

WAS JESUS A SUCCESS OR A FAILURE?

Text: John 17:4

INTRO: Would you consider Jesus Christ a success or a failure? After all, doesn't the answer to this question depend greatly on the standard used to judge? By worldly standards, Jesus never did any of the things usually associated with greatness. He never went to college. He never wrote a book. He never traveled more than 200 miles from the place He was born, & where He did go, He usually walked. He spent his first years of manhood working as a carpenter, His last 3 1/2 years as a traveling preacher. While He was still a young man the tide of popular opinion turned against Him. One of His friends denied Him. One betrayed Him & turned Him over to His enemies to be crucified. Was He a success or a failure?

By God's standard, He was an overwhelming success. He did what God purposed for Him to do. As no other man had ever done, He did God's will in all things. He did everything He came to do.

I. JESUS CAME IN THE FLESH TO DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL.

He who sins is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. (1 JN 3:8).

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh & blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same that thru death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil. (Heb 2:14).

A. Jesus exercised power over Satan by casting out demons. READ MATTHEW 12:22-29.

When a strong man fully armed guards his palace, his goods are in peace. But when a stronger that he comes upon him & overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted & divides his spoils.
(Luke 11:21-22).

B. He further showed Himself more powerful than Satan by raising the dead.

1. The widow's son, LK 7:11-17
2. Jairus' daughter, MK 5:35-43
3. Lazarus, John 11
4. O.T. saints, MT 27:52

C. He has promised to raise all the dead at His 2nd coming & has proven His power to do so by overcoming His own death, John 5:28-29.

Therefore My Father loves Me because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down & I have power to take it again... (JN 10:17-18)

It was not possible that He should be held by [death]. (Acts 2:24).

D. Jesus met & overcame every kind of temptation known to man, Heb. 4:15.

E. Thus, in His sinless life, His casting out demons, & His triumph over death, He showed in every way His complete mastery over Satan. In this regard, Jesus truly did what He came to do.

II. JESUS CAME TO FULFILL THE LAW OF MOSES.

Do not think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets. I did not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For assuredly I say to you, "Till heaven & earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled" (MT 5:17-18).

Then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the 2nd. (Heb 10:9)

A. Jesus was successful in fulfilling the law. He fulfilled its precepts by obeying it in every detail without sin, Heb 4:15. He fulfilled its types & shadows, becoming the "Lamb of God." He fulfilled its purpose & goal & brought it to its intended conclusion.

Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us, He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. (Col. 2:14).

Having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is the law of commandments contained in ordinances; so as to make in Himself one new man from the 2 thus making peace (Eph. 2:15).

- B. Since Jesus has fulfilled & abolished the O.T. law, we do not look to the O.T. for a priesthood, a system of sacrifice, instructions re how to worship, what to do to be saved, etc.

You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. (Gal. 5:4).

III. JESUS CAME TO ESTABLISH THE KINGDOM OF GOD AMONG MEN.

Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are you a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, & for this cause I have come into the world (JN 18:37).

- A. God sent John B to proclaim that the kingdom was at hand, Matt. 3:2.
- B. Jesus followed behind John, likewise insisting that the kingdom of heaven was at hand, MT 4:17.
- C. Jesus sent his apostles to the lost sheep of the house of Israel proclaiming that the kingdom was at hand, MT 10:7
- D. Then He sent out 70 more disciples, same message, LK 10:9
- E. Jesus promised that the kingdom would be established during the lifetime of some who heard Him speak & that it would come when the H.S. came, MK 9:1; Acts 1:8.

F. This was fulfilled in Acts 2:1-4.

G. The N.T. writers testify that the kingdom was already in existence before the N.T. was complete, Col 1:13; Rev 1:9

H. Thus, no matter what some misguided preachers may say today, Jesus was successful in establishing His kingdom among men, just as He was successful in all else that He came to do.

IV. JESUS CAME TO SAVE THE LOST & TO BRING EVER-LASTING LIFE. LK 19:10; JN 10:10.

And, again He was a total success! Heb 5:9; Rom 6:23

CONCLUSION: When judged by God's standard, Jesus was an overwhelming success. You can partake of His success by submitting to His will & letting Him come into your heart to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.

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