

Who or What?

To the Medes and Persians, knowledge and power were the ultimate prizes in life. With knowledge and power one could rule his or her surroundings. But knowledge and power soon gave way to Alexander the Great, whose power overran them.

To the Egyptians, most of the focus of life was on stone monuments and the afterlife. It offered both a tangible sense of the present and some hope of the future. But alas, their culture faded into the sands of the desert, with little hope for the average man whose tomb would never be covered by a pyramid.

To the Greeks the high point of life's search was to find "Sophia" – not a girl, but the Greek word for "wisdom." To have knowledge was good, but the proper *use* of knowledge (wisdom) was the be-all-to-end-all in the upper echelons of Greek culture. When wisdom gained admiration and accolades of the erudite, it was not really enough to satisfy deeper human longings.

To the Romans knowledge and power were important, but prestige and polish were added. Then came freedom, of sorts, through the Roman Senate. Buildings, politics, power, wealth and fame set Rome and its empire at the pinnacle of human success. The only thing to add was *pleasure* – and that they did. To the everyday normal pleasures of life, the populace added every sort of debauchery the depraved human mind could imagine. Even from among their own culture, the more sensible *Stoics* argued for self-control and decorum while the *Hedonists* maintained that earthly, physical pleasures were the real goal of life.

Enter Jesus! A man who proved He was the Son of God through clear, public miracles. And His followers understood who He was – and they still do. Jesus had the incredible balance – He acknowledged the *proper* pleasures of life while warning of the improper ones that rob people of the deeper joys and the genuine meaning of life.

It was a grand philosophy for earthlings – better families, stronger relationships, deeper satisfactions – all combined to prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that His was far better than any of the self-centered philosophies of the Medes, the Persians, the Greeks or the Romans.

*But that addresses only **this life!*** Most cultures believed in an after life, but had no real evidence. Mummies of the pharaohs were still dead. Kings were still in the coffins and grandpas still in the ground.

Enter a *resurrected* Jesus! *This changes everything – yes **everything!*** After the resurrection, cowardly, denying apostles become brave spiritual warriors (Acts chapter two). After the resurrection, average disciples become deliverers of a message of eternal life – not a lame claim, but a resurrected Messiah! Regardless of one's station in life, Jesus promises an everlasting life in an eternal heaven with beauty and joy unimagined in the brightest of human minds (Revelation chapter 22).

What has Jesus' resurrection done for you? Eternally? In this life? How has our Master's resurrection brought life, joy, peace, patience and self-discipline into your life? See Galatians 5:22-23. Yes, the resurrection changes ***everything*** for those who *first* bow the knee at the foot of His cross, *then* stand and follow from the door of an empty tomb.