

Who Was Responsible for Killing Jesus?

Introduction

1. The movie produced by Mel Gibson called “The Passion of the Christ” was released in 2004.
 - A. “The Passion” is a movie depicting the crucifixion of Christ.
 - B. It caused a lot of controversy over the involvement of the Jews in the crucifixion.
 - C. Some modern Jews were up in arms because they say the movie is anti-Semitic.
 - D. They say that it seeks to place the blame for the death of Jesus on the Jews.
2. “Anti-Semitism” is defined as “hatred or hostility toward the Jews, or discrimination against the Jews.”
 - A. Of course, Christians are not to have hatred or discriminate against anyone.
3. Let’s look closely at who actually killed Jesus.

The Romans Were Responsible For Killing Jesus

1. The Jews had no authority under Roman rule to put anyone to death.
John 18:28-31
 - A. Pilate, (Roman governor), gave orders for Christ to be crucified.
John 19:16-18
 - B. The Roman soldiers carried out the actual crucifixion.
Matthew 27:26-31

The Jews Were Responsible for Killing Jesus

1. Jesus showed that the Jews carried the greater guilt.

John 19:10-15

- A. Thus, those who delivered Jesus to the Romans bore the greater responsibility.
- B. Indeed, the Jews who pressured Pilate, accepted responsibility for their actions.
Matthew 27:22-25
- C. Paul laid blame for Jesus' death on the Jews of Judah.

1 Thessalonians 2:14-15 For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans, who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men,

- D. Jesus said to those evil Jews, "...On you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth." Matthew 23:32-36

God Was Responsible, Allowing Jesus to Be Killed

1. It was according to the Father's purpose.

- A. Note the sermon of Peter on Pentecost.

Acts 2:22-23; 4:27-28

- 1) Jesus was delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God.
- 2) The Jews and Romans were instruments in carrying out God's will, though they did not know it. Thus, in a sense God the Father was responsible for Jesus' death.

Jesus Himself Was Responsible for His Own Death

1. Jesus had the power to deliver Himself, yet it was His own will that He die for the sins of the world.

John 10:11-18

- A. Jesus came into the world to minister and to give His life for ransom.

Matthew 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

- B. He became obedient to death, even the death of the cross.

Philippians 2:8 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.

You and I Are Responsible for Killing Jesus

1. He was bruised because of our iniquities.

Isaiah 53:5, 8b, 10a, 11b, 12b

A. He bore our sins in his own body on the tree.

1 Peter 2:24 who **Himself bore our sins** in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed.

B. As animals were sacrificed under the Law, He sacrificed Himself to atone for our sins.

Hebrews 9:25-28 not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another--He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, **He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself**. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. **To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.**

C. Thus, any person who has ever sinned is responsible for the death of Christ.

- 1) We must make a personal application here.
- 2) We must accept our own blame in this matter.
- 3) It was because of our sins that Jesus died on the cross.
- 4) Because of our sins, we are worthy of death, but Jesus died in our place.

D. **If we do not accept personal responsibility, the death of Christ brings no benefit to us.**

2. **Forgiveness to all sinners is now possible through the death of Christ.**
Hebrews 10:10-14
 - A. **Because of Jesus' death, we die to sin.**
Romans 6:4-12
3. **Those who do not willingly obey the Lord, are considering the death of Christ as an unholy or common thing.**
Hebrews 10:26-29
 - A. **They do not appreciate what was done for them.**
4. **Those who become unfaithful crucify Jesus all over again.**
Hebrews 6:4-6

Conclusion

1. **Who was responsible for killing Jesus?**
 - A. **The Romans crucified Him. The Jews demanded that He die. God sent His Son to die for us. Jesus willingly died to redeem us from our sins.**
 - B. **All of us, because we are sinners, must bear responsibility for Jesus' death.**
2. **What is our reaction to Jesus' death?**
 - A. **Are we willing to accept our responsibility in the matter?**
 - B. **Or, will we just blame it on others?**
 - C. **Why not receive the benefits of Jesus' death by humbly surrendering ourselves to God?**
 - 1) **Thanking Him for Jesus' willingness and sacrifice for me!**

Place

Date

[illegible]

Richie Thetford, February 2004 – Reworked May 2024 (Based on a sermon by David Riggs)