

## THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY

Beloved of the Lord:

Christianity is not a religion! It is a blessed PERSON - and is THE HISTORY OF CHRIST! We turn from secular writings to consider the illuminating words of the Son of God in John 16:28 - "I CAME OUT FROM THE FATHER, AND HAVE COME INTO THE WORLD; AGAIN, I LEAVE THE WORLD, AND GO TO THE FATHER" - J.N.D. Trans. Four fundamental facts summarize the history of Christ as stated by HIM in these precious words: -

1 - HIS UNORIGINATED SONSHIP - "I came out from the Father" - revealing to us His Pre-existence in a past eternity and the perfect oneness of the Father and the Son! They also emphasize the essential relationship of Christ as the Son of the Father before He became INCARNATE! He did not become the Son at His Birth, as some teach, failing to recognize Him as "the only-begotten Son who IS in the bosom of the Father" - John 1:18. When John by the Spirit wrote the word "IS" - he declared it to be an eternal "IS"! - HOLD THIS FACT!

2 - HIS INCARNATION - "and have come into the world". Here we have His earthly pilgrimage from the manger to the cross! His Birth, His Life, His Ministry all involved. "The Father has sent the SON as the Saviour of the world" - 1 Jno. 4:14. Paul declared - "Christ Jesus CAME into the world to save sinners" - 1 Tim.1:15. An incomparable, impeccable and incorruptible life was His; "holy, harmless, undefiled, separated from sinners" - Heb.7:26. The history of Christianity is built upon a SINLESS man Who said - "Which of you convinceth ME of sin?" - John 8:46. Hold fast the truth of HIS IMPECCABILITY! Not alone that He DID not sin; but HE COULD NOT!

3 - HIS DEATH, RESURRECTION, ASCENSION - "again, I leave the world". How did HE depart? His departure was uniquely impressive, different from all others! He foreknew it - "Jesus, knowing that His hour had come that He should depart out of this world" etc. John 13:1. How? By being "obedient unto death, and that the DEATH OF THE CROSS" - Phil. 2:8. It is the matchless, wondrous story of our redemption when He became the "SACRIFICE OF ALL THE AGES" for the whole world - John 1:29; 1 John 2:2. Yet "raised the third day, according to the Scriptures" - 1 Cor. 15:4; then "carried up into heaven" - Lu.24:51; Acts 1:9-11. This is THE GOSPEL - "which ye received, in which ye also stand, by which also ye are SAVED!" - 1 Cor. 15:2. The history of Christianity alone proclaims a crucified, buried and risen Saviour! This was the Father's way for HIM to leave the world! By doing so HE provided an eternal redemption for you and for me! No man in ALL human history, nor ALL men together, has done nor could do such a work of eternal salvation! He stands alone as THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD! Hold it, yes, TELL IT!

4 - HIS EXALTATION - "and go to the Father". Back to the Father, to the ONE to Whom He was related to in eternity past as the eternal SON! Coming from the Father and returning to the Father are inseparably linked to His eternal Sonship! The Father never ceased to be with Him! "I and my Father are ONE" - John 10:30. When all forsook Him He said - "and yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me" - John 16:32. Listen to His words at the close of His sacrificial work on the Cross, a darkness and experience beyond our human comprehension, yet when finished - He cried "with a LOUD voice - FATHER, into THY hands I commend my spirit!" Can it be presumptuous to say that in the sufferings of the Cross His heart delighted to know He was doing the will of His Father? or that the Father was delighted in His Son at that time doing the Father's will? Then when all was finished, truly could He pray - "Father, I am no longer in the world....I COME TO THEE" - John 17:11. Now He is exalted! to be the King of the world, the universe - and you and I to share that coming glory with HIM! This is the story of Christianity - THE HISTORY OF CHRIST! What a history! - and eternal glories yet to be revealed! HOLD IT! It is beyond human comprehension but not beyond believing!

"BUT THE HIGH MYSTERIES OF HIS NAME, THE CREATURE'S GRASP TRANSCEND;  
THE FATHER ONLY - GLORIOUS CLAIM! - THE SON CAN COMPREHEND".

Faithfully yours in Christ,

