

## **Beyond History Mystery**

Celebrating Jesus' resurrection at Easter (*Mark 16:1-8*), we observe more than just another chapter in his amazing story. "For believers in Jesus it is the most real, important and decisive event that has ever occurred in human history, because it is the foundation and the true hope of history." (*Pagola. J. Jesus: An Historical Approximation p393*).

Australian writer Kevin Treston puts it in perspective, "After a brief teaching mission of perhaps less than three years and gathering a group of disciples, Jesus was captured, turned over to the Roman authorities and crucified for a purported threat to public order." (*Treston, K. The Wind Blows Where It Chooses p51*). We are all too familiar with this sort of injustice. Dictatorships and regimes frequently carry out such activities in countries near to our own and it hardly makes our news. So what is different here? "Jesus was then raised up by God in the resurrection as the Christ! The resurrection of Jesus as the Christ is the glorious affirmation of God's power in Jesus and the foundation stone of the Christian faith." (*Pagola p393*)

We have historical evidence that, from the first years after Jesus' death, Christians were using a variety of formulas to confess the belief they all shared, which spread rapidly across the Roman Empire: "God has raised Jesus from among the dead!"

"St Irenaus [second century Bishop] insisted that there is but one faith, for it is grounded in the concrete event of the incarnation and can never transcend the flesh and history of Christ." (*Pope Francis Lumen Fidei 47*). "Following Jesus is the only thing that makes us Christian but, "no gospel writer has tried to describe Jesus resurrection. No-one can be a witness to the transcendent act of God.....the resurrection of Jesus goes beyond history, but has left its mark in history." (*Pagola p393*)

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