



50 Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die

Part 5

22. To bring us to God



Why is this necessary?

- At the fall, much was lost. We lost our innocence, we lost the loveliness of the garden, we lost access to the tree of life, etc. However, something infinitely greater than all these things combined was lost that day. We lost God. No longer would we hear the sound of the Lord walking with us in the garden in the cool of the day (Genesis 3:8). No longer would he speak directly to us as we speak to one another. No longer would His infinite radiance be our delight.
- All too often we think that the garden is what made Eden a paradise. It was not! It was God's very real, very personal, very full, and very constant presence that made Eden a paradise. And now, because of sin, God's presence is lost to us. This is why Isaiah says...
 - ❖ Isaiah 59:2--*but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.*



The hearts of God's people long to dwell with Him again

- O.T. Examples
 - ❖ Exodus 33:18--*Moses said, Please show me your glory.*
 - ❖ Psalm 42:1-2--*As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.*
 - ❖ Psalm 63:1--*1 O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.*
 - ❖ Psalm 16:2--*I say to the Lord, You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.*
 - ❖ Psalm 16:11--*You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Jesus*
- N.T. Examples
 - ❖ Romans 8:23-25--*we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*
 - ❖ Philippians 1:23--*My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.*



We are unable to come to God on our own

- ❖ John 6:65--*no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.*



Jesus' death brings us to God

- ❖ Peter 3:18--*For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God,*
- ❖ Ephesians 2:13--*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*
 - **In part now.** Though fellowship with God is not yet fully restored to the way it was in Eden, all those in Christ receive the indwelling of Holy Spirit.
 - ❖ John 14:26--*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*



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- ❖ Ephesians 1:13--*In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,*
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 3:16--*Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?*
- **One day in full.** One day every soul who belongs to Jesus will be completely, eternally satisfied by beholding the full glory of God.
 - ❖ 1 Corinthians 13:12--*For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.*
 - ❖ Revelation 21:1-5--*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. 5 And he who was seated on the throne said, Behold, I am making all things new.*
- One day, all of God's infinite glory and majesty will be ours to delight in for all eternity because Jesus came and died

23. So that we might belong to Him



Belonging is not an option

- This concept that we belong to someone can sometimes offend our sensibilities. We don't want to belong to anyone but ourselves. We resonate with the words of the poem by William Ernest Henly, "Invictus," which says... "*I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul.*" As valiant and heroic as this sounds, it's a bunch of HOGWASH. The Bible makes it perfectly clear that no human is the master of their own fate and no human is the captain of their own soul. We either belong to Christ and are his servants or we are enslaved by the power of sin. This is why scriptures says...
 - ❖ Romans 6:16--*you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?*
- **Non-Christians are slaves to sin, Sin is their master**
 - ❖ John 8:34--*Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.*
 - ❖ John 8:44--*You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires.*
 - ❖ Romans 8:7-8--*For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*
- **Christians belong to Jesus, Jesus is our master**
 - ❖ John 10:27-29--*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.*
 - ❖ 1 Corinthians 6:19-20--*You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price.*
 - ❖ Romans 7:4--*you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.*



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Belonging to Jesus is not bad

- For those are offended by the concept of not being “*the master of [your] fate...the captain of [your] soul,*” you have 2 options. Option 1 is to make your own universe. If you make your own universe and govern it by your own power then you’ll never have to worry about anyone else being “*the master of [your] fate...the captain of [your] soul.*” If that sounds a little daunting option 2 is to get over yourself. Do you really think you’d make a better master of your fate than the all powerful, all knowing, holy God of the universe who loves you and died that you might live?

24. To give us confident access into the holiest place

What is the holiest place?

- The book of Hebrews teaches us that the Most Holy place or the Holy of Holies in the O.T. is a “*copy and shadow of the heavenly things.*” (Hebrews 8:5). It was intended to be an inferior/earthly representation of being before the throne of God in heaven.

The holiest place in the Old Testament

(1) There once was virtually no access

- ❖ Hebrews 9:2-7--*For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place. 3 Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place, 4 having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. 5 Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. 6 These preparations having thus been made, the priests go regularly into the first section, performing their ritual duties, 7 but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the unintentional sins of the people.*
- Since the most Holy Place represented being before the Throne of God in heaven, the fact that no one had access to the Most Holy Place was intended to teach people that their sin causes a separation between God and man that they themselves cannot bridge. They have no access to God.

(2) There once was very little confidence

- It is hard to imagine that the high priest had any degree of confidence entering the holy of holies with all the warnings about dying if he did something wrong...
 - If he came at the wrong time, he would die
 - ❖ Leviticus 16:1-2--*The Lord spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they drew near before the Lord and died, 2 and the Lord said to Moses, Tell Aaron your brother not to come at any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat that is on the ark, so that he may not die.*
 - If he did the wrong things, he would die
 - ❖ Leviticus 16:11-13--*Aaron shall present the bull as a sin offering for himself, and shall make atonement for himself and for his house. He shall kill the bull as a sin offering for himself. 12 And he shall take a censer full of coals of fire from the altar before the Lord, and two handfuls of sweet incense beaten small, and he shall bring it inside the veil 13 and put the incense on the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is over the testimony, so that he does not die.*



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- If he wore the wrong clothes, he would die
 - ❖ Exodus 28:31-35--*You shall make the robe of the ephod all of blue. 32 It shall have an opening for the head in the middle of it, with a woven binding around the opening, like the opening in a garment, so that it may not tear. 33 On its hem you shall make pomegranates of blue and purple and scarlet yarns, around its hem, with bells of gold between them, 34 a golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, around the hem of the robe. 35 And it shall be on Aaron when he ministers, and its sound shall be heard when he goes into the Holy Place before the Lord, and when he comes out, so that he does not die.*



The holiest place for the Christian

- In Jesus, we have both access and confidence
 - ❖ Mark 15:37-38--*And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. 38 And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.*
 - ❖ Hebrews 10:19-22--*Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*
 - This verse is not saying that because of Jesus death the Jewish leaders allowed Christians into the Most Holy Place within the Temple. This verse is saying something much bigger, it is saying that Christians have access to what the Most Holy Place represented, the Throne of God above. This is why the author of Hebrews says...
 - ❖ Hebrews 4:16--*Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*
 - We have access to God himself. We can be confident that we won't be destroyed for coming to God because of the blood of Jesus.

25.To become for us the place where we meet God



The history of meeting places

- Jesus changed everything about the way we meet with God. Meeting with God had always been a geographic location...
 - (1) Garden
 - (2) Tabernacle
 - (3) Temple



In John 4, Jesus invites the woman at the well to consider something new and different.

- ❖ John 4:20-21, 23--*Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship. 21 Jesus said to her, Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father...23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth,*



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- “Jesus changes the categories entirely. Not in this *mountain* or in that *city*, but in *spirit* and in *truth*. He came into the world to explode geographical limitation. There is no temple now. Jerusalem is not the center. Christ is.¹” We see this in John 2...
 - ❖ John 2:19-21--*Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. 20 The Jews then said, It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days? 21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body.*

🎧 Jesus himself is the Temple, he is the place we meet God.

- ❖ 1 Timothy 2:5--*5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,*

26. Jesus came to bring the Old Testament priesthood to an end and become the eternal high priest

🎧 **The limitations of the O.T. priesthood**

(1) It required repetition

- ❖ Hebrews 10:1--*For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near.*

- ❖ Hebrews 10:11--*And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices,*

(2) It didn't actually work

- ❖ Hebrews 10:4--*For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.*

- ❖ Hebrews 10:5-6--*Sacrifices and offerings you [God the Father] have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; 6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.*

- Does this mean that there was no forgiveness of sin for O.T. believers? No, however it does mean that Forgiveness came not through the blood of bulls and goats. O.T. believers were forgiven and justified by faith in God just as we are. O.T. believers put their faith in the God who would one day send Jesus. The one whose blood is indeed mighty to save. If this is the case, one might ask, what then is the point of it all?

🎧 **The beauty and purpose of the O.T. priesthood and O.T. sacrifices is that they are a picture of the coming Christ.**

(1) He was the mediator

(2) He had to be pure

(3) He had to offer blood

- ❖ Hebrews 9:7--*but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the unintentional sins of the people.*

- It is by the O.T. High Priest that we so easily recognize Jesus as our glorious and eternal high priest.

🎧 **Jesus, our eternal High Priest**

- **Jesus is the perfection of all that the O.T. High Priesthood represented**

¹ Piper, John. *Fifty Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die* (p. 69). Good News Publishers. Kindle Edition.



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(1) He is the mediator

- ❖ 1 Timothy 2:5--5 *For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,*

(2) He is the spotless lamb

- ❖ John 1:29--*he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*
- ❖ 1 Peter 1:19--*the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.*

(3) He offered His own blood

- ❖ Hebrews 7:27--*He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.*
- ❖ Hebrews 9:14--*how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.*
- ❖ Hebrews 10:12--*Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins,*

- **Unlike the O.T. priesthood...**

(1) Jesus' sacrifice is once and for all eternity

- ❖ Hebrews 7:23-25, 27--*The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, 24 but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. 25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them...27 He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.*
- ❖ Hebrews 10:14--*For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.*

(2) Jesus' sacrifice actually accomplishes atonement

- ❖ 1 Peter 1:3--*he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*
- ❖ Hebrews 10:10--*we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*
- ❖ Revelation 5:9--*for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,*

27. To be a sympathetic and helpful priest

- What does it mean that he is sympathetic?

-  **He endured human flesh and weakness**

- ❖ John 4:6--*Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.*
- ❖ Matthew 4:2--*And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.*
- ❖ John 19:28--*After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said, "I thirst."*

-  **He felt human emotions**

- ❖ Matthew 26:38--*Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me."*



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- ❖ John 12:27--*"Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour.*
- ❖ John 11:33-36--*When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"*



He endured human temptation

- ❖ Luke 4:1--*And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil.*
- ❖ Hebrews 4:15--*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.*



He died a real human death

- ❖ John 19:1-2--*Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. 2 And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head*
- ❖ John 19:16-18--*So they took Jesus, 17 and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. 18 There they crucified him,*



Because of this, we have confidence to come to him

- "A lifetime of temptation climaxing in spectacular abuse and abandonment gave Jesus an unparalleled ability to sympathize with tempted and suffering people.²" Because of Jesus' ability to sympathize with us in every way the bible says...
 - ❖ Hebrews 4:16--*Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

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