



50 Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die

Part 11

Introduction:

This week we will unpack the following truths...

44. To destroy the hostility between the races

45. To ransom people from every tribe language people and nation

46. To gather all his sheep from around the world

44. To destroy the hostility between the races



Where did the hostility come from?

1. In the book of Genesis, God causes there to be division among the peoples of the earth. Why? Is it because he likes it when people fight each other? No, God caused the division so as to restrain evil.

❖ *Genesis 11:1-8--1 Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. 2 And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. 3 And they said to one another, Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. 4 Then they said, Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth. 5 And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. 6 And the Lord said, Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech. 8 So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. 9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.*

2. In the book of Deuteronomy, God forbids intermarriage between the Israelites and other people groups. Why? Is it because God is some terrible racist? No, God gave this law because God didn't want the Israelites to forsake him and worship the false gods of other people groups.

❖ *Deuteronomy 7:3-4--You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons, 4 for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods. Then the anger of the Lord would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly.*

3. In summary, the hostility was created by God so that evil on the earth would be restrained, and so that his chosen people wouldn't forsake him for the false gods of other cultures.



Why then does Jesus destroy the hostility?

1. In the OT, God creates division to restrain the amount of evil done by a broken depraved humanity. In Christ, God creates unity to unleash God's goodness through a people made righteous by Christ. You see when bad people conspire together, very bad things happen, but when those made righteous by the blood of the Lamb conspire together in unity, very good things happen. We see this in the book of Ephesians...

❖ *Ephesians 4:3-7; 11-16--eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. 7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift...11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain*



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to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

2. In the OT, God creates division so that the Jews would not be tempted to forsake him. In Christ, God invites every person on the planet to forsake their sin and idols and be reconciled to God. How does he do this? Through a unified Church proclaiming the gospel.
 - ❖ Romans 1:16--*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*
 - ❖ Matthew 28:19--*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,*
 - ❖ Acts 1:8--*you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*



How does Jesus destroy the hostility?

- ❖ Ephesians 2:14-16--*For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.*
 - (1) By uniting us around him
 - Notice that this passage says, *he himself is our peace*. This lets us know the source of our unity described in the phrase *who has made us both one*.
 - (2) By destroying the wall of hostility
 - “Through the perfect offering of himself once for all upon the cross Christ has done away with what separated the Jew from the Gentile ¹”
 - The question is, what was it that separated Jew from Gentile?
 - (3) The wall of hostility was the law of commandments expressed in ordinances
 - “the law itself provided a fence around Israel. It separated Jews from Gentiles both religiously and sociologically, and caused deep-seated hostility. The enmity which was caused by the Jews separateness was often accompanied by a sense of superiority on their part.²”
 - What then does it mean to say that Jesus abolished the law of commandments expressed in ordinances? Does it mean the the entire OT is to be scrapped? Are we to ignore all that the Law says about the Holiness of God? Are we to ignore the 10 Commandments? Not at all.

¹ O'Brien, P. T. (1999). *The letter to the Ephesians*. The Pillar New Testament Commentary (196). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

² Ibid



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What this means is that since we are now made righteous, not by the law, but by Jesus alone. The Jewish people have lost their claim of superiority over us gentiles.

45. To ransom people from every tribe language people and nation

- I believe that this is a point that too many of us take for granted. While this truth should never cease to amaze us, many of us have yet been amazed by this truth. To remedy this, let's consider the following.



The universality of sin

- Many who seek to demonstrate this point will quote Romans 3:23 and move on. To do so is to miss the reality that scripture is quite prolific when describing the universal and total depravity of man.
 - ❖ Genesis 6:5--*The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*
 - ❖ Psalm 14:2-3--*The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. 3 They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.*
 - ❖ Psalm 51:5--*Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.*
 - ❖ Psalm 53:2-3--*God looks down from heaven on the children of man to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. 3 They have all fallen away; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.*
 - ❖ Psalm 58:3--*The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray from birth, speaking lies.*
 - ❖ Psalm 130:3--*If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?*
 - ❖ Proverbs 20:9--*Who can say, "I have made my heart pure; I am clean from my sin"?*
 - ❖ Ecclesiastes 7:20--*Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.*
 - ❖ Isaiah 1:5-6--*The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. 6 From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but bruises and sores and raw wounds;*
 - ❖ Isaiah 53:6--*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*
 - ❖ Isaiah 64:6--*We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.*
 - ❖ Jeremiah 17:9--*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?*
 - ❖ Micah 7:2--*The godly has perished from the earth, and there is no one upright among mankind; they all lie in wait for blood, and each hunts the other with a net. 3 Their hands are on what is evil, to do it well; the prince and the judge ask for a bribe, and the great man utters the evil desire of his soul; thus they weave it together. 4 The best of them is like a brier, the most upright of them a thorn hedge.*
 - ❖ Matthew 15:18-19--*But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.*
 - ❖ Romans 3:10-18--*"None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." 13 "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." 14 "Their mouth is full of curses*



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and bitterness.” 15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 in their paths are ruin and misery, 17 and the way of peace they have not known.” 18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

- ❖ Romans 3:23--*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*
- ❖ Romans 5:12--*Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—*
- ❖ Romans 7:18--*For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.*
- ❖ Ephesians 2:1-3--*And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience — 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*
- ❖ Colossians 1:21--*And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,*
- ❖ Titus 3:3--*For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another*
- ❖ 1 John 1:8--*If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*
- In light of this mountain of depravity, we ought to be amazed with the fact that God by his mercy would save even one of us. Which takes us to...



The immensity of God's mercy

- You would be right to consider it a wonder that God saves anyone as it is quite certain that not one of us is owed salvation and not one of us deserves salvation. Yet, to our wonderment, God brings salvation not just to a few, but to people all over the planet. To a number of people that cannot be numbered.
- ❖ Revelation 5:9--*Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,*
- ❖ Revelation 7:9-10--*After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”*

46. To gather all his sheep from around the world



Jesus has sheep

- ❖ John 10:14-15--*I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.*
- ❖ John 10:27--*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.*
 - What is it that makes someone one of Jesus' sheep? Is it what they do? Is it what they think? Is it what they believe? No, God makes us his sheep.
 - ❖ John 10:29--*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.*



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- ❖ John 6:37-39--*All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.*
- Aren't we made God's sheep because we believe in Jesus? No, we believe in Jesus because we are his sheep.
- ❖ John 10:16--*I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice.*
- ❖ John 10:25-27--*I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, 26 but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. 27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.*
 - Notice Jesus doesn't say, "you do not believe **Therefore**, you are not my sheep." Rather he teaches that they do not believe **because** they are not his sheep. From this we must understand that it is not **our** belief that makes us his sheep but rather it is because we are his sheep that we believe. This truth is confirmed further in verses like...
 - ❖ Romans 9:16--*So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.*



Jesus' has many sheep and his sheep live all over the world

- ❖ John 10:16--*And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also,*
- ❖ 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,*
- ❖ Revelation 7:9--*After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb,*



Jesus' sheep are effectively saved by his death and resurrection

- Someone may ask what do you mean by "effectively saved?" What I mean is that Jesus' death and resurrection didn't just make salvation a possibility for his sheep. I actually accomplished it. We need to understand just how powerful the blood of Jesus is. It doesn't just make salvation possible for people all over the world. It actually accomplishes salvation for people all over the world! That's why he says...
 - ❖ John 10:28-30--*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. 30 I and the Father are one.*
 - Jesus doesn't offer his sheep eternal life, he gives it to them. The word "give" in the greek means to transfer possession to. This word isn't about offering a deal, its about sealing the deal.
 - Jesus then goes on to clarify that there is no power in all the universe that will prevent him from giving eternal life to his sheep. He does this by informing us that the power with which he gives eternal life to his sheep is nothing less than the power of God the Father which he shares infinitely. Let me paraphrase it this way, Jesus is basically saying, "I am the



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omnipotent, all sovereign God of the universe and I giving my sheep eternal life and there is no power in this universe that will prevent me or hinder me from doing so!"



Jesus' sheep come to know their salvation through the preaching of the Word

- This point deals with the question, "Practically speaking, how does Jesus gather his sheep?" or "How does one receive the salvation that Jesus gives?" In John 10, Jesus teaches us that...
 - ❖ John 10:3--*The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.*
 - ❖ John 10:16--*And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice.*
 - ❖ John 10:27--*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.*
 - Jesus teaches us that he gathers his sheep by calling them. Jesus calls and if you are one of his sheep, you follow.
- But how does he call today? He ascended into heaven some 2000 years ago right? How do his sheep get called today? The answer is that Jesus calls his sheep to himself through us.
 - ❖ Romans 10:14-15; 17--*How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!...17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*
 - ❖ 2 Corinthians 5:18--*All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;*
 - When you preach the gospel, you have the honor and privilege of being the very voice of Jesus to those whom he is calling. When a lost sinner responds in repentance and faith your gospel proclamation, it is because through your voice, they heard the very voice of Jesus calling them.

In review, this week we studied that Jesus came and died...

44. To destroy the hostility between the races
45. To ransom people from every tribe language people and nation
46. To gather all his sheep from around the world