

Why Did Jesus Die on the Cross?

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 53:1-12

1. Today is recognized by the world as “Easter Sunday.”
 - A. Time is usually set aside by many people to recognize the resurrection of Jesus Christ on the first day of the week.
 - 1) Easter Sunday is the day many celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, even though most do not remember Him on a weekly basis in worship to God.
 - 2) Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He was crucified and rose three days later on the first day of the week. In the Bible, there is a reference to Easter in Acts 12:4

Acts 12:4 So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after **Passover**.

- a) Only the King James Version uses the word “Easter” instead of the word “Passover.”
2. Jesus did in fact rise from the grave, overcoming death. But what we want to examine in this lesson is **“Why Did Jesus Die on the Cross?”**
3. His resurrection would not have happened, if He did not go to the cross and shed His blood for mankind.
4. Let us examine five reasons why Jesus died on the cross.

To Fulfill Prophecy

- 1. Jesus died on the cross to fulfill the Old Testament Prophecies.**
 - A. This was very important as it showed the people then and us today, that His death was God's plan to redeem man from sins.**

Isaiah 53:3-5 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. (4) Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. (5) But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

Luke 24:44 Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."

- B. Following these words, the Lord, about to send them forth to preach, "opens their mind that they might understand the Scriptures," and then repeats the Commission, before given in Galilee.**
 - 1) He requires that (1) Repentance, (2) Remission of Sins, (3) Shall be Preached in his Name, (4) Unto All Nations, (5) Beginning at Jerusalem. This was literally obeyed on the day of Pentecost.**

To Take Away the Old Testament

1. Jesus died on the cross to abolish the Old Testament.

A. When Jesus died on the cross the Old Testament died with Him and a new law was ushered in for all of mankind.

2 Corinthians 3:14 But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because **the veil is taken away in Christ.**

B. So blinded that they cannot see to this day that it has been set aside by the New Covenant, and that its types, figures and shadows **find their fulfillment in Christ.**

Colossians 2:14 having wiped out the **handwriting of requirements** that was against us, which was contrary to us. And **He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.**

C. That is, the written law of ordinances; the law of Jewish rites. This was "blotted out," erased, removed.

D. When the Jews nailed Jesus to the cross they drove the nails into their own law. The old dispensation was ended; the blood of the new covenant was shed from the wounds of the nails.

Hebrews 10:9 then He said, "BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD." **He takes away the first that He may establish the second.**

Hebrews 9:15-17

Hebrews 8:13 In that He says, "A NEW COVENANT," **He has made the first obsolete.** Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

To Establish the New Testament

1. Jesus died on the cross in order to establish the New Testament.

Luke 16:16 "The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it.

- A. Then first began the announcement that John was the way-preparer, the forerunner of the King, that the kingdom was at hand, that the old dispensation was about to close.

Hebrews 9:16-17 For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. (17) For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.

- B. The application of this is that Christ's testament, the new covenant, came into force when he died.
 - 1) The old covenant was in force to the cross; it was then "nailed to the cross," and Christ having died, the New Testament came into force.

John 12:48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

- C. The words the Jesus left in the world will decide the destiny of every man. All shall be "judged by the things written in the books."

Revelation 20:12

To Reconcile Jews and Gentiles

1. Jesus died on the cross in order to reconcile to Him both Jews and Gentiles for all time.

A. The Israelite nation are no longer considered God's chosen people. The kingdom of God is now open to Jews and ALL others. For that we can all be so very thankful!

Acts 10:32-34 Send therefore to Joppa and call Simon here, whose surname is Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea. When he comes, he will speak to you.' (33) So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, **to hear all the things commanded you by God.**" (34) Then Peter opened his mouth and said: **"In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality."**

B. It was an assembly of "devout" men who recognized the fact that Peter had a message of the Lord for them; the first Gentile audience that ever listened to a gospel sermon.

C. Peter, the same preacher who, on the day of Pentecost, declared the conditions of salvation to the Jews now declares them for the first time to the Gentiles.

1) To him Christ gave the keys (Matthew 16:19) of the kingdom, and with them he opened its doors to both Jew and Gentile.

D. It has just dawned on Peter that Jew and Gentile are on the same footing in God's sight. Those who fear the Lord in any nation, of any race, will be accepted!

Ephesians 2:14-16

Colossians 1:20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, **having made peace through the blood of His cross.**

- E. Christ came to make peace between Jew and Gentile, man and man, man and God. The means employed was the blood shed on the cross.**
 - 1) Through it the law, the partition wall between Jew and Gentile, was removed, and both alike have access to God.**

To Purchase the Church

1. Jesus died on the cross to purchase His church with His own blood

Matthew 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and **on this rock I will build My church,** and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Acts 20:28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd **the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.**

- A. The death of Christ was an atoning sacrifice; He offered himself to purchase a people to his own service.**
 - 1) The church is, therefore, of special value – a value to be estimated by the price paid for it.**

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also **Christ is head of the church;** and He is the Savior of the body.

- B. The relation of the wife to the husband is like that of the church in Christ, a close, tender relation, in which there is no bondage, but freedom, because the service is that of the heart.**

Ephesians 1:22-23 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, (23) which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

C. He was, when raised from the dead exalted to be the ruler of all things and made the Head of the church; not merely its ruler, but the Head of the Body, which derives its life from the Head.

1) It is important to note, that this exaltation is after the cross and the resurrection, definitely showing that Christ's church was not organized until after our Lord's suffering.

Colossians 1:18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

D. He is the head of the body, the church. In the church he is pre-eminent. It is his spiritual body, and he is the supreme head.

Conclusion

1. **Jesus died on the cross to:**
 - A. **Fulfil the Old Testament prophecies.**
 - B. **Take away the Old Testament.**
 - C. **Establish the New Testament.**
 - D. **To reconcile Jews and Gentiles.**
 - E. **To Purchase the Church with His own blood.**
2. **This is why I am a New Testament worshiper of almighty God.**

2 Corinthians 3:4-6 And we have such trust through Christ toward God. (5) Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but **our sufficiency is from God**, (6) who also **made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant**, **not of the letter but of the Spirit**; for **the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life**.

3. **And not an Old Testament Worshiper.**
2 Corinthians 3:6-11
4. **Every single Bible Christian can be thankful that we have been "baptized into Christ," to be in His body, the church!**

