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THE SURE WORD By Jonnie Hutchison

WHY JESUS CAME TO THIS EARTH

Before Jesus took upon Himself flesh and blood, He existed eternally in heaven with God the father and God the Holy Spirit. All three members of the Godhead were present at the creation of this material universe (Genesis 1:1-2; John 1:1-3; Hebrews 1:1-2). Each share the same divine characteristics. The Bible says of Jesus, “who, being in the form of God, did not think it robbery to be equal with God” (Phil. 2:6). However, to fulfill God’s plan to save man from sin Jesus “made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross” (Phil. 2:7-8). Yes, Jesus came to this earth for the express purpose of shedding His precious blood on the cross to provide forgiveness of sins (Romans 5:8-9; Hebrews 5:8-9).

Jesus did not come the first time to set up an earthly kingdom. When Jesus was on trial before Pilate, Pilate asked Jesus “are you a king?” It is obvious that Pilate had in mind an earthly king who would rule over an earthly kingdom. Though Jesus did not deny He would be a King, He did deny that His kingdom was an earthly kingdom. “Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.’” The nature of the kingdom of Christ is not earthly but spiritual. Jesus did not come to this earth expecting His disciples to fight an earthly battle to establish Him as King over an earthly kingdom. His kingdom is spiritual, not earthly. The death of Jesus was the result of God’s plan, not man’s rejection of Jesus.

Jesus came to this earth to do the Father’s will. Jesus said, “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me” (John 6:38). When Jesus was praying to the Father in anticipation of His upcoming death and suffering on the cross, He uttered the words, “Not as I will, but as You will” (Matthew 26:39). The Father’s will was for Jesus to die for our sins and Jesus fulfilled His Father’s will (John 19:30).

Yes, Jesus came to this earth as Savior. When He comes again it will be as our Judge (Acts 17:30-31; 2 Cor. 5:10). Are you ready for His second coming? Visit our webpage at greenplainchurchofchrist.org.