

JESUS'S EXECUTION –THE GLORIFIED CHRIST

Suffering Prior to Crucifixion

- Roman soldiers clueless, ordered to scourge and crucify Jesus, cruel mockery revealed their own wickedness
- Jesus knew all of these things were part of the Father's plan, so He suffered willingly and patiently (Isa.50:6-7)
- Simon of Cyrene was compelled to carry Jesus' cross (Matt. 27:31) Jesus unable to do so from the beatings
- Jesus last public message on the road to Calvary. (Luke 23:27-31) Quote from Hosea 10:8
- Crucifixion took place outside the city per the Law, in a highly traveled area to make a public spectacle.
- They offered Him wine with gall to drink, He refused it. (Matt.27:34) He did not want His senses numbed.

The Crucifixion

- A death of intense shame and equally intense pain, and yet Christ spoke forth words of truth and grace.
- Prophecy of the crucifixion in Genesis 3:15 speaks of the seed of the woman would be wounded on His heel.
- Listen to Psalm 22:14-18 – Compare with Luke 24:39-40, see last paragraph on page 169.
- Psalm 22 describes the process of crucifixion hundreds of years before the Romans perfected the practice.
- Death normally came from slow suffocation due to the diaphragm being severely restricted. When strength and feelings was gone, the victim would no longer be able to push up to breathe, death would come quickly.
- For the Sanhedrin His suffering and helplessness proved to them He was not who He said He was, as they mocked Him (Matt. 27:42-43) their words fulfilled prophecy of Psalm 22:8.

Jesus' Words from The Cross

1. A plea for forgiveness: **"Father; forgive them for they know not what they do"** (Luke 23:34) see page 170
2. A promise of salvation: **"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise"** (Luke 23:43)
3. A provision for his mother: **"Woman, behold, your son! Behold, your mother!"** (John 19:26-27)
4. A petition to the Father: **"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"** (Matt. 27:46)
5. A plea for relief: **"I thirst"** (John 19:30) physical thirst arising out of intense physical exhaustion and agony
6. A proclamation of victory: **"It is finished"** (John 19:30)
7. A prayer of consummation: **"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!"** (Luke 23:46)

Christ' Death and Atonement

How Jesus died is one thing; why he died is infinitely more important. The biblical fact is that his death was necessary, determined from before the foundation of the earth, and a necessity for our salvation.

Christian theology focuses on the saving work of Jesus Christ in his substitutionary death and resurrection from the dead. These 2 truths form the gospel's core message regarding salvation. (1 Cor. 15:1-5) (1 Pet.1:9-12)

Old Testament Revelation about Sacrifice – Twelve basic principles regarding animal sacrifices

1. Only believers should offer OT sacrifices, obedient and upright, both Jews and Gentiles. (Isa. 56:6-8)
2. Without faith the sacrifices are worthless, a vital faith is required. (Ps. 52:15-19)
3. Animal sacrifices are insufficient to fully and finally atone for the sins of human beings. (1 Pet. 1:18-19)
4. OT sacrifices do not eliminate temporal punishment for sin, especially willful, defiant sin. (Num. 15:30-31)
5. OT sacrifices have as their chief object fellowship with God. (Ex. 29:42-43)
6. OT sacrifices declare, emphasize, and magnify sin and its consequences. (Rom. 3:19-20)
7. OT sacrifices declare, emphasize and magnify God's holiness, righteousness, love, grace, mercy and sovereignty. On the one hand sin leads man away from God, On the other hand, sacrifice, which by its bloodshed displays the terrible nature and consequences of sin, and turns sinners attention to God. Their sacrifices propitiate God's just wrath and reconcile them to God. (Neh. 9:13)

8. OT sacrifices do not offer OT believers any independent access to God. (Heb. 9:8-10)
9. OT sacrifices demonstrate that the required offerings were readily available to his people.
10. OT sacrifices emphasize the then ministry of the priesthood. (Lev. 1:9; 2:8; 4:20; 6:6)
11. OT sacrifices involve the recognition of God's covenant with his people. (Lev. 2:13; Ps. 50:5, 16)
12. God commands OT sacrifices in part to sustain the priesthood, the covenant community provided for them. (Lev. 7:34-35)

Old Testament Revelation about Christ's Substitutionary Sacrifice

- Exodus 12 – The Passover – a symbol of a substitutionary sacrifice for Israel. (Exodus 12: 3-14)
- Leviticus 16 – The Day of Atonement - The scapegoat symbolizes the removal of sin from the presence of God
- Isaiah 52:13-53:12 – The suffering servant's sacrifice - "The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all"

His Resurrection and Ascension

- His resurrection seals the deal - without it his death fails to provide the grounds for salvation from sin.
- Jesus and the NT writers confirm the prophets had the significant facts concerning Christ (Luke 24:25-27)
- Scripture teaches Christ ascended back into heaven and is seated at the right hand of his Father. (Acts 1:9: 33)

The Glorified Christ

- **Heavenly intercessor** – Christ has ascended to the right hand of the Father, where he mediates as the believer's advocate. There the Savior "is interceding for us" (Rom. 8:34) (1 John 2:1)
- **Rapture** - We believe that Scripture makes clear that the Rapture of the Church is the next event in God's redemptive schedule. (1 Thess. 4:13-18, 1 Cor. 15:51-58)
- **Judgment Seat** – The Lord Jesus Christ-the judge of all people (John 5:22-23) will judge believers at what is called the judgment seat of Christ. (2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 3:10-15)
- **Second Coming** - The Greek term parousia literally means "presence." In the NT this term points to a unique and distinct "coming." (Matt. 24: 3, 27.37.39; 2 Thess.2:8) The Father has already given all authority to the Son for the execution of judgment. (Matt. 25:31-32)
- **Millennial Reign** - Returning with his raptured and glorified church, Christ will establish his millennial kingdom on earth. (Rev. 20:1-4) Jesus reigns for 1,000 years on earth fulfills numerous Old Testament prophecies.
- **Great White Throne Judgment** – After the millennial kingdom, Christ will judge the unbelieving dead at the great white throne. (Rev.20:11-15)
- **Eternity Future** – At the end of this world's history, God will gather everything to himself in the new heaven and the new earth that he will create. (Rev.21:1-5)