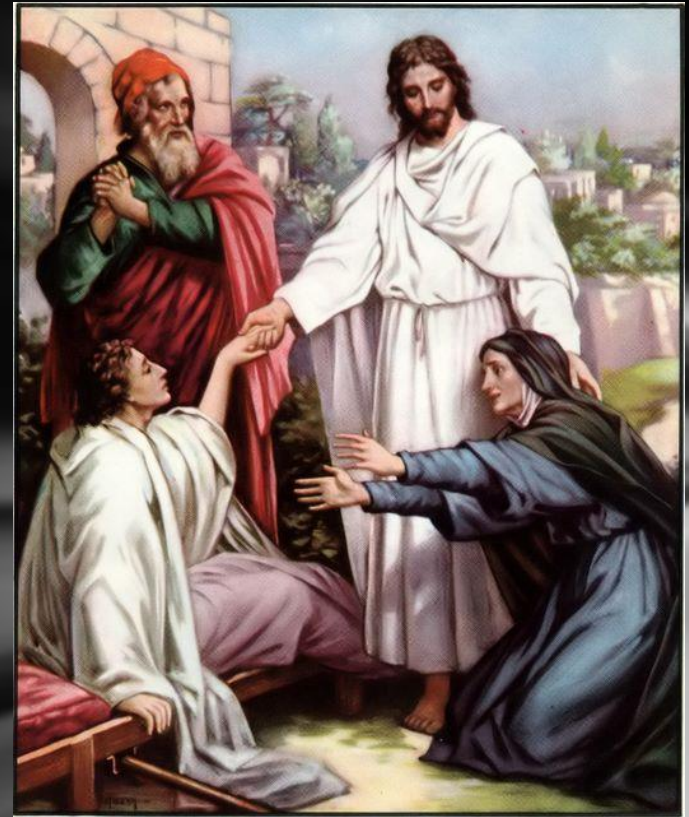


“A great
prophet has
risen up
among us”



Luke 7:16

The Wonderful Paradoxes In Christianity!

"Because the foolishness
of God is wiser than men,
and the weakness of God
is stronger than men"

1 Cor 1:25

Paradox:

An opinion or statement contrary to commonly accepted opinion

1. The Author:

- “He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, nor cause His voice to be heard in the street”

Isaiah 42:1-2

- “He has no form or comeliness;
And when we see Him,
There is no beauty that we
should desire Him” Isaiah 53:2



2. The Message

- “For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God”

1 Cor 1: 22-24

- “In the world you will have tribulation” John 16:33



3. The Messengers

- “But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are”

1 Cor 1: 27-28



4. The suitable environment

- “But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew” **Exodus 1:12**
- “At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem.... Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word”
Acts 8:1, 4



Atheism rates in France is around 41%, Sweden 85%, and Israel 37% according to a survey conducted in 2007 !!!

5. Who shall understand?

- “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes”

Matthew 11:25



6. Faith and the Glory of God

- “Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?” **John 11:40**
- The calling of Abraham
- Tobit after losing his eyesight:
“But he remained immoveable in the fear of God, giving thanks to God all the days of his life”
Tobit 2:14



7. Weak and Strong!

- “Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am **weak**, then I am strong” 2 Cor 12:10
- The weakness and the strengths of the fasting
- Knowing how sinful he was introduced St. Peter to the ministry



8. Last and First!

- “And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, ‘If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.’”

Mark 9:35

- “And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted”

Matthew 23:12



9. Lost and Found!

- “He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it”

Matthew 10:39

- “To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the off scouring of all things until now”

1 Cor 4:11-13



10. The end and the beginning!

- "...the day of death than the day of one's birth... The end of a thing is better than its beginning"

Ecclesiastes 7:1, 8



“But the natural
man
does not receive the
things
of the Spirit of God,
for
they are foolishness
to him” 1 Cor 2:14

