

Testimony of Kraig Yaseen – Jesus Christ is the Messiah

I was born in Tucson, Arizona, in 1961. I was born again in Durango, Colorado, on 16 January 1984, shortly after graduating from Fort Lewis College as an art major.

I was raised Jewish. As a child, I always asked about Jesus and frequently wondered why everyone at synagogue got so alarmed and upset when His name was mentioned. If Jesus wasn't real, why did they get so defensive?

I started rebelling, doing drugs and smoking cigarettes, right before I turned fourteen. For ten years, I was involved in that lifestyle.



I went to Fort Lewis College primarily because I wanted to ski, but also because I had always wanted to live in the mountains. Ever since I was a child, I had vowed that I would live in Colorado.

My past involved strange religious experimentation, lots of drugs and other weirdness. I was a very heavy and regular drug abuser. I tried everything. All of those things were leading me down the pathway of death.

Once while on drugs, I went to the mountains. I walked off by myself and hiked quite a distance. Everywhere I looked, I found animal skulls and dead carcasses. I couldn't believe there was so much death around me.

I was really concerned about the possibility of death. When I went to parties, I was very withdrawn and antisocial. I was often alone while doing drugs. I saw no meaning to life.

On 22 October 22 1982, I had an accident and flipped my car end-over-end. It landed on its side and I was knocked out. At the time, I wasn't high on drugs, but was fatigued and had fallen asleep at the wheel. God's hand was upon me; I could easily have died in the accident.

On the night of the accident, I had felt as though someone was warning me to put on my seat belt. I put it on and that was what saved my life. The accident was the beginning of the end of my former life.

In January 1983 I started dating Donna, who was from a German Catholic background. She was not born again either. When she was saved in a charismatic church, she started going to church all the time. She invited me to attend services with her and I would sometimes go, but I sat there disinterested during the entire service.

When Donna was born again, things changed. I now understand that darkness can't have fellowship with the light. I was being encouraged in the ways of the world, while Donna was learning the ways of the Lord. I thought I had things all figured out, but I was miserable.

In October, Donna invited me to a local church to hear a band called "The Liberated Wailing Wall." They were born again Jews who sang and ministered about Jesus in the context of Judaism. They really touched my heart and I almost accepted Jesus that night, but my pride forced me to say no.

By now, I was in love with Donna. She was excited about her new love for Christ. There was such inexplicable joy and peace in her life. I wondered how she could be so joyful when I was so miserable. It made me think.

After graduation, in late 1983, while at the college cleaning out my art locker, I found a Gideon Testament. I picked it up and decided to take it with me, even though I thought it would be stealing. Then I realized that classes were over for the semester and no one would miss it.

I flipped through the Testament and noticed the sinner's prayer at the back of the book, along with a space to sign your name. I read it through and thought, "I'll never sign that!" Just the thought of signing the page frightened me.

In a few weeks, I became extremely depressed. Thoughts of suicide began to overwhelm me. I asked the Lord: "If You are there, prove it to me." The Holy Spirit came and ministered to me at that precise moment. In a still, quiet way, He said, "Open your Bible, and where your eyes lay, there you will find answers to all your questions." Trusting in the Lord, I opened the Bible and began to read. As I read through 2 Corinthians, I started crying and cried until I was exhausted.

God truly saved me from both physical and spiritual death. I would not be here today, nor would I have known the great love and freedom that Christ can bring to an individual's life, if He had not responded to my cries during that crucial time. I'm forever grateful to Him.

I was really convicted about my drug habit and cried out to the Lord to take it away. He totally delivered me from drugs and alcohol. Since that time, I have never had a temptation or a problem with drug abuse. It was truly a supernatural deliverance.

When my family heard about my born-again experience with Jesus, they were very upset. They had warned me about Christians. They had seen me go through so many Eastern philosophies and beliefs that they hoped it was just another one. Now, ten years later, I'm continuing in my faith and belief in Jesus Christ as the Messiah, so they know my experience is real.

I'm confident that God will continue to work His good will in our lives as we are obedient to His Lordship. My hope is that I can effectively reach out and share His truth with others.

Kraig Yaseen