

THIRTY THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT JESUS

#27 | THE CRUCIFIXION

Crucifixion was the brutal form of capital punishment performed on criminals under Roman rule (though used centuries earlier by Babylonians and other cultures). Crucifixion was banned in 337AD. It was not new to Jesus nor (as the Bible clearly shows) was it unique to Jesus. Tens of thousands of people were crucified under Rome. In fact, 6,000 Roman slaves were crucified in a single day after the uprising of Spartacus in 71BC.

It is not the uniqueness of the death, but the design of the death of Jesus that made the difference.

WITHOUT THE DEATH OF JESUS, THERE COULD BE NO MESSIAH AND NO REDEEMER.

- The Jewish nation was (and is) looking for a Messiah. According to Jewish prophets, the Messiah must experience a rejection and brutal death before He establishes the Kingdom.
 - Daniel 9:24-27 – Three facts
 - Messiah would come within 69 *septads* of the decree to **restore and to build Jerusalem**. That is, 483 years.
 - The Second Temple would still be standing during that period, but would be destroyed afterward.
 - Messiah would be **cut off and have nothing**.
- The individuals of the world need a Savior / Redeemer, not a Messiah.
 - The *Messiah* is the *Anointed One* for Israel, the nation.
 - The need for individuals is a Savior / Redeemer.
 - The sin of Adam has sentenced every man, woman, and child to separation from God. This separation can only be remedied from God's end, and only by fulfilling the demands of the original punishment.
 - For Adam: Genesis 2:17 – **thou shalt surely die**
 - For Eve: Genesis 3:2-3 – **Ye shall not eat...lest ye die**
 - For all of their descendants: Genesis 3:24 – **to keep the way of the tree of life**.

THE DESIGN OF THE CRUCIFIXION

The "million dollar question" in theology is this: Was the crucifixion designed to save or to make salvation possible?¹

- The Calvinist Position: *The crucifixion was designed to save*.
 - Isaiah 53:5, Matthew 26:28, John 10:15, Galatians 3:13, Ephesians 5:25
 - My analysis: Each of these speak of Christ's death for specific individuals, *but none of them exclude others*.
- The Non-Calvinist Position: *The crucifixion was designed to make salvation possible*.
 - John 1:29, John 3:16-17, 2 Corinthians 5:19, 1 Jn 4:14.
 - *Whosoever* passages: Acts 10:43, Romans 10:13, Revelation 22:17 (and many more).
 - *All* or *Every* passages: Titus 2:11, Hebrews 2:9, 2 Peter 3:9, 1 Timothy 4:10.
- Conclusion: no reasonable literal reading of Scripture can be used to prove the man-made position that Christ died only for the elect. This heretical position arises from a faulty assumption of the design of the crucifixion (namely, that Christ died to save and that purpose must be fulfilled in order to maintain God's integrity).

WHY DID JESUS DIE?

Jesus Christ did not die to *save*, He died to *satisfy* the righteousness of God. In doing so, He made salvation *possible* for anyone.

- God's righteousness was offended in the sin of Adam.
- God could not be forever *cheated* or *slighted* by His own creation, or His honor would be tarnished.
- To restore His Honor AND simultaneously satisfy His love, God sent His Son, in the form of human flesh, to act as a substitute for the penalty to Adam. In doing so, His honor was restored and a doorway to redemption was open.
- Whether no one or everyone should enter this doorway did not affect the glory of God, who had now restored His honor.

"And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

(1 John 2:2)

¹ Recommended Reading: The Death Christ Died by Robert P. Lightner