their sight. Jesus told them, "According to your faith will it be done to you." When the blind men referred to Jesus as the "Son of David," they were alluding to Biblical prophecies, such as Jeremiah 23:5-6 and Isaiah 11:1-10, that said that the Messiah would be a descendant of King David, which Jesus was. 3rd year of Jesus' ministry The third year of Jesus' ministry is sometimes called the "Year of opposition." Some of the community leaders attempted unsuccessfully to challenge Jesus' authority and were becoming increasingly antagonistic. Jesus continued to perform miracles and large crowds continued to seek him. Jesus feeds 5000 people (see Matthew 14:13-21) Soon after Jesus had learned that John the Baptist had been beheaded, Jesus went out into a boat to pray in solitude. But a large crowd gathered at the shore to meet Jesus. He felt compassion for the crowd, so he went ashore and healed the people in the crowd who were sick. It was getting late into the day, and Jesus' disciples were concerned that the crowd did not have any food. Jesus told his disciples to feed the crowd, but the disciples said they only had five loaves of bread and two fish. And the crowd was very large with 5000 men, as well as many women and children. As explained in Matthew 14:19-21, this is what happened next: " ... he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children." (NIV translation). Jesus walks on water (see Matthew 14:22-33) Of all of the miracles that Jesus had performed in healing people, turning water into wine and in feeding a multitude of people with a single basket of food, the miracle that made the disciples proclaim that Jesus was the Son of God was his miracle of walking on water. Jesus told his disciples to go out into the water in a boat while Jesus went to a private place to pray. Later, Jesus walked out to the boat and startled the disciples. They thought they were seeing a ghost walking on the water. But after they realized that it was Jesus, they worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." Jesus prophesizes his own death (see Matthew 16:21-26) Similar to other prophets in the Bible, Jesus foretold events that later happened. He prophesized that Jerusalem and the Temple would be destroyed and that the Word of God would be preached to every corner of the world. These prophecies were fulfilled. But, Jesus is different than the other prophets of God. For one, Jesus was the subject of many of the prophecies given by the others. And two, Jesus fulfilled some of his own prophecies. As explained in Matthew 16:21-26, Jesus prophesized his own persecution, death and resurrection. Jesus is transfigured (see Matthew 17:1-8) In Matthew 17:1-8, the Bible says: After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell face-down to the ground, terrified. But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. (NIV translation). Jesus talks about humility (see Matthew 18:1-4) In Matthew 18:1-4, the Bible says: At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus talks about forgiveness (see Matthew 18:21-22) In Matthew 18:21-22, the Bible says: Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times." Jesus seals a man who was born blind (see John 9:1-11) When the disciples of Jesus had seen a man who had been blind since birth, they asked Jesus if the man's blindness was result of his own sins or if it was the result of his parents' sins. Jesus answered them that the man's blindness was not due to the man's sins or his parents' sins. Jesus said the man's blindness happened "so that the work of God might be displayed in his life." Jesus then healed the man of his blindness. Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead (see John 11:1-44) In John 11:1-44, the Bible gives another account of Jesus raising someone from the dead. In this case, it is a man named Lazarus. When Jesus was told that Lazarus was seriously ill, he said: "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." (John 11:4 NIV). A few days later, Jesus traveled to the tomb of Lazarus, where Lazarus had been for four days. Jesus went to Martha, Lazarus' sister, and Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26 NIV). Then, Martha answered Jesus: "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world." (John 11:27 NIV). Jesus went to the tomb and called out for Lazarus, who then rose from death to life and walked out of the tomb. The final months The end of Jesus' ministry was marked with a triumphal entry into Jerusalem and great antagonism from local religious leaders. The triumphal entry into Jerusalem (see Matthew 21:1-11) About 500 years before the time of Jesus, there was a prophet of God named Zechariah (see Zechariah 9:9) who spoke of a king presenting himself to Jerusalem while riding on a humble donkey. This is how Jesus entered the Holy City of Jerusalem shortly before he was crucified and killed. He rode on the back of a donkey into the city. Along the way, a crowd of people gathered near Him, praising him as he went by. The question about paying taxes (see Matthew 22:15-22) The religious and political groups of Jerusalem, such as the Pharisees and Sadducees, were often at odds with Jesus. Members of these groups conspired to get rid of Jesus. In Matthew 22, the Pharisees tried to trap Jesus by asking whether Jews should pay taxes to the Romans: "Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away. (Matthew 22:15-22 NIV). The authority of Jesus (see Matthew 21:23-27) The opponents of Jesus had to be careful in trying to silence him. They knew that Jesus was popular, so they tried to find ways to trap him without angering the people. In this example from the book of Matthew, the opponents came up with a ploy that backfired: Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you this authority?" Jesus replied, "I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. John's baptism-where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or from men?" They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe him?' But if we say, 'From men'-we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We don't know." Then he said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. (Matthew 21:23-27 NIV). The widow's offering (see Mark 12:41-44) While Jesus was at the Temple, people were making contributions to the Temple treasury: Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything--all she had to live on." (Mark 12:41-44 NIV) The great commandment (the Golden Rule) (see Matthew 22:34-40) The book of Matthew shows another example of how some of Jerusalem's religious leaders tried to test Jesus: Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:34-40 NIV). Jesus was able to summarize the Law, which is the first five books of the Old Testament, into a few sentences. The persecution of Jesus This page explains a part of the events during the persecution and crucifixion of Jesus. Jesus was falsely accused of being an anti-government rebel and was crucified and killed. His persecution fulfilled many Bible prophecies that had been written hundreds of years beforehand. The plot against Jesus (see Matthew 26:1-5, 14-16) A few days before the Passover, Jesus again predicted his death. He told his disciples that he would be handed over to be crucified. At about this time, the chief priests and other community leaders plotted to have Jesus arrested so they could kill Him. They conspired with Judas, one of Jesus' 12 Apostles, and paid him 30 pieces of silver to look for an opportunity to betray Jesus. The Lord's Supper (the Last Supper) (see Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:19-20) During the Passover celebration, Jesus gathered with his apostles. He knew that this would be the final meal that he would share with his apostles before his crucifixion. It was at this time that Jesus instituted what is now known in many Christian churches as "communion." It is also called "the Last Supper" or "the Lord's Supper." While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." (Matthew 26:26-28 NIV). Jesus suffered and died for our sins; he gave up his body and blood for our forgiveness. Many Christian churches celebrate communion at least once a month. Jesus is betrayed by Judas (see Matthew 26:47-56) Jesus and his followers had entered the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives. His disciples were sleeping for the night when a crowd of Roman soldiers and Jewish officials showed up to arrest Jesus. Judas told the soldiers which man was Jesus. Then the men began to arrest Jesus, but Peter used a sword to cut off a man's ear. Jesus scolded Peter for doing that: "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword." (Matthew 26:52). Jesus healed the injured man's ear and then allowed Himself to be arrested and led away. Peter denies knowing Jesus (see Matthew 26:58, 69-75) Chapter 26 of the Bible's book of Matthew begins with a prophecy from Jesus that he would be betrayed and handed over to be crucified. And the chapter ends with the fulfillment of another of Jesus' prophecies - that Peter, Jesus' loyal Apostle, would deny knowing Jesus three times before the break of dawn. After Jesus was arrested and led away by the soldiers, Peter followed them into the courtyard of the high priest. He took a seat near some of the guards and waited to see what would happen with Jesus. A servant walked up to Peter and asked him if he was with Jesus. Peter said "I don't know what you're talking about." Peter then got up and went outside of a gateway where another person saw him and identified him as a follower of Jesus. Peter again denied knowing Jesus. Other people then identified Peter as being a follower of Jesus and again Peter denied knowing Jesus. In all, Peter had denied knowing Jesus three times before dawn, just as Jesus had predicted. When Peter remembered that Jesus had predicted Peter's denials, Peter began to weep because he had denied knowing the Lord. Jesus is interrogated, mocked and put on trial (see Matthew 27:1-31) Chapter 27 of the Bible's book of Matthew explains that Jesus was falsely accused of being an anti-government rebel. He appears before Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of the land of the Jews, and eventually is condemned. Jesus then was beaten and mocked by Roman soldiers. Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. - Matthew 27:27-31 (NIV). Jesus is crucified (see Matthew 27:35-38) After the trial, Jesus was beaten and whipped. Then he was given a cross to carry and led to Calvary. There, he was nailed to the cross, through his wrists and feet. The cross was raised and Jesus was left to die. Many people had gathered to watch. Some mocked Jesus as he was dying. Others mourned for him. In Luke 23:34, Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Jesus is buried (see Matthew 27:57-61; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-55; John 19:31-42) After Jesus had died on the cross, a Roman soldier pierced Jesus with a spear to make sure he was dead. Two men had asked permission to take Jesus' body and bury Him The two men were Joseph of Arimathea and a man named Nicodemus. Jesus was taken down from the cross, wrapped in clothe and placed into an empty tomb owned by Joseph of Arimathea. A large stone was placed in front of the tomb to close off the burial chamber. The Romans also posted a guard at the tomb to prevent anyone from stealing the body. The resurrection of Jesus Jesus was crucified. He died. He was buried. And he rose again. The resurrection is an essential part of Christianity. There is no Christianity without the resurrection (see 1 Corinthians 15). This page explains some details of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Mary Magdalene discovers Jesus' tomb was empty (see John 20:1-10) The morning after Jesus had been placed in the tomb, Mary Magdalene went to visit the tomb. It was very early in the morning and it was still dark outside. She saw that the stone had been removed from the front of the tomb and that the tomb was empty. She ran to Peter to inform him what she had seen. Then, Peter and another Apostle, John, ran to the tomb to see for themselves. The body of Jesus was gone and the only thing left behind was the cloth that was used to wrap his body for the burial. The Apostles were confused, they did not understand what was happening. How could the tomb be empty? Where was the body of Jesus? Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene (see John 20:10-18) The Apostles returned to their homes. But Mary Magdalene remained by the tomb, crying. Then she turned and saw a man who asked her why she was crying. Mary Magdalene soon realized that the man who was talking to her was Jesus Christ. Jesus had risen from death. Mary Magdalene was the first person to see the resurrected Jesus. Resurrection appearances The resurrection of Jesus Christ was the beginning of Christianity. If Christ had not been resurrected and seen by many people (more than 500), Christianity would not exist today. Jesus made twelve appearances after his resurrection: 1. His first appearance was to Mary Magdalene, on that early Sunday morning. (Mark 16:9; John 20:10-18). 2. Jesus appeared to the women returning from the tomb. (Matthew 28:9-10). 3. Jesus appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus. (Luke 24:13-32; Mark 16:12-13). 4. He appeared to Peter in Jerusalem. (Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5). 5. He appeared to his disciples and other followers, and also a second time to the two men from Emmaus, in a locked room in Jerusalem. The apostle Thomas wasn't there at that time. (Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-23). 6. A week later, Jesus again appeared to his disciples behind locked doors, and this time Thomas was present. (John 20:24-29). 7. Jesus appeared to seven of his disciples on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. (John 21:1-24). 8. Jesus was seen by 500 believers at one time. (1 Corinthians 15:6). 9. He appeared to James. (1 Corinthians 15:7). 10. He appeared to eleven disciples on a mountain in Galilee. (Matthew 28:18-20). 11. He walked with his disciples along the road to Bethany, on the Mount of Olives, and then ascended into Heaven. (Luke 24:50-53). 12. He was seen by Paul on the road to Damascus. (Acts 9:3-6; 1 Corinthians 15:8). Jesus appears before Thomas (see John 20:24-29) Some people had doubts that Jesus had risen from death, that he had been resurrected. After all, the Romans drove nails through Jesus' hands and feet and later pierced his side with a spear to make sure he was dead. And now there were people claiming to have seen Jesus alive again. Even the Apostle named Thomas had doubts, as explained in John 20:24-29 (NIV translation): Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." The significance of the resurrection (see 1 Corinthians 15) In the New Testament of the Bible, there is a book called 1 Corinthians, which was written by a disciple named Paul. The 15th chapter of this book explains the significance of the resurrection of Jesus. It says that Jesus died for our sins. (see 1 Corinthians 15:3). It also says that our faith would be meaningless if there had been no resurrection (see 1 Corinthians 15:17). And it proclaims that Jesus was resurrected. (see 1 Corinthians 15:20). Paul is one of the people who saw Jesus after the resurrection. The Great Commission (see Matthew 28:18-20) After the resurrection, Jesus met with his disciples on a mountain in Galilee and gave them a command to go out and evangelize to all people: Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:16-20 NIV). In Matthew 28:19, Jesus mentions the trine nature of God when he speaks of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This is referred to as the "holy trinity" and also as the "trine nature of God," meaning that God is three-in-one. Christians believe in one God - one God who is God the Father, God the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Athanasian Creed and the Nicene Creed do a good job of explaining the trine nature of God. These creeds were written by Christians as a way to summarize and explain Christianity. Jesus ascends into Heaven (see Mark 16:19-20) After he had told his disciples to go out into the world and preach the word of God, Jesus ascended into Heaven: After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it. (Mark 16:19-20 NIV). The return of Jesus (see Matthew 24) The New Testament explains that Jesus will return in the future to judge the living and the dead and to establish eternal peace. There are several verses that refer to Jesus' return, including Matthew 16:24-28, Matthew 24, Matthew 25:31-46, Mark 8:34-9:1, Mark 13, Luke 9:23-27, Luke 17:20-37, Luke 21:5-38; John 6:39-40, and John 14:3. In Matthew 16:27, Jesus is quoted as saying that the "Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done." The book of Matthew, chapter 24, describes a series of signs that will occur before his return. We are told that all of these signs will manifest themselves during the span of a single generation: "This generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place" (Matthew 24:34). But we don't know which generation that will be. In Mark 13:32, we are told that "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." There has been a great deal of speculation as to whether we are presently living in the generation that will witness all of the signs described in Matthew 24. Many people have tried to predict when Jesus will return only to be proven wrong. The Bible warns us not to worry and reminds us to be prepared, spiritually. For believers, Jesus' return will be a glorious event. Go to: List of all articles Jesus Christ is the Son of God and our Savior. Everything from His ministry to His death He did for us. Jesus is the Son of God but was born to a woman on earth. This faithful woman's name was Mary. When Mary gave birth to Jesus, many signs and angels appeared so that faithful people could find Him and pay their respects. You may have seen this scene depicted through nativities at Christmastime. Even as a young man Jesus was teaching the word of God. At 12 years old, Jesus was found in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers" (Luke 2:46-47). When Jesus began His ministry at age 30, He walked many miles to the Jordan River to be baptized by His cousin, John the Baptist, who had the authority to perform baptism. Although He was without sin, Jesus was still baptized in order to teach us obedience to God, the proper way to be baptized, and the importance of baptism by the correct authority. After Jesus' baptism by immersion God declared, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17). Jesus healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, and even brought the dead back to life. More importantly, He forgave people of their sins. Although His works were considered blasphemous behavior by the Jewish priests, Jesus continually reminded people that His works were aligned with God's will so "that the Father may be glorified in the Son" (John 14:13). Jesus Forgives Sins and Heals a Man Stricken With Palsy Seek Ye the Kingdom of God Whosoever Will Lose His Life for My Sake Shall Find It Jesus Heals a Woman of Faith Throughout His life, many were angry with Jesus because they didn't understand Him. He taught unfamiliar things and showed compassion to sinners. He demonstrated incredible power, and some civic and church leaders felt threatened by His influence. Jesus was arrested and later crucified, or killed, which He allowed in order to fulfill God's will. "I lay down my life," the Lord said, "that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again" (John 10:17-18). Even as Jesus was being killed by His own people, He cried out that God might have mercy on them. Three days after His death, Jesus rose from the tomb—and the resurrected Lord soon appeared to His friends and followers. He was the first to be resurrected, meaning His spirit was reunited with His perfected physical body after death. Because Jesus lived again, we will all be resurrected one day. "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" "I know that God lives. I know that he has a plan to save me, and he has a plan to save all of us, His children. He died for me. He was resurrected and now lives again so that I may live again too." —Calton, Physician Assistant